

**OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2017
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) met via Citrix GoTo on February 16, 2017 to discuss the review of five new committee projects.

1. Committee Projects

The POC has no currently active committee projects.

2. Other Significant Items

During this call, the POC reviewed five new committee projects:

1. Guidance on Optimizing VCA Recovery from Deceased Donors (VCA)
2. Pancreas Functional Inactivity (Pancreas)
3. Lung allocation score (LAS) Refinements and clean-up (Thoracic)
4. Modification of the Lung TRF to include CLAD (Thoracic)
5. White Paper Addressing the Escalation of Treatment for the Purpose of Advancing a Patient's Status on the Waitlist (Ethics)

For each project, POC members completed a survey that asked questions regarding the quality of the problem statement, whether the proposal has evidence to support the problem, the need for collaboration, the development of project timeline, and the project's primary strategic goal alignment.

The POC provided all comments about these projects that were entered as part of the survey to the sponsoring Committee and the Executive Committee for their consideration at their February 27, 2017 conference call.

The POC used the results of the survey to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee regarding whether the 5 new projects should be approved to be included in the active committee project portfolio. The POC, after review of the projects, voted to make the following recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Guidance on Optimizing VCA Recovery from Deceased Donors (VCA)

The committee voted 11 Yes, 5 No to recommend approval of this project to the Executive Committee.

Pancreas Functional Inactivity (Pancreas)

The major comments on this project involved changing the project name to be more clear. The committee suggested that the project name be changed to *Pancreas Program Functional Inactivity*. The committee voted unanimously (17 – 0) to recommend approval of this project to the Executive Committee.

Lung allocation score (LAS) Refinements and clean-up (Thoracic)

The POC voted unanimously (17-0) to recommend approval of this project. Comments about this project included concerns about resources available, particularly since this is one of two Thoracic Committee projects that the Thoracic Committee has asked POC to review just this month.

POC members also commented that the project form did not provide a lot of information about the types of revisions that will need to be made, and suggested that the information be added to the project form as it becomes available.

Modification of the Lung TRF to include CLAD (Thoracic)

The Committee ultimately recommended this project for approval after some discussion about the IT costs for this project. The final vote was 14 Yes and 3 No. POC members were concerned that the IT resources were very large for the number of patients impacted and that the data collection burden should be reviewed, particularly the number of new fields that will be required.

A Committee member also questioned the timing of the project, since there is some opinion that the definition of CLAD is still evolving.

Another Committee member commented that it would help to see a breakdown of the number of lung transplant recipients by type of CLAD outcomes, and it is unclear if the benefits of the project outweigh the very large costs of programming.

White Paper Addressing the Escalation of Treatment for the Purpose of Advancing a Patient's Status on the Waitlist (Ethics)

Committee members generally supported this project, although there were questions about the scope of the white paper and the terms 'escalation of treatment' and 'escalation of care'.

A Committee member commented that organ specific considerations may be valuable to highlight in the proposed project.

Several Committee members asked about how frequently this problem is encountered and added that some background material about this would be helpful. They asked if this is something that we are trying to avoid or is this something that we believe is currently happening?

The Committee also recommended that, given that it's an issue of equity, the MAC (Minority Affairs Committee) should also be involved.

The Committee finally voted to recommend approval of this project, with a vote of 10 Yes, 5 No.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 16, 2017, 12:00 PM EST, conference call
- April 20, 2017, 12:00 PM EST, conference call
- Monday, May 15, 2017 – Orientation (New POC members only), Richmond, VA
- Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – Full Committee Meeting, Richmond, VA