

OPTN Executive Committee

Meeting Summary

July 29, 2022

Conference Call

Jerry McCauley, MD, MPH, FACP, Chair

Introduction

The Executive Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/29/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Orientation
2. Summer 2022 Public Comment Items
3. New Projects from the POC

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Welcome and Orientation

The Chair welcomed the members to the Executive Committee and UNOS staff provided a brief orientation to the members. The orientation included reviewing the Committee's authority, the types of projects that the Committee oversees, and the recent portfolio of work that the Committee has developed since December 2021.

Summary of discussion:

The HRSA representative inquired if the Committee or Board of Directors plans to continue reviewing the recommendations set forth in the NASEM report.¹ The Chair outlined that the Committee plans to systematically review and address the recommendations. UNOS staff will circulate the letter sent out by the previous year's Executive Committee so that new members are aware of the response to date.² A member solicited feedback from the HRSA representative on what types of efforts they are looking for the contractor to address. The HRSA representative agreed to provide feedback on the efforts that can be taken by HRSA and the OPTN to address the NASEM recommendations.

2. Summer 2022 Public Comment Items

Dr. Nicole Turgeon, the Chair of the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), provided a brief overview of the slated summer 2022 public comment items. The POC reviewed these proposals and recommended them to the Executive Committee for approval for public comment.

Summary of discussion:

A member inquired about the rate of projects that are either denied or sent back to the Committee for further review and consideration and how that impacts morale. The presenter did not have this

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2022. Realizing the promise of equity in the organ transplantation system. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26364>.

² Matthew Cooper, OPTN Letter to NASEM Organ Donation and Transplantation Committee, April 27, 2022, https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/fjcidr52/optn-letter-to-nasem-organ-donation-and-transplant-committee_27april2022.pdf.

quantitative information at hand, but ensured that the Committees tend to feel grateful for the feedback as opposed to apprehensive about it. The POC is responsible for managing resources so the feedback given on projects results in a stronger and more developed project being approved. The presenter further clarified that the POC considers if the project aligns with the OPTN Strategic Plan and the strategic policy priorities, but it does not exclude projects that do not align with these considerations from receiving approval.

With respect to the Enhancements to OPTN Donor Data Matching System Clinical Data Collection proposal from the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee, a member inquired if the goal of this proposal is to better understand inefficiencies in the system and identify how to reduce organ waste. The member elaborated that these are primary areas of concern for OPOs and wanted to ensure that the resources used on this proposal would help to address this area of concern. The presenter responded that reducing waste and system inefficiencies is the goal of this proposal. The presenter highlighted this proposal as one that the POC originally sent back to the OPO Committee and requested a further clarification of information before ultimately approving it.

There was a motion and a second to hold the vote. The Committee was asked *do you approve distributing these items for Summer 2022 public comment?* The Committee unanimously voted to approve the projects for public comment, with a vote of 11-0.

Next steps:

Public comment will occur from August 3 to September 28, 2022.

3. New Projects from the Policy Oversight Committee (POC)

Dr. Nicole Turgeon, the Chair of the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), presented the new projects that the POC has reviewed and approved. The Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Committee (DTAC) is sponsoring *Clarification of OPO Requirements for Deceased Organ Donors with HIV Positive Test Results*. The POC reviewed this project and recommends the Executive Committee approves.

Summary of discussion:

A member predicted a high variability on timing for the confirmatory testing and opined that this will be a regional challenge that will need to be managed if approved and implemented. As such, the member suggested that it may be a greater challenge for some OPOs as opposed to others, but was supportive of this change and viewed it as a positive step to addressing false positives/negatives. In the instance of a false positive, a member inquired how that information is communicated with the recipient. A member representing an OPO shared that their responsibility is to relay the results to the transplant center and the responsibility to communicate with the patient lies on the transplant center. A member clarified that the testing will help in instances where HIV negative organs are transplanted into HIV positive recipients. It is not an issue of HIV negative patients receiving HIV positive organs.

There was a motion and a second to hold the vote. The Committee was asked *do you approve Clarification of OPO Requirements for Deceased Organ Donors with HIV Positive Test Results as recommended by the POC?* The Committee unanimously voted to approve the project to move forward.

A member inquired about an approach for communicating any concerns of monkeypox to transplant patients. UNOS staff responded that the DTAC is currently developing a summary of evidence document, similar to the COVID-19 summary of evidence. The Executive Committee will likely see this document for review and approval in the coming months. A member inquired about patient specific communication, as opposed to the usual approach of posting information on the OPTN website for transplant programs to communicate to patients. Staff will take this recommendation back to the DTAC.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 19, 2022
- September 19, 2022
- October 26, 2022
- December 4, 2022 in St. Louis, MO

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Annette Jackson
 - Brad Kornfeld
 - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
 - Irene Kim
 - Jeff Orłowski
 - Jerry McCauley
 - Jim Sharrock
 - Linda Cendales
 - Lloyd Ratner
 - Matt Cooper
 - Valinda Jones
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Chris McLaughlin
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Jon Snyder
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alex Tulchinsky
 - Cole Fox
 - Delaney Nilles
 - Desiree
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - Jason Livingston
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Leyonce Moses
 - Mary Beth Murphy
 - Rebecca Murdock
 - Roger Brown
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Susie Sprinson
- **Other Attendees**
 - Nicole Turgeon