

**OPTN/UNOS Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)
Meeting Summary
June 28, 2016
Conference Call**

**Jonathan M. Chen, M.D., Chair
Jeffrey Orłowski, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on June 28, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Committee Projects

1. Task Force to Reduce Disincentives to Transplantation

The MPSC presented the recommendations developed by the Task Force to Reduce Disincentives to Transplantation (the Task Force) and the MPSC's Task Force Working Group for the Board's preliminary feedback at its June 2016 meeting. The Board concluded its discussion on this topic asking the MPSC to determine the best way to present these concepts for the community's consideration.

Committee members raised concerns with proceeding with this approach, stating that it continues to perpetuate a flawed transplant outcomes review system, and simply modifying how the current system operates will not fix this. Specific concerns that the committee raised were deficient risk adjustment, only focusing on 1-year outcomes, a lack of pre-transplant metrics, added complexities introduced with this proposal, and if these changes will really impact "transplant disincentives." The MPSC Vice Chair responded that the specific considerations not included in this proposal are all worthwhile topics for the MPSC to pursue further; however, the Committee must remember that the Board tasked this group to develop recommendations to make a step towards improving the OPTN outcomes review system in less than six months' time. The Board indicated that the concepts presented are in line with the resolution adopted at its December 2015 meeting, and requested that the MPSC determine the best way to gather the transplant community's feedback on this proposal.

The Committee proceeded to vote on whether these concepts should be distributed for formal public comment or if it should be presented at the upcoming regional meeting, but not distributed formally for public comment, similar to what was done earlier this year with the outcomes measures concepts. The MPSC ultimately agreed to distribute these concepts for formal feedback in a public comment proposal (17- public comment, 6- present concepts for informal feedback, 0- another approach). Following this vote, the MPSC supported a motion to distribute for public comment the Bylaws language that incorporated these concepts and that were provided in the meeting materials for this teleconference (22 support, 1 oppose, 0 abstentions).

Next steps

- Distribute Task Force recommendations for formal public comment.

2. Transplant Program Performance Measures Review (Outcome Measures)

UNOS staff reported that an update on this project was presented to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors at its June 2016 meeting. No additional feedback on the project was provided by the Board. UNOS staff also reminded the Committee of their approval in May to send this proposal out for public comment during the fall 2016 public comment period.

3. Transplant Hospital Definition

UNOS staff reminded the Committee that the MPSC Vice Chair presented this topic during a break-out session at the June 2016 OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors meeting. Limited feedback was provided, further encouraging the public comment distribution of the language drafted by the Committee that incorporated the concepts developed by its Transplant Hospital Definition Work Group. The Committee proceeded to support a motion to distribute for public comment the proposed Bylaws language for updating the OPTN's definition of a transplant hospital that were provided in the meeting materials for this teleconference (25 support, 0 oppose, 0 abstentions).

Next steps

- Distribute transplant hospital definition proposal for formal public comment.

4. Joint Society Working Group Proposals

UNOS staff introduced this topic by reminding the MPSC of the history of these projects. The following four proposals presented for the Committee's consideration were the result of recommendations made by a Joint Society Working Group (JSWG):

- Consider Primary Transplant Surgeon Requirement- Primary or First Assistant on Transplant Cases
- Elimination of OPTN/UNOS Bylaws Regarding Approved Transplant Fellowship Programs
- Updating Primary Kidney Transplant Physician Requirements
- Subspecialty Board Certification for Primary Liver Transplant Physicians

The MPSC had originally prepared these proposals to be distributed for public comment in August 2015. Prior to their distribution, the Executive Committee put these projects on hold as a result of its efforts to better align the OPTN committee project portfolio with the new strategic plan that the OPTN Board of Directors adopted at its June 2015 meeting. More recently, the Executive Committee approved moving forward with these projects. As such, the MPSC was asked to vote on final Bylaws language to be distributed for public comment. The proposed Bylaws language presented for the MPSC's consideration updated Bylaws language the Committee voted on in 2015 to incorporate new Bylaws language adopted by the Board during the previous year, and since the MPSC's original vote on the proposed Bylaws language associated with these topics.

A Committee member asked if the proposal entitled, "Elimination of OPTN/UNOS Bylaws Regarding Approved Transplant Fellowship Programs," could be reconsidered before public comment distribution. Specifically, the member asked if the Committee would consider retaining Bylaws language acknowledging the OPTN's automatic approval of American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) fellowships.

To facilitate an informed discussion about this topic, UNOS staff reminded the committee of the original rationale for removing these Bylaws. The problematic language that prompted focus on this topic refers to ongoing MPSC review and approval of fellowship

programs; however, this review and approval is not something that the MPSC has recently done. In reviewing this topic, the JSWG suggested that the current rigor of requirements in each respective fellowship pathway are sufficient enough to stand alone without verifying whether the training occurred at a fellowship program approved by the MPSC. The JSWG noted that the OPTN's review of fellowship programs was necessary when key personnel fellowship pathways were originally developed (1987) and included basic expectations, but with the evolution and advancement of the requirements found in each respective fellowship pathway, it is unlikely that someone who meets all the current fellowship pathway requirements could do so at a fellowship program that would not be approved under the current Bylaws. To address the problematic sections within the Bylaws regarding MPSC approval of fellowship programs that does not currently occur, the JSWG made a recommendation (which the MPSC and each society participating in the JSWG endorsed) to remove all OPTN Bylaws that reference and define approved fellowship programs.

Committee leadership shifted the focus of discussion to the JSWG process. The MPSC is voting to distribute a proposal for public comment, concerns with the proposal can be provided during this period, and the MPSC will consider all the feedback provided. Delays in getting this topic out for public comment have already been encountered, and the time and effort to get this proposal to this point should be considered in determining whether to readdress this topic now and further delay public comment. The concerned MPSC member responded with appreciation for the work and effort already put into this project, but preferred the committee try to fix the language to address the raised concerns prior to public comment distribution. Although this may take time, he suggested it will yield a better outcome than a proposal that primarily receives negative feedback.

The MPSC proceeded to support a motion to distribute for public comment the proposed Bylaws language for eliminating Bylaws regarding approval of fellowship programs that were provided in the meeting materials for this teleconference (17 support, 6 oppose, 0 abstentions).

UNOS staff solicited questions and concerns with the remaining three JSWG projects slated for public comment. With the Committee raising none, UNOS staff asked about applying the recommendations included in the proposal entitled, "Consider Primary Transplant Surgeon Requirement- Primary or First Assistant on Transplant Cases" to the recently approved Bylaws related to intestine program key personnel and the establishment of pediatric transplant program components. The volume requirements in both of these proposals prompted concerns when they were out for public comment consideration, and in light of that, UNOS staff asked if additional levels of requirements applied to the requirements established by these proposals would be appropriate. Unless the Committee has a strong position on this, staff suggested that these questions be called out as specific considerations for comment in this proposal. The MPSC indicated it did not have strong feeling on these questions at this time, and that those specific questions should be highlighted in the public comment proposal related to this topic.

Without any further questions or comment on the remaining three JSWG proposals, the Committee supported a motion to distribute for public comment the proposed Bylaws language for the remaining three JSWG proposals on the agenda that were provided in the meeting materials for this teleconference (23 support, 2 oppose, 0 abstentions).

Next steps

- Distribute the four JSWG proposals for formal public comment.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

- Changes to Transplant Program Key Personnel Procurement Requirements
- Addressing the Term “Foreign Equivalent” in OPTN Bylaws

Implemented Committee Projects

None

Review of Public Comment Proposals

None

Other Significant Items

None

Upcoming Meetings

- July 12-14, 2016, Chicago
- October 25-27, 2016, Chicago
- February 28 - March 2, 2017, Chicago
- July 11-13, 2017, Chicago
- October 17-19, 2017, Chicago