

# TRUSTEE BRIEFING REPORT

## OFFICE OF THE CEO UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 26, 2010

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Issue: Missing Disk Drives

**Subject/Issue Statement:** UMC has been conducting an ongoing investigation into the apparent theft of six computer disk drives during a period spanning June 2008 through November 2009.

**Background:** UMC Public Safety and IT personnel are in currently investigating the apparent theft of six computer disk drives from several computers distributed throughout the UMC main campus. The losses were identified either when employees were unable to access their computers at the beginning of their work shift or by "tattle-tale" sensing on the hospital's computer network which periodically checks the status of installed hardware.

In each instance UMC's data breach team assessed whether or not the drives would have contained protected health information or other sensitive data. It was determined that in each instance the affected computers were used primarily for network access and the drives contained no sensitive information. One drive taken from the area of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab did contain image files, but images lacked patient identifier information and could only be viewed using the Cath Lab manufacturers proprietary software and thus presented no risk to any patients due to disclosure.

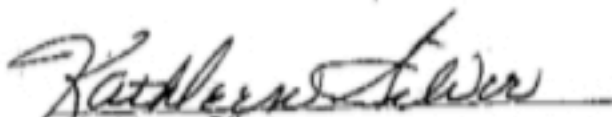
The thefts were reported to Metro but they declined to investigate. They determined that because the drives were of small capacity and slow access speed their potential street value was estimated at between \$5.00 and \$10.00 and essentially constituted petty theft.

During the course of the Trauma Center data breach investigation we related the loss of the disk drives to the investigating FBI agent. After discussions with their Information Technology team, they felt the loss of the drives was not related to the data breach issue and felt no further action was warranted on their part.

UMC Public Safety and our IT staff are continuing to investigate the loss and have stepped up surveillance via our camera system and through increased rounding and network monitoring.

**Discussion:** The theft of the disk drives has been thoroughly reviewed by UMC staff, Metro, and the FBI. It appears to be an isolated spurt of criminal activity that resulted in minimal economic loss but did not result in any release of protected health information or sensitive data.

**Recommendation:** Provided for information only.

  
Kathleen Silver  
Chief Executive Officer