

The Regents of the University of California

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES

November 20, 2014

The Committee on Health Services met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents Atkins, Blum, De La Peña, Island, Makarechian, Pattiz, Ruiz, and Sherman; Ex officio members Napolitano and Varner; Advisory members Davis, Gorman, and Hare; Staff Advisors Acker and Coyne

In attendance: Regents Engelhorn, Kieffer, Leong Clancy, Newsom, Ortiz Oakley, Pérez, Reiss, Saifuddin, and Torlakson, Regent-designate Oved, Faculty Representative Gilly, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Provost Dorr, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Senior Vice Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice Presidents Budil, Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Gillman, Hawgood, Katehi, Wilcox, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. with Committee Chair De La Peña presiding.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2014 were approved.

2. UPDATE ON UC HEALTH'S PREPAREDNESS FOR EBOLA

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Committee Chair De La Peña expressed pride that almost 100 UCSF employees volunteered to work with possible Ebola patients, demonstrating UC's commitment to public health. UC student health centers are now tracking students who travel to West Africa.

Senior Vice President Stobo stated that on October 24, the California Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office announced that the five UC medical centers would be designated as priority hospitals to accept confirmed Ebola patients. Although each medical center had received training in caring for Ebola patients, training was stepped up, with the goals of providing care to patients and ensuring the safety of healthcare workers. Cooperation from personnel at the medical centers has been tremendous. All the medical center chief executive officers (CEOs) have been actively involved. Initially meetings were held twice a week with the chief medical officers

(CMOs) and chief nursing officers (CNOs). Currently weekly calls are held to review challenges and share solutions. Dr. Stobo said the planning and cooperation has been unprecedented in his tenure with UC Health. For example, UC Davis Medical Center personnel have received 1,200 hours of training in 90-minute segments. UC has been working closely with the California Department of Public Health and local health departments, which have been instrumental in preparations. UC has communicated with personnel at two U.S. hospitals that have treated Ebola patients and with the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Stobo said UC medical centers' capacity to treat Ebola patients is limited: two of its medical centers could handle two patients each and the other three can accommodate one patient each, for a total of seven patients. UC invited the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to visit UC and review its preparedness process. The first visit was at UCSF the prior day, with the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). They would visit UC Davis Medical Center this day and the three southern California UC medical centers in early January.

Dr. Stobo summarized that preparations are on track with enormous cooperation from the UC medical centers. Campus communication procedures have been improved so that peripheral personnel at the medical centers are kept informed. Remaining issues involve Cal/OSHA regulations regarding the appropriate personal protection equipment. Cal/OSHA standards exceed the CDC standards. UC is compliant and in some cases its compliance exceeds CDC standards. UC is in conversation with Cal/OSHA to ensure that it is fulfilling all requirements to ensure the safety of healthcare workers.

Another remaining issue is to establish uniform policies throughout UC, for example, requirements for UC personnel returning from one of the three affected countries in West Africa after caring for individuals who were sick but not confirmed as having Ebola. The treating personnel are required to fly into one of five airports on the East Coast where they are screened by public health departments, then return to California where they are met by local public health departments. Depending on their exposure, they would go through appropriate screening or a quarantine process. For those asymptomatic individuals who have cared for sick patients but no known Ebola patients, a question exists whether they should be allowed back into the workforce or quarantined for 21 days. Scientific data would indicate that they should be allowed to return to the workplace so long as they are asymptomatic, but there may be a perception that they would be placing other healthcare workers at risk. This issue is being discussed with the CMOs and CNOs and there is no University-wide policy yet, with the goal of best protecting healthcare workers while providing high-quality care to Ebola patients. UC medical centers have not had an Ebola patient. Dr. Stobo expressed confidence that UC is well-prepared to care for Ebola patients and keep its workforce safe.

Committee Chair De La Peña urged erring on the side of prudence. He expressed the Regents' gratitude and support for the volunteers willing to put themselves in harm's way.

Regent-designate Davis stated that during Kaiser Permanente's review of Ebola preparations concerns arose about protection and training of peripheral employees such as hospital receptionists. He asked whether UC's preparations for dealing with Ebola patients could be helpful in possible future public health emergencies. Dr. Stobo responded that UC has addressed the issue of protection of workers at the point of entry for possible Ebola patients. He said it is very unlikely there would be a surprise patient with suspected Ebola appearing at a UC emergency room. The patients coming from high-risk areas would be screened before they arrive in California and would be identified when they arrive in the state. The UC medical centers would usually know about the patients far in advance. UC is adhering to requirements set forth by Cal/OSHA. Dr. Stobo agreed that these preparations would be beneficial in responding to other possible future health crises.

Regent Atkins stated that this discussion was timely, as a statewide preparedness drill related to infectious disease was being conducted with county health departments. UC has played a significant role in weekly meetings with every level of health practitioners regarding training and information. Counties have responded well.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff