



University of Connecticut
Health Center

Health Affairs Committee

November 6, 2001
Minutes

Ms. Leonardi called the meeting to order at 8:21 a.m.

I. Public Comment

- Ms. Maxine DeFusco made a presentation (attached) requesting tuition waivers for children of Health Center employees.

II. Introductory Business Items

- A. Approval of Minutes – None.
B. Recognition(s) – None.

III. Consents

A. Institutional - The following two (2) items were unanimously approved to be added to the agenda:

- Notice of Federal Interest
The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – ***“That the Board of Trustees authorize the execution of a notice of federal interest for the renovation of the academic research building funded by grant 1C76HF00185-01.”***

- Contracts > \$500,000
The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees - ***“That the Board of Trustees approve the contract where the Contractor agrees to reimburse the Health Center for operating and directing a managed care system for alcohol and drug abuse, and provide mental health services for parolees. This project will be implemented in the Hartford District Parole Office.” This contract is in the amount of \$925,540.***

B. Specific to the Clinical Programs and UCHC Finance Corporation

- The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – ***“That the Board of Trustees authorize the University of Connecticut Health Center Finance Corporation to enter into a one-year lease option at 381 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, with Simsbury Medical Associates.”***

C. Specific to Schools

- The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – ***“That the Board of Trustees approve the School of Medicine recommendations for tenure, promotion, appointment, reappointment, sabbatics and emeritus appointments.”***

IV. Informational Items

A. Regularly Recurring Items

- Contracts >\$100,000
- Personnel Actions

B. Policy Changes - None

C. Other Items

- Indemnification of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- UConn Bioterrorism-Related Resources

V. Education – None.

VI. Main Business Items

A. Chair's Remarks and Reports

B. Executive Vice President and Deans' Remarks and Reports

- University of Connecticut Health Center
 - Separation Policy for Unclassified Board of Trustees Exempt Managers and Confidential Employees – S. Whetstone
We are currently operating under an approved policy that was approved in 1994 and expired on June 30, 1996. A matrix comparing the 1994 policy with other like institutions was presented. This package is less than what is offered at Storrs but on par with other Universities in Connecticut and for other academic health centers. This policy calls for a minimum of a notice period or a lump sum payment to be determined at the discretion by the employer, but at the employer's discretion, both may be given.
The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – “***That the Board of Trustees approves the Separation Policy for Unclassified Board of Trustees Exempt Managers and Confidential Employees***”.
 - Bioterrorism Update – P. Deckers
 - A Discovery Series devoted to bioterrorism was held and also videotaped for delayed transmission on the CTN network.
 - Dr. Shanley has developed a bioterrorism resource available via the web for physicians
 - Dr. Ford in collaboration with Yale and other state agencies are developing of education and therapeutic programs for stress management
 - Connecticut Health – an information database was developed of UCHC and UConn related resources that could be applied to bioterrorism. These data are now accessible via the web and have been provided to the Department of Public.
 - We are currently evaluating our preparedness and have put together a proposal to augment our current resources totaling \$2.9M to be submitted to the Bond Commission at their December meeting.
 - Mock disaster drills are planned.
 - Compliance Office Report – L. Mauriello
 - The UCHC Compliance Program was initiated in 1997 with the goals of developing internal controls for adherence to applicable law, regulation, standard and ethical conduct.

- The Program has reviewed and improved its own organization structure in 2000 naming an Executive Director of Compliance, Robert Kozol, M.D., a full time Corporate Compliance Officer, Iris Mauriello and a Director of Research Compliance, Joan Caron.
- The Program has developed institutional policies regarding background and sanctions checking, compliance program training and gifts to individuals.
- The Program has implemented practices concerning external investigations, the process for handling compliance complaints and an anonymous compliance hotline number.
- The Program has provided training regarding generic compliance, credentialing, billing/documentation in the outpatient setting as well as a major emphasis on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- The Compliance Office will continue educating the UCHC family, prepare for implementation of HIPAA and integration of the 2001 Office of Inspector General's Work Plan.
- Chairwoman Leonardi asked whether background checks are being done on employees – our current policy is that current employees are not checked but all future employees will be.
- Research Compliance Report – L. Paplauskas
 - Research Compliance Program is made up of:
 - The Office of Research Safety head by Ken Price is responsible the safe use and storage of hazardous waste, radioactive substances, air emissions and, microbial pathogens as well as regulatory compliance and training
 - The Center for Laboratory Animal Care is headed by Mark Klinger where full accreditation for the Association of Laboratory Animal Care International was retained and received commendation. In addition, tracking of animal protocols involving hazardous materials was initiated. The animal care training manual and quarantine policy was revised and a CLAC Disaster Plan was completed.
 - The Office of Research Compliance headed by Joan Caron includes the Institutional Review Board (IRB) where 755 human research projects were reviewed to assure OHRP compliance. National certification was completed for ORC Director and IRB Executive Secretary. Initial steps were taken for national accreditation and review of processes to ensure compliance with HIPPA requirements. The Animal Care Committee passed inspections by the USDA and ALAC International. Conflict of Interest in Research underwent an annual review and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training was completed for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
 - The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) reviewed 685 proposals and negotiated 314 material transfer, confidentiality, consortium and award agreements. At the recommendation of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, implementation of the InfoEd Electronic Research Administration System was initiated to facilitate compliance capabilities. Research administration was also reorganized.
 - The Office of Associate Vice President for Research Administration revised the data ownership policy to comply with the US Office of Management and Budget Circular A110. One investigation of research misconduct was completed and review of procedures relating compliance with FDA requires was carried out regarding melanoma and heat shock protein vaccines.
 - School of Dental Medicine – P. Robinson
 - Successful completion of accreditation process where the School received a near perfect report (one minor recommendation) and three commendations: one for the new curriculum,

fiscal management and the self study process. All seven residency programs received at least one commendation.

- Executive Summary of the UCSODM highlights of academic year 2000-2001 was distributed

C. Clinical Operations Report (S. Strongwater)

- Patient volumes remain ahead of budget with October showing 147.5 discharges; 110 discharges ahead of admissions from FY-00-FY-01. OR activity remains strong
- The AHA has developed 8 areas of disaster planning at an estimated cost of \$3 million per hospital to implement. They recommend disaster drills and staff education which will take place. to enhance current disaster plans
- Upcoming dates for events: November 7 – patient safety initiative retreat, November 12 – Annual Staff meeting, November 14 – Fall Festival – “Be Peaceful...Be Thankful...Celebrate Life”
- Clinical Oversight Group (COG) – governance group reviewing expense reduction and revenue generating possibilities
- UConn Health Partners – 6 month progress report (handout) –E. Grab
 - UHP started operations on 3/19/01. Its physicians came from Connecticut Health Partnerships, a spin off from Kaiser, which was a prepaid model. Its physicians still need to understand the service and bill model of doing business (charge capture, coding, compliance to 3rd party payer billing requirements), but are learning. It is behind budget.
 - It has accounted for 50% of the new JDH business this year. As such the combined revenues from UCHP compensate for UCHP having a negative variance to its own budget.
 - UConn House Call special edition exclusive to UConn Health Partners
 - Program Expansion Plan includes:
 - OB-GYN – 3 new females MDs
 - Dermatology – 1 new MD and 2nd pending for July 2002; expand cosmetic offering and office in West Hartford
 - Specialty Services – General Surgery now in East Hartford; Urology starting in January 2002; Cardiology pending new faculty recruitment
 - Orthopedics – 1 new general orthopedists – July 2002, other recruits in process; new satellite office in West Hartford
 - Imaging Service – integrate with JDH as outpatient imaging centers; incorporate reading of films at UCHC – November 2001; evaluate MRI & CT
 - Behavioral Health Service – Integrate into JDH as outpatient service; expand group therapy
 - Procedure Room Facilities – evaluate facility fee reimbursement; potential integration into JDH; identify service offerings
 - Productivity compared to MGMA medians:
 - Psychiatry – 274%; Pediatrics 228%; Internal Medicine – 168%; Dermatology – 76%; Ophthalmology – 39%; Podiatry – 32%; OB-GYN – 31%.
 - The Committee expressed its concern to monitor the UCHP bottom line and to find improvements to bring it back into budget.

D. CFO's Remarks and Reports (D. Upton)

- Report for period ending September 30, 2001
 - Deficiency for 1st quarter = \$522,855 due to reduction in State Appropriation of \$692,218 and \$142,178 reduction in appropriation from Department of Corrections
 - JDH shows favorable variance of \$1.05M – admissions show 18.7% increase over last year
 - UMG shows unfavorable variance of \$131,073; UMG volume shows 9.1% increase (excludes UCHP)

- UCHP has impacted other units at UCHC – JDH with 140 new admissions and UMG has seen over 5500 new visits
- The committee expressed its concerns that additional rescissions might occur.

E. Other Business

- KPMG Audited Reports- G. Pingicer (A written presentation was distributed)
 - The report was positive with the exception of a single accounting practice, that being a lack of a contract management system.
 - Future considerations include changes in Medicare reimbursement changes, HIPPA implementation and corporate compliance.

Executive Session was entered into at 10:15 a.m.

Executive Session concluded at 11:30 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Deckers, M.D.

Attendees

J. Abromaitis, L. Aronson, R. Berlin, S. Brohinsky, N. Brady, A. Borda, , T. Callahan, B. Carlson, T. Cawley, J. Comerford, P. Deckers, B. Fraher, F. Gifford, E. Grab, W. Kleinman, M. Klinger R. Kozol, C. Leonardi, J. Levine, J. Mazzone, I. Mauriello, P. McManus, J. Morningstar, L. Paplauskas, K. Price, G. Pingicar, P. Robinson, S. Strongwater, D. Turling, D. Upton, J. Walter, S. Wetstone, M. Whalen, S. Whetstone and N. Williams

Documents Distributed During the Meeting

- Notice of Federal Interest
- Indemnity of Cystic Fibrosis
- Executive Summary, School of Dental Medicine 2000-01
- UConn House Call