

UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

MINUTES

SENIOR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

*Thursday 6 March 2003
CEO Conference Room, Toronto General Hospital*

Present:

Tom Closson, *Chair*
Joanne Marr
Janet Beed
Gillian Howard
Matthew Anderson

Emma Pavlov
Kevin Empey
Sarah Downey
Mary Ferguson-Pare

Regrets: Robert Bell

Catherine Zahn

Guests:

D. Anastakis
C. Wang

C. Smith
S. Carson

Recording Secretary: Ruth Gopaul

For Decision

1.0 Corporate Objectives

Catherine Wang distributed the draft 2003/2004 Corporate Objectives document for review.

The committee reviewed the objectives, actions and accountabilities in detail, suggesting a number of changes.

Catherine Wang will incorporate the agreed upon changes to the document. The objectives will then be presented to the Planning and Priorities Council on March 13, 2003 for further review and finally, presented to the Board of Trustees on April 15, 2003.

1.0 HAZMAT Response

Joanne Marr put forward a proposal to expand the scope and mandate of the Radiation Trauma Unit (RTU) to include other hazardous materials. Phase I of the proposal focuses on internal response to incidents, by demonstrating the procedures on one site and then expanding to all UHN sites. Phase II focuses on response to external incidents.

Joanne reported that the current RTU has a 10-year history at UHN. The unit provides 24/7 on-call response to potential radiation trauma, e.g.,

- On-call coverage of physician expert, Emergency nurses, radiology support

- Comprehensive response team trains continuously to ensure up to date knowledge, skill
- Decontamination equipment, process in Toronto Western Hospital Emergency Department

The RTU team training includes biological and chemical contamination.

Joanne stated that currently, UHN's response to HAZMAT episodes is inconsistent and lacks structure and process. The team is ill prepared to respond adequately and safely to incidents due to the infrequency of calls.

Phase I of this proposal would expand the scope of HAZMAT response for each site to allow for:

- Consistent responders to evaluate, plan action, dispatch key support personnel, equipment, etc.
- Consistent response supports ongoing competency and safety
- Additional training and equipment purchase

Phase II would focus on:

- Expansion of scope and mandate to include response to and decontamination of biological, chemical & radiological victims external to UHN, e.g.,
 - Mass decontamination
 - Security and crowd control
 - Additional training and communication
 - Collaboration and partnering with key external stakeholders

Joanne presented the benefits and the cost implications for implementation of the proposal.

The committee discussed the details of the proposal and agreed that this is an important issue. However, it was agreed that further review is required before approval could be given to the proposal.

It was agreed that Lois Hales, Frank Tourneur (Radiation Safety), and representatives from Occupational Health & Safety come to a future SOC meeting to provide further details in order to jointly identify gaps in the process and prepare a plan to proceed.

2.0 Termination

There being no further business, the meeting terminated.