

Health Affairs Committee
Special Meeting
January 26, 2000

Minutes

Recent Executive Branch Reports Concerning John Dempsey Hospital and the UConn Health Center

Attendees: See attached list.

Ms. Leonardi called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

I. Report on Financial Status (L. Aronson)

- The same report on UCHC finances has been presented to OPM (with OHCA present), committees of the general assembly, individual legislators and representatives of the collective bargaining units at the Health Center. The goals of this report are to: 1) describe where we are and where we are going, and 2) build confidence that we are reporting reliable and consistent numbers.
- The deficit projected for FY 00, not including interventions, is \$21.2 million. With proposed interventions realized in FY 00, the actual deficit is projected to be \$12.4 million. The deficit projected for FY 01 with the corrective actions in place is \$4.6 million.
- The potential increase in State funding in FY 00 is \$19.8 million. This represents the \$12.4 million deficit, \$2.2 million for Year 5 of the 1992 Academic Strategic Plan, and \$5.2 million for the new Research Strategic plan. The potential increase in State funding in FY 01 is \$16.3 million which represents the \$4.6 million deficit, \$2.3 million for Year 5 of the 1992 Academic Strategic Plan and \$9.5 million for the new Research Strategic Plan.

II. OHCA Report (P. Deckers)

- The content of the recently released OHCA report was discussed. Concerns were raised as to the accuracy of the report and whether its conclusions and recommendations were either supported by factual data or justified. Dr. Decker's formal reaction was described in the recent broadcast email which was distributed.
- HAC was in agreement that any additional oversight of the business of UCHC should be informational in nature and not add another level of decision making which should remain at the HAC level. Particular concern was raised concerning the possible membership of an oversight panel: a) would it include competitors (i.e. other hospitals) and b) would it include Mr. Gorman who would then be placed in a potential conflict of interest as on one hand having the responsibility of looking out for the best interests of the institution and the other of being a regulator. Similar concerns were raised concerning the possibility that UCHC would not be allowed to compete in the Greater Hartford market when other hospitals do so.
- Additional concerns were raised that the current negative publicity could negatively impact the flow of patients and recruitment of students/residents, faculty and other staff. In a similar vein, a long term commitment is desirable from the Legislature and Governor's office rather than a single year short-term fix.

- Discussion took place on how and when to best communicate the HAC's concerns and recommendations to the Legislature, Executive branch and public.
- Members of the HAC expressed their strong support for the Health Center including the John Dempsey Hospital, their belief that it can adequately manage its affairs without additional external oversight that could prevent it from making decisions in a timely, market-necessitated manner and that the Health Center's successes and programs should be communicated to the public and State government.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Deckers, M.D.

Attendees

James Abromaitis, Lori Aronson, Phillip Austin, Alyssa Benedict, Dr. Richard Berlin, Thomas Callahan, Leo Canty, Bruce Carlson, Thomas Cawley, Michael Cicchetti (by phone), Dr. Peter Deckers, Dr. Richard Garibaldi, Roger Gelfeinbein (by phone), Dr. Lenworth Jacobs, William Kleinman, Claire Leonardi, Michael Martinez, Jean Morningstar, Dr. Gloria Opirhory, Renae Reese, Dr. Peter Robinson, Brian Rogoz, Emmy van Stolk, James Walter, Dr. Scott Wetstone, Larry Wilder

Documents Distributed During the Meeting

- a) Agenda
- b) 1999-2000 Budgets and Effect of Reductions
- c) UConn Health Center Projected Operating Results: Summary, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001
- d) Transition Management: Critical Performance Improvement Opportunity Register
- e) UConn Health Center Potential Increase in State Funding, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001
- f) 99/00 F/Y Summary of Reductions Identified as of 12/31/99
- g) Presentation UCHC Critical Needs and Proposed Relationships – December 20, 1999
- h) UCHC Office of Health Care Access Task Force Briefing Document – December 1, 1999
- i) UCHC Briefing Document – Public Health Committee – November 10, 1999
- j) Strategic Plan – Five Years Ending 6/30/04, Summary of the “Detailed Summary”
- k) Response to Senator Kevin Sullivan’s Questions
- l) Office of Health Care Access: Findings and Recommendations on The University of Connecticut Health Center, John Dempsey Hospital and the Hartford Area Health System – January 2000
- m) UCHC broadcast email from Peter Deckers dated January 25, 2000
- n) News release from Senator Harp dated January 24, 2000.