

POLICY STATEMENT

(Section 46a-68-78)

September 2020

This section was found to be in compliance in the previous filing and there were no proposals/recommendations.

Subsection (a)

UConn Health's Policy Statement on Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity:

- identifies the purpose and need for affirmative action and equal employment opportunity;
- identifies the classes protected under all federal and state constitutions, laws, regulations, and executive orders that prohibit or outlaw discrimination;
- establishes affirmative action as an immediate and necessary agency objective;
- pledges the agency to take affirmative steps to provide services and programs in a fair and impartial manner;
- recognizes the hiring difficulties experienced by individuals with disabilities and by many older persons and sets program goals for action to overcome the present effects of past discrimination, if any, to achieve the full and fair utilization of such persons in the workforce;
- advises employees of the existence of the agency's internal complaint procedures; and
- identifies the agency equal employment opportunity officer or person assigned affirmative action duties by name, position or position classification, address and telephone number.

Subsection (b)

The Policy Statement on Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity has been signed by Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and references his commitment to achieving goals set forth in the *Plan*. The policy was updated to reflect the change in Affirmative Action Officer. The updated policy was signed by Dr. Agwunobi on August 3, 2020.

Policy Statement: Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Employment Opportunity

UConn Health is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer. In order to ensure that employees and job applicants are not subjected to unlawful discrimination, it is UConn Health's policy to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations that prohibit employment discrimination and mandate specific actions for the purpose of eliminating the present effects of past discrimination. Equal employment opportunity is the purpose and goal of affirmative action. UConn Health has established equal employment opportunity and affirmative action as immediate and necessary objectives because we are committed to its concepts, principles and goals.

At UConn Health equal employment opportunity (EEO) means nondiscrimination in employment policies and practices. UConn Health is committed to ensuring that individual employees and applicants are not excluded from participation in the employment process based on an individual's legally protected status which includes race, color, ethnicity, religious creed, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, genetic information, physical or mental disabilities (including learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, past/present history of a mental disorder), prior conviction of a crime (or similar characteristic), veteran status, workplace hazards to reproductive systems, gender identity or expression, or other factors which cannot lawfully be the basis for employment actions, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification.

Affirmative action is a positive program of purposeful activity undertaken with conviction and effort to overcome the present effects of past practices, policies and barriers to equal employment opportunity. Affirmative action plans and programs are designed to achieve the full and fair participation of all protected class members found to be underutilized in the workforce or adversely affected by past policies and practices.

Affirmative Action

Affirmative action plays a role at all stages of the employment process, including, but not limited to: recruitment, evaluation, interview, selection, hire, promotion, demotion, transfer, discipline, layoff, termination, benefits, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, selection for training, the use of all facilities, and participation in all UConn Health sponsored employee activities. Provisions in applicable laws providing for bona fide occupational qualifications, business necessity or age limitations will be adhered to by UConn Health where appropriate. Accordingly, UConn Health pledges to regularly reexamine all policies and procedures to identify and eliminate barriers to access, and to change practices that may have a discriminatory impact.

UConn Health's commitment to affirmative action requires that we make the good faith efforts that may be necessary in all aspects of personnel administration to ensure that the recruitment and hire of underrepresented individuals reflect their availability in the job market; that the causes of underutilization are identified and eliminated; that alternative approaches are explored when personnel practices have a negative impact on protected classes; and that the terms,

conditions, and privileges of employment, including upward and lateral mobility, are equitably administered.

UConn Health recognizes the employment difficulties experienced by individuals with disabilities and by many older persons. Therefore, UConn Health will take necessary steps to identify and overcome areas of underutilization of such persons in the workforce and to achieve their full participation in all UConn Health programs, processes and services.

UConn Health is committed to ensuring that all services and programs are provided in a fair and impartial manner and thus has established affirmative action and equal employment opportunity as immediate and necessary agency objectives.

As a Connecticut state agency, UConn Health prepares its *Affirmative Action Plan* each year. The *Plan* is a detailed, results-oriented set of procedures, which blueprints a strategy to combat discrimination and implement affirmative action. The objectives of the *Plan* are to set both quantitative and non-quantitative goals, which promote affirmative action and/or eliminate any policy or employment practice that adversely affects protected class members.

A complete version of UConn Health's current *Affirmative Action Plan* is available at the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) and may also be found [online](#) on the OIE website.

Procedure

For more information and advice regarding rights and responsibilities under the *Plan*, UConn Health's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer can be contacted by telephone, email or in person during regular office hours. All comments are welcome.

Sarah Chipman

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Equal Employment Opportunity Officer
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UConn Health's [policies against discrimination and harassment](#) are included in the *Plan* along with [complaint procedures](#). Employees and others wishing to file complaints of discrimination or of affirmative action policy violations may do so by contacting the Office of Institutional Equity by telephone, email or in person during regular office hours:

Office of Institutional Equity
16 Munson Road, 4th Floor
263 Farmington Avenue, MC 5310
Farmington, CT 06030-5310
860-679-3563

equity@uconn.edu
www.equity.uconn.edu


Employees and others shall not be subjected to harassment, intimidation or any type of retaliation because they have (1) filed a complaint; (2) assisted or participated in an investigation, compliance review, hearing or any other activity related to the administration of any federal, state or local law requiring equal employment opportunity; (3) opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity; (4) exercised any other legal right protected by federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity.

Accountability

As Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, I commit UConn Health and myself to make every effort to implement an effective *Affirmative Action Plan* within timetables set forth in the *Plan*. I fully expect my managerial and supervisory staff to treat compliance with Federal and State of Connecticut affirmative action statutes as a top priority and take positive steps to ensure the successful implementation of the policies, procedures and objectives of affirmative action and equal opportunity at UConn Health.

In issuing UConn Health’s affirmative action policy, I reiterate the need for affirmative action and attest to UConn Health’s determination to identify strengths and weaknesses in our employment system, resolve problems when they appear, recruit employees vigorously and affirmatively, and retain current employees while also helping them prepare for advancement.

8/3/20
Date


Andrew Aqwunobi
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice
President for Health Affairs, UConn Health