OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
January 14, 2016
Conference Call

Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Chair
Jennifer Milton, BSN, CCTC, MBA, Vice Chair]

Discussions of the full committee on January 14, 2016 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. **None**

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. **Proposal to Increase Committee Terms to Three Years**

   The proposal was passed at the December 1-2 Board of Directors meeting on the consent agenda with a vote of 39 in favor, 0 oppose, and 0 abstain. The Committee will need to be a part of the implementation planning for the proposal. The policy language will become effective March 1, 2016, but will not impact current committee member terms. The policy language will be effective for new committee terms beginning in July 2016. The Committee will begin to review engagement and participation models in February 2016 and come to consensus on how to evaluate committee member engagement prior to implementation.

Implemented Committee Projects

3. **None**

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. **Upcoming POC Review of Public Comment Proposals**

   The Committee reviewed instructions for their upcoming review of public comment proposals. The POC reviews public comment proposals before the public comment period begins. The Committee recommends proposals move on to the Executive Committee for approval if they meet all the policy development requirements and are ready for community input. The POC will review public comment proposals on January 21, 2016.

Other Significant Items

5. **POC Review of New Committee Projects**

   Proposals follow a relatively linear path before they are presented to the POC for project review. Staff collect project ideas from multiple sources: Committee members, Board members, HRSA, the public, etc. The Director of Policy assigns ideas to a policy analyst to discuss with the leadership of the potential sponsoring committee. They discuss whether the idea is worth pursuing and the general priority of the idea. Some ideas won't progress past this point. If committee leadership are supportive of the idea, and there are staff resources available, then staff and the committee will begin analyzing the

problem; often times this requires the UNOS Research Department to review data in the OPTN data system. Once the committee understands the problem, has a concept for the solution, and agrees that it is worthy of resources, then the committee will prepare a project proposal for POC consideration.

Staff resources are not guaranteed for projects until the POC approves the project. After that point, the project is sent to the Executive Committee for approval and is prioritized for resources across the company. At this point, the project moves from analyzing the problem to evidence gathering.

POC members completed a survey that asked questions regarding the quality of the problem statement, whether the proposal has evidence to support the problem, need for collaboration, development of project timeline, and primary strategic goal alignment. The POC used the results of the survey to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee regarding which 12 new projects should be approved to become part of the committee portfolio. The POC provided all comments about these projects that were entered as part of the survey to the sponsoring Committee for their consideration.

The Ethics Committee decided to remove the Ethical Issues of Re-transplantation project from the POC review. The project will return to a future POC new project review. This decision was based on priorities within the committee and future multi-organ policies.

After discussion, the POC voted to recommend the following 11 projects for approval:

- Goal 1 – Increase the number of transplants
  - Clarifications to Blood Type for Kidney-Pancreas Transplants (Pancreas) 11-Yes, 1-No, 1-Abstain
    - After POC discussion, project name was changed to Broadened Allocation of Pancreas Transplants Across Compatible ABO Blood Types to better reflect project intent
  - Removing Disincentives for Candidates to Consider Living Donation (Living Donor) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
  - Clinical Thresholds for Transplant Program Outcome Reviews (MPSC) 12-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
- Goal 2 – Provide equity in access to transplants
  - Broader Sharing of Adult Donor Lungs (Thoracic) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
  - Ethical Implications of Multi-Organ Transplant (Ethics) 14-Yes, 1-No, 0-Abstain
- Goal 3 – Improve waitlisted patient, living donor, and transplant recipient outcomes

  No projects reviewed in this goal.

- Goal 4 – Promote living donor and transplant recipient safety
  - Consider Primary Surgeon Qualifications – Primary or First Assistant on Transplant Cases (MPSC) 13-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
- Goal 5 – Promote efficient management of the OPTN
  - Clarifications to Multi-Organ Allocation Policy (OPO) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain

- There was discussion concerning the primary strategic goal. Some POC members wondered why this project was not Goal 2. This project will not include any substantive changes to the policy. This proposal is meant to form a workgroup, delineate scenarios of multi-organ combinations, and determine if any clarifications to existing policy can be made. After this project and the Ethical Implications of Multi-Organ Transplant project ends – there are plans for a third project that will encompass substantive changes to the policy.
  - OPTN Data Vision Statement (DAC) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
  - Primary Physician Specialty/Subspecialty Board Certifications (MPSC) 11-Yes, 2-No, 0-Abstain
  - Approved Transplant Fellowship Training Programs (MPSC) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain
  - Updating Bylaw's Primary Kidney Transplant Physician Requirements (MPSC) 15-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain

The Executive Committee will review the new projects recommended by the POC for approval during their February or March 2016 meeting.

Upcoming Meetings
- January 21, 2016, Conference Call, 12-1:30 p.m. ET
- February 11, 2016, Conference Call, 12-1 p.m. ET
- March 10, 2016, Conference Call, 4-5 p.m. ET