

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: WebEx

**Voting Members Present:** D. Lafreniere MD, G.Kuchel MD, P. Luthra MD, I. Moss MD, S. Scippa,MD, R. Simon MD

**Non-Voting Members Present:** A. Horbatuck. C. Hyers, A. Keilty

**Clinical Council Subcommittee Present:** T. Agresta MD, S. Allen MD, R. Andrews MD, E. Ballesteros MD, F. Celi MD, J. Greenfield MD, J. Hines MD, P. Kerr MD, E. Mortensen MD, D. Stanley MD, K. Staveley-O'Carroll MD, D. Steffens MD, L. Wolansky MD,

**Guests:** D. Hayes, C. Masotti, C. Ryan, G. Sznaj, L. Wall, Y. Wang

Dr. Lafreniere called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

- The minutes for the January 23, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

- Faculty Requests

- Department of Medicine  
Division of Nephrology  
Assistant Professor/Clinical  
Replacement – 0.95 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**
- Department of Psychiatry\*  
Division of Psychiatry  
Assistant Professor/Clinical  
Replacement – 0.65 Clinical FTE UMG  
(*Michael Kisicki*)  
**Approved**
- Department of Medicine  
Division of General Medicine  
Assistant Professor/Clinical/Nocturnist  
Replacement – 0.30 Clinical FTE UMG  
(*Ashita Mittal*)  
**Approved**
- Department of Medicine #1 (Southington)  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.95 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**
- Department of Medicine #2 (Torrington)  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.95 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**

- Department of Orthopedics  
Division of Spine  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.95 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**
- Department of Emergency Medicine  
Division of Emergency Medicine  
Assistant Professor in Residence  
New – 0.98 Clinical FTE JDH  
**Approved**
- Department of Emergency Medicine  
Division of Emergency Medicine  
Assistant Professor/Medical Director in Residence  
New – 0.98 Clinical FTE JDH  
**Approved**
- Department of Radiology  
Division of Radiology  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.03 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**
- Department of Medicine  
Division of Palliative Care  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.45 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**
- Department of Medicine  
Division of Critical Care/Pulmonary  
Assistant Professor  
New – 0.65 Clinical FTE UMG  
**Approved**

Dr. Moss mentioned that he will be submitting a request for a new Sports Surgeon.

- Cigna Renewal Update  
Ms. Masotti informed the Council that there is still a significant gap between Cigna's Renewal proposal and ours with more movement from UCHC than from Cigna. She anticipates that we will be out of network effective May 1. The timeframe for 30-day member notice would be April 1. A request from Cigna for an extension is possible but we need to be able to cover our costs. Per Dr. Agresta, Trinity Health is back in network with Cigna after being out for three months.
- Clinic Cancellation Proposed Standard

Dr. Lafreniere presented the Proposed Standard for Cancelling a Scheduled Session which had, in the past, been approved by the Council. Issues brought up during discussion included the need to include illness and emergencies; availability to staff; understanding that rescheduling patients must be within an acceptable timeframe. The Standard provides clarity and will be reviewed on a regular basis. This is a Standard for physicians, not for other practitioners who are under the jurisdiction of the union. Dr.

Luthra asked how much time in advance they need to request vacation. Ms. Hobatuck will follow up with the union to get that information and suggested that Lightning Bolt would be helpful in rescheduling. Dr. Lafreniere will amend the Standard and forward it to Dr. Allen.

The amended Standard:

**DRAFT** proposed standard

*Physicians cancelling a scheduled clinical session (including ambulatory clinic or procedural block time) for meetings or vacation must get permission to cancel the clinical session from their Department Chair or, if delegated, from their Division Chief, and do so at least 6 weeks prior to the session impacted.*

***Exceptions to this standard for illness or emergent clinical issues only.** For any requests made less than 6 weeks to the day(s) in question, the physician must make reasonable attempts to reschedule any cancelled patients to be seen either prior to the requested day(s) or within a timeframe acceptable to the patient. Approved cancellations must be communicated by the physician to the Director of the clinical area impacted.*

- Financial Updates

Mr. Sznaj reported that for the Health Center overall, it was budgeted to break even but is \$13 million ahead of what was expected. This was driven by clinical – both JDH and UMG. January was a good month for revenue. There were some changes in E & M codes by commercial payors because the contracted rate was higher than what we were charging; this affects the allowances for this month. Expenses were about the same. Total revenue was up by 3.46%. RVU's were up by 11.4% and FTE's by 8.4%

Mr. Sznaj pulled up Strata to show the payor mix shift: Medicaid is flat; there have been increases in Blue Cross and Managed Medicare and he added that the collection rate for Medicare has been consistent.

- UMG Updates

Ms. Horbatuck reported that Neurology has moved into the Brain and Spine Institute at 5 Munson Road and the Comprehensive Spine Center and Cranial Neurosurgery will be moving there on April 29. The Huntington's Disease Program has been designated as a Center of Excellence. The specialties on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Southington are moving to the lower level which will allow Internal Medicine to expand on the upper level. Management is working with the landlord of East Hartford to improve that location. The Thyroid team with working with two ENTs and the Cancer Center – updates to come. GI is working on process improvement allowing their referrals to decrease from 1800 to 8. Endocrine is working with Cheers, and Internal Medicine has been working on panel sizes. Geriatrics is in the second phase of Cheers and working on Alzheimer meds. Work is continuing with Dr. Coyner and Women's Health and Osteoporosis for a virtual center for women called UConn Women's Center for Motion and Performance. Talks with Griffin Hospital continue with ENT, Neurology and Nephrology.

Ms. Horbatuck also commented that feedback about the interviews with the four CEO candidates will go to President Marek. Dr. Moss expressed concerned that meetings are scheduled, on short notice, in the middle of the day which affect clinics. He feels this is very inappropriate. Ms. Horbatuck will relay that information.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie W. Wall, Executive Assistant