

Chair, Cheryl Chase, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

1.1 No public comment

2. Chair's remarks

2.1 Welcome

Ms. Chase welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting which was being recorded. She pointed out that with the retirement of Dr. David McFadden, the Clinical Affairs Subcommittee is one committee member short. The JDH Medical Staff Bylaws have a process for filling vacancies. The process is currently underway, and we expect to have a new member on our Clinical Affairs Subcommittee by the end of February.

2.2 Approval of Minutes

The Clinical Affairs Subcommittee approved the motion to accept the minutes of the Subcommittee meeting held on November 9, 2023.

3. Chief Executive Officer Report – Dr. Bruce Liang

Dr. Bruce Liang provided a report on current hospital operations, focusing on clinical volume. The ED continues to grow, with visits ahead of budget and FY23 numbers. We are projecting 55,000 visits by the end of June (FY24), which will be a second consecutive record breaking year. There have been preliminary meetings to increase the number of ED exam rooms (currently there are 44). There was a discussion on the possibility of having an (on-campus) urgent care clinic which could ease some of the pressure on the ED. The average daily census and discharge reports for John Dempsey Hospital continue to exceed budget forecasts in FY24. 64% of JDH admissions came from the ED. Discharges for FY24 are in line with the budget. The average daily census continues to rise, at times approaching the limit of JDH's licensed bed number (234). Caryl Ryan reported on the opening of 18 patient rooms on the 7th floor of the Connecticut Tower in January. Dr. Liang explained that a Certificate of Need application was filed with OHS (Office of Health Strategy) on February 7 for 23 additional beds for JDH. Surgery volumes in main OR, GI and UHSC continue to be at budget currently. UConn Medical Group's net patient revenue is ahead of budget by 3.2% and the prior year by 9.2% The largest growth areas YTD are MOHS, DermatoPathology and IMA when compared to budget. UMG reports encounters to be 4.3% better than budget and 6.4% ahead of the prior year.

Dr. Adam Fischler, Medical Director of the OR, Assistant Clinical Professor at the SOM, and member of the Department of Anesthesiology, gave a presentation on "OR Sustainability Initiative." Dr. Fischler chairs the OR Sustainability Committee which was created in early 2022. Healthcare contributes to climate change, emitting 10% of US greenhouse gas emissions. ORs are the most resource intensive part of a hospital – they are 3-6 times more resource intensive than other areas of the hospital, and they create 20-30% of total hospital waste. One of the main initiatives in the OR is reducing the use of gases in anesthesia, using IV anesthesia as much as possible. Other efforts include reduced syringe usage and having more prefilled syringes available, reformulating premade kits to eliminate unnecessary items that add to waste, reducing

drug waste, disposing of trash in proper bins to streamline waste, and adding EPIC pop-up reminders to help drive compliance. Cheryl Chase suggested looking into grants that can help with the OR initiatives.

4. Quality Reports

4.1 John Dempsey Hospital/UConn Medical Group – Dr. Scott Allen

Dr. Allen presented 6 institutional performance improvement priorities approved by the Board last year for 2024. He shared data on serious safety events. JDH's rate continues to remain below the historically reported state average. The most recent safety event occurred in October 2023, and there have been no safety events since then, through January 2024.

Dr. Allen reviewed the Hospital Safety Scorecard metrics and highlighted some key metrics such as Hand Hygiene, CLABSI, CAUTI, and C.diff events. The infection prevention group is implementing a program called "Infection Connection on the Road" where they adopt clinical units, providing education to those units to help prevent hospital acquired infections. The 48 hour admission medicine reconciliation rate continues to improve, with an ultimate goal of 80%.

Patient experience data has improved due to regular meetings with patient experience and clinical leaders who are engaged and are driving performance improvement down to the frontline staff. The ED is consistently performing well despite the pressures placed on them due to increased numbers. Pharmacy and Labs continue to do well and improve. Rehab had an unfavorable 2023 4th quarter, explained by some unexpected staffing shortages. Those staffing issues are resolved, and the leadership is engaged and doing very well, so we expect those scores to improve next quarter.

JDH achieved best in state hospital designation by Newsweek, awarded to 600 hospitals nationally. Scores based on recommendation from peers, quality metrics, patient experience and patient reported outcomes. We are ranked 2nd in the state behind Yale.

5. Approvals **[vote]**

5.1 Amendment to JDH Medical Staff Bylaws **[VOTE]**

Dr. Shafer explained there is a new state law regarding timing of board certification as relates to medical staff membership. The new state law requires hospitals to allow 5 years from commencement of board eligibility to achieve board certification, without regard to board requirements that may specify a period shorter than 5 years. This affects physicians, dentists and podiatrists only. There are no changes for APRNs, PAs, etc. The provision of the amendment eliminates the language stating that board time limit can supersede if less than 5 years. The provision replaces "residence and approved education/training" with "beginning of board eligibility."

The Clinical Affairs Subcommittee unanimously approved the Amendment to JDH Medical Staff Bylaws as described in Agenda item 5.1 and detailed in the Board materials starting on page 30.

5.2 Resolution to approve Dr. Kevin Staveley-O'Carroll as Surgery Chief of Service
[VOTE]

Dr. Liang provided background on Dr. Staveley-O'Carroll. Most recently he served as Chair of the Department of Surgery at University of Missouri for 6 years. Dr. Staveley-O'Carroll joined the faculty in late December 2023 as a surgical oncologist and Chair of the Department of Surgery.

The Clinical Affairs Subcommittee unanimously approved Dr. Staveley-O'Carroll as Surgery Chief of Service as described in Agenda item 5.2 and detailed in the Board materials starting on page 31.

6. School Reports

6.1 School of Medicine Update

Dr. Liang reported on GME programs. We continue to add programs and trainees, with 75 programs and 750 resident doctors and fellowship physicians. By number, we are in top 10% in the country as a GME program. The only other large program in CT is Yale New Haven Health. This is a credit to the GME program located in the School of Medicine as the sponsor of all these programs.

Dr. Liang also reported that Dr. Dustin Walters has been recruited from Tufts New England Medical Center as the new program director of the Cardio Thoracic Surgery Fellowship Program. He is the first full time thoracic surgeon for John Dempsey Hospital.

6.2 School of Dental Medicine Update

There was no report from the School of Dental Medicine.

7. Informational Items

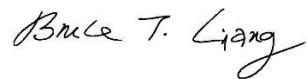
Chair Chase directed the subcommittee members' attention to the informational items in the Board book. She noted that a summary of activities undertaken by the JDH Medical Board over the last quarter is included on page 35, and the UConn Medical Group quarterly operations report begins on page 36. She also noted that starting on page 43 is the first Annual Report relating to UConn Health's efforts to address Healthcare Disparities. Effective last year, The Joint Commission issued new standards relating to health care disparities, and UConn Health stood up a multi-disciplinary team under the leadership of Jeffrey Hines, its AVP and Chief Diversity Officer. This group has been meeting monthly to focus on this work, and the Report provided in the Board Books is the Calendar Year 2023 update relating to these efforts.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce T. Liang, MD
Interim Chief Executive Officer, John Dempsey Hospital
Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, UConn School of Medicine

Voting Members Present: C. Chase, D. Shafer, J. Baldwin, J. Freedman, K. Alleyne, L. Wolansky, R. Barry, R. Fuller, T. Ressel, W. Rawlins

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

May 9, 2024