

IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEM AREAS

Section 46a-68-87

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

The following narrative summarizes UConn Health's inquiry into the non-quantifiable aspects of the employment process that may impede or prevent the full and fair participation of protected race/sex group members in the employment process.

1. Employment Applications - UConn Health utilizes a standard application form designed specifically to enable applicants to apply for any position in any Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) category. Changes to the application were made to comply with regulations regarding the disclosure of a criminal history prior to a job offer. The application process for the online system mirrors the paper application form. No problems have been identified in this area.

2. Job Qualifications

UConn Health has completed an objective job evaluation for all non-faculty job classifications. All job qualifications were reviewed and new job specifications were developed when needed or requested in all EEO categories. During this plan year, twenty (20) new job titles were created.

The majority of position classifications at UConn Health are unclassified and do not require an applicant to take an examination to be considered for employment or promotional opportunities. Of UConn Health's 3,786 full time employees, 32 % are in classified positions. The majority of these employees are in positions that do not require an examination as they are professionally licensed. The number of employees in classified positions requiring an examination is 5%. Many of the incumbents in the positions requiring examinations have been in those positions for a significant number of years. No problems have been identified in this area.

3. Recruitment Practices

UConn Health is comprised of an acute care hospital, a medical school, a dental school, a physician's practice group, a large research component and the Correctional Managed Healthcare Program which provides medical and mental health services to the incarcerated.

Recruiting and hiring qualified applicants in the health care field continues to be a challenging issue nationwide. As hospitals are approved to perform new procedures i.e., transplants, or develop new research opportunities, employees with specialized skills must be recruited and hired. The competition in the field increases as the pool of candidates decreases. Some examples positions which are challenging to fill include:

Critical care and other specialty areas such as Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Radiology Nurses, Operating Room Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Respiratory Therapists, Dosimetrists, Pharmacists including those with informatics and chemotherapy, Perfusionists, Information Technology positions, Psychiatrists and physicians in specialty areas.

The goals of the research experience include developing an understanding of how research leads to advancement of knowledge and the improvement of clinical programs and community health; to acquire research skills and methodologies; and to collaborate with colleagues from a variety of fields and specialties. Often there are limited numbers of funded research grants and/or individuals performing research that are compatible with the goals of the UConn Health. In some cases, a Principal Investigator may be able to transfer a grant to the agency along with any staff that has the specialized skills required to work on a project. As the scope of some of the research positions is extremely narrow, finding individuals with the required skills is challenging. Some of these areas include stem cell research, genomics, neuron and geropsychiatry; tissue regeneration, translational research, research on aging, biostatistics, developmental disabilities and cancer.

The School of Medicine is responsible for education at the graduate and professional levels for practitioners, teachers and researchers. Faculty must be recruited that can fulfill the mission of providing educational opportunities for students pursuing careers in the patient care professions, education, public health, biomedical and/or behavioral sciences; providing advanced knowledge through basic, biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social research; developing, demonstrating and delivering health care services based on effectiveness, efficiency and the application of the latest advances in clinical and health care research, helping health care professionals maintain their competence through continuing education program, and providing clinical care to a large population. Some of the clinical specialties at UConn Health are cardiology, cancer, joint replacement, endocrinology, infertility, diagnostic imaging, dialysis, nuclear medicine, vascular, and urology.

Adding to the complexity of faculty recruitment were changes in the requirement of the number of hours that resident physicians could work. These changes have increased the need to hire “hospitalists” to work shifts previously covered by residents. Applicants for Hospitalists positions are generally physicians who are completing a residency program and are planning to go into a fellowship. This creates a situation of constant turnover as the Hospitalists’ length of employment is typically one to two (1-2) years. UConn Health continues to recruit through the Human Resources’ website and various journals. UConn Health also sponsors applicants’ visas to fill some of these positions.

The School of Dental Medicine is responsible for the education and training of general dentists, specialists and dental academicians. The strength of the program is recognized internationally and the graduates of these programs have achieved prominence

throughout the United States and internationally. The School consistently ranks as one of the top United States dental facilities in number of research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health.

This group has specialty physicians in all areas of dental medicine including Endodontics, Prosthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine Pathology, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Dental Implants and General Restorative Dentistry that provide outpatient care to a large number of patients on the main campus as well as in various sites in the community.

Recruitment of faculty positions for all areas of UConn Health is an increasingly difficult challenge. Even with extensive advertising some searches remain open for two (2) to three (3) years. There are searches that despite extensive recruiting produce only one (1) applicant. Recruit candidates with special skills and the ability to work in direct patient care, teaching and research will continue to be a challenge in the future.

All Faculty and Director and above positions are required to have formal search committees with the responsibility of developing detailed strategies for the recruitment of qualified goal applicants. Some of these strategies include networking activities such as national meetings and contacting colleagues at other institutions to identify candidates interested in UConn Health positions.

The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) continued to provide Unconscious Bias Training in our search committee training for faculty and director and above positions. A total of thirty (30) search committee members received this training. **Please see Internal Communications, Exhibit #15.**

A resource web page is located on the OIE website to provide search committees with information about their responsibilities for recruitment, evaluation, candidate recommendation, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity requirements. **Please see External Communications, Exhibit #4.**

UConn Health's Office of Health Career Opportunity Programs' top priority for the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine is to recruit and retain students from diverse groups that are underrepresented in American health care professions. The Office actively recruits underrepresented medical and dental students and supports those enrolled throughout the academic year. This program continues to be a source of applicants for vacancies at UConn Health.

Correctional Managed Healthcare Program is responsible for all healthcare positions in the Connecticut corrections system. The majority of these positions are in the classified system. Due to collective bargaining agreements, many vacancies are limited to applicants that are currently in the bargaining unit. Additionally, there are some geographical areas of the state, i.e. Bridgeport, Newtown, where recruitment is extremely difficult and positions remain open for long periods of time. During this year budget cuts limited the number of open positions within this program.

Despite the many challenges in the hiring the most qualified individuals, UConn Health continues to be committed to equal employment opportunity and ensuring non-discrimination in conditions of employment, educational programs and patient services. Therefore, recruitment is an area of the employment process that is constantly monitored. Updated goal achievement reports from OIE are distributed to Human Resources Officers. Affirmative Action goals for each position are available to the hiring manager through the iHiring system and on the OIE website. Contacts with hiring departments and discussions of the Affirmative Action goals were highlighted in each search throughout the reporting period. Discussions with hiring managers included the importance of diversifying the UConn Health workforce in all areas. If a search resulted in no qualified goal applicants in the pool, the job specification and search efforts were reviewed to ensure that there were no qualification or other barriers and that the appropriate good faith efforts were made.

In an effort to reach qualified goal candidates, Human Resources continually updated the recruitment, outreach contacts, programs and placed advertisements in the Affirmative Action Register, Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives, and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health. The social media tool LinkedIn's minority member-directed networks were utilized. OIE provided training to search committee members at their first meeting, feedback on all recruitment plans and guidance for targeted outreach. More information on the specific outreach contacts is included in **Section 46a-68-35, External Communication**. No problems have been identified in this area.

4. Personnel Policies

The Department of Human Resources policies conform to the state merit system and all collective bargaining agreements for all EEO categories. No problems have been identified in this area.

5. Orientation

New Employee Orientation sessions are conducted at the start of each pay period. Beyond communicating policies, procedures and compliance requirements, New Employee Orientation creates a shared vision by acclimating new hires to UConn Health's culture and values, as well as the overall framework. UConn Health embraces the importance of building strong relationships. To that end, the orientation offers an opportunity to receive welcome messages from administrative leadership, focus on personal organizational leadership, focus on personal organizational purpose and meet various representatives of UConn Health in an inviting and welcoming learning environment. This program is also the mechanism for meeting various mandatory and regulatory requirements including safety and occupational health standards, basic fire and police personal safety procedures and compliance programs. A discussion on affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, diversity, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and

the complaint process is also facilitated. Copies of the Office of Institutional Equity policies are distributed along with duties, responsibilities, and contact information. The orientation program is evaluated and updated twice a year (more often as needed) to ensure that new policy and procedural changes are addressed.

The New Employee Orientation is followed by mandatory diversity training for new employees. No problems have been identified in this area.

6. Training

UConn Health encourages employees from all EEO categories to participate in training programs that are designed to enhance employees' existing skill levels, support health/wellness, add new areas of competence, prepare for future growth and/or upward mobility and enable employees to fully realize their potential. Please see **Internal Communication, Exhibit #14**.

Sexual Harassment Prevention and Diversity Awareness are on going training programs available to UConn Health staff. Please see **Internal Communications, Exhibit #10** for more information on training.

In addition, the Office of Institutional Equity provides training on Sexual Harassment Prevention for all Correctional Managed Healthcare employees and Search Committee Training. No problems have been identified in this area.

7. Counseling

Upon request, employees of all EEO categories are counseled on a one-to-one basis regarding career mobility opportunities, education; resume updates, interviewing techniques, training needs and specific skill development by Human Resources. UConn Health also has an Employee Assistance Program that provides confidential counseling services for employees in all EEO categories. No problems have been identified in this area.

8. Discrimination Complaint Process

A copy of the UConn Health's discrimination complaint process and policy statements that specifically state an employee's protection under EEO laws and regulations are provided at New Employee Orientation and are on the OIE website along with links to additional resources. The complaint process is included in **Discrimination Complaint Process**.section. No problems have been identified in this area.

9. Evaluation

UConn Health conducts employee personnel evaluations pursuant to state requirements and specific Collective Bargaining Agreements. UConn Health has eight (8) bargaining units. The evaluations are conducted at the end of a working test period and on a semi-annual or annual basis. Goals and objectives, including affirmative action responsibilities are established and are discussed with managers and directors.

In order to fully report all service ratings, Human Resources utilizes a database to track service ratings which includes faculty, managerial, confidential and unionized employees. An analysis of the employee evaluations from all EEO categories is included in the **Employment Analyses**. No problems have been identified in this area.

10. Layoffs

During the reporting period, UConn Health has experienced some layoffs due to the expiration of grants. Most of these employees remained on the recall and reemployment lists to be hired into vacant positions for which they meet the minimum and any special requirements. Pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreements, active recall lists are reviewed before filling vacant positions. Those classes with research titles were not subject to the job security provisions of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) agreement. No problems have been identified in this area.

11. Termination

UConn Health has not experienced any problems in this area of the personnel process. The majority of terminations are on a voluntary basis. All non-voluntary terminations are carefully reviewed by the Labor Relations unit of Human Resources prior to implementation to ensure no transgression has occurred. All voluntary terminations from each EEO category are offered an exit interview upon termination. Exit interviews can be completed on-line and are reviewed by the Human Resource Officers to identify any problems/issues. Employees may also have a personal exit interview if they wish. A review of completed exit interviews by Human Resources and did not indicate any issues with the employment process. The Office of Institutional Equity reviewed all of the Exit Interviews to determine whether discrimination issues were identified and to determine the steps to be taken for training and programs. No problems have been identified in this area.

The narrative above itemizes all non-quantifiable elements of the employment process that have been identified as a problem area. UConn Health has not identified any non-quantifiable elements as a problem area. Additionally, UConn Health has examined all aspects of the employment process itemized above to determine if any might impede or prevent the full and fair participation of individuals with disabilities or older persons disabled in the workforce. As a result of this examination, there is no evidence to show any barrier or discriminatory employment practice against individuals with disabilities or older persons.