

OPTN/UNOS Patient Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
May 13, 2015
Conference Call

Kristie Lemmon, MBA, Chair
John Fallgren, RN, BS, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on May 13, 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

The Committee further developed two new project ideas proposed during the March 30 meeting in Chicago.

1. Improving Participation in Public Comment

The Committee considered ways to encourage participation in public comment among patients, patient advocates, and other members of the broader transplant community. Members discussed marketing strategies geared towards patients to raise awareness of public comment. They also suggested more organized and effective ways to communicate with patients and patient advocates, such as listservs, social media, and interactive online forums. Regional Representatives expressed interest in being more accessible to members of the public during public comment to answer questions or receive feedback on proposals. The Committee will convene a working group that will work with UNOS staff to explore and implement strategies to improve participation in public comment.

2. Peer Mentoring for Transplant Candidates

The Committee believes transplant professionals and patients would benefit from a comprehensive resource about peer mentoring programs. The Committee will convene a working group to research the diversity of peer mentoring programs that is available in the United States and work to identify common attributes or best practices. Members plan to research both formal and informal programs for all organ types. The Committee will now present this project to the Policy Oversight Committee for approval.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 8, 2015
- August 12, 2015