

OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC)
Meeting Summary
May 12, 2015
3-4:30 pm EST, Conference Call

Yolanda Becker, MD, Chair
Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on May 12, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Committee Projects

1. Committee Terms Project:

The work group drafted bylaws language for the committee's review and vote. Because of the lengthy discussion of the committee projects, the committee did not get to discuss this during the call. They will be moved to a call at a future date.

Other Significant Business

2. Review of New Committee Projects

OPTN President Carl Berg joined the meeting for a few minutes to provide direction and an overview of the POC's assigned task to re-align the committee project portfolio with the new strategic plan. He reiterated that it is important to realize that some of these projects touch several goals and we should take note of that as we're trying to fit them into the different categories. This is an evolution and not an abrupt change and reflects the priorities developed by the regions, the board in November, the committee chairs, and the executive committee and that the POC should feel empowered to re-align the projects to meet the needs of the organization as a whole and accept a change of direction. It's not a question of whether the projects are good, they're all good, but whether they fit in with the priorities of the organization.

The discussion then began with the spreadsheet that staff sent out that shows the portfolio of current projects that have not yet gone out for public comment or will be considered by the board of directors in June. The spreadsheet showed these projects weighted according to the new strategic goals by staff and calculated a level of effort based on the IT, Policy, Research, and Instructional hours required to complete the project and this assessed weight. It showed that the Improve outcomes goal (#3) and, to a lesser extent, the patient safety goal (#4) was overrepresented and the increase transplant goal (#1) was underrepresented by 9 percent. The spreadsheet showed the full project portfolio with 13 projects highlighted in red and yellow that could be put on hold to help meet the percentages of the new strategic goals and free up resources to add to the underrepresented goals given that these projects had a high cost. The strawman tab showed what the new portfolio would look like if the staff recommendation to put the highlighted projects on hold was embraced by the POC. The recommended strawman portfolio would free up approximately 10% of the committee resources so that new projects that support the strategic goals can be considered.

The committee discussed the proposed strawman portfolio and after much deliberation and discussion, expressed the following concerns:

- Specific Projects: Concerns about the weights, level of efforts, and timelines for specific projects.
- Timeliness of Discussion: Premature to flag projects since the Board had not yet adopted the proposed 2015 Strategic Plan?
- How to Resurrect Projects: Process to resurrect projects that were put on hold?
- Committee Member Engagement: Effect of putting projects on hold on committee member engagement and morale?

The policy director told the committee that he understood the concern about doing this now before the strategic plan is officially board-approved, but communicated that that's what the Executive Committee wants. They want us to start making the transition now.

The discussion continued with committee members expressing great hesitancy to accept the recommended strawman portfolio and the deadline for doing this.

The policy director communicated again that he was open to other ideas for evaluating these projects and making the pivot to the new strategic plan. Wanted to also reinforce that we're not "killing projects, we're just putting these on hold." Many of these will come back. And, this is probably a one-time affair that we have to do because of the change in the strategic plan and we won't have to do this again.

The Chair suggested that the committee needs another phone call before they could move forward with this. Also, the committee is concerned that there is not a process in place to bring these things that are on hold back and would like to communicate that.

The liaison agreed that she would summarize the meeting and the concerns of the committee for distribution.

The Chair then summarized that the plan forward is to send out a summary of the meeting to the committee for review that summarizes the concerns and also to try to schedule another call before the Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 15, 2015 Conference Call, 11 am EST
- June 24, 2015 Conference Call, 12:00 PM EST
- Jul 14, 2015 Conference Call, 3:00 PM EST
- August 10, 2015 Conference Call, 3:00 PM EST