

**OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2017
Conference Call**

**Jennifer Milton, BSN, CCTC, MBA, Chair
Elizabeth Pomfret, MD, PhD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) met via Citrix GoTo on November 17, 2017 to review an on hold project from the Pediatric Committee (Reduce Pediatric Liver Waiting List Mortality) and to discuss proposed changes to the Committee Project review process. The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Committee Projects

The POC has no currently active committee projects.

2. Other Significant Items

Project Review: Reduce Pediatric Liver Waiting List Mortality

The Vice Chair of the Pediatric Committee opened the review of their project with an update on the current status of the project. He provided the following timeline:

August 2016 – POC initially considered project

- POC categorized this as a Goal 3 project (Improve patient, living donor, and recipient outcomes). The POC vote on strategic goal alignment was:
- Goal I - Increase the number of transplants – 2
- Goal II - Provide equity in access to transplants - 3
- Goal III - Improve waitlisted patient, living donor, and transplant recipient outcomes - 11

September 2016 – Executive Committee considered project

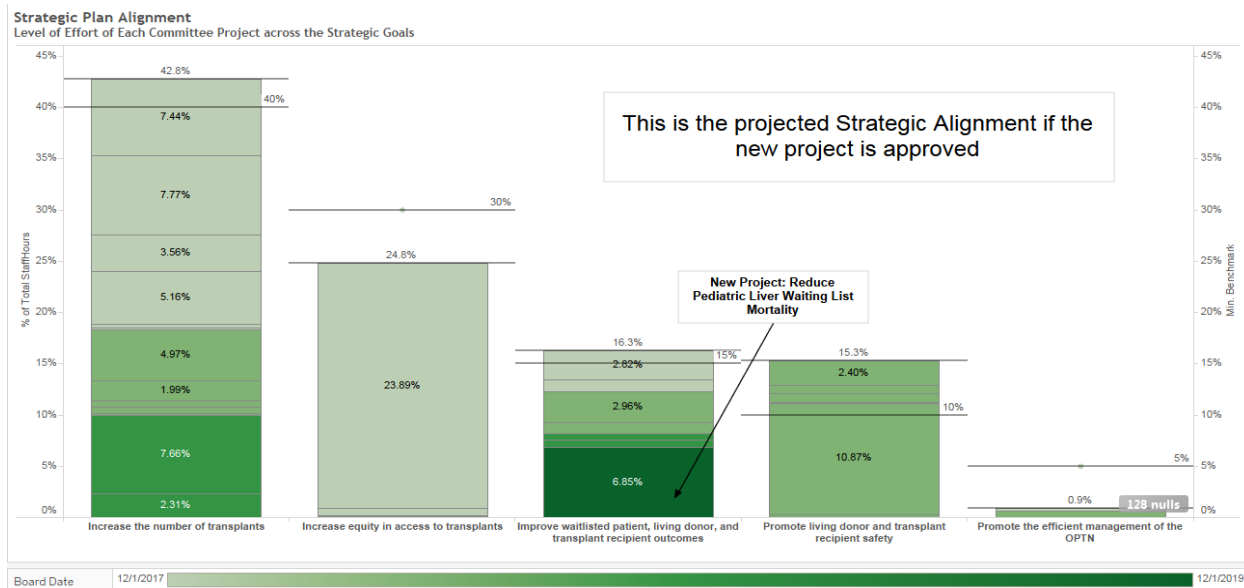
Approved, but delayed further work on project due to the number of complex liver allocation projects and limited resources at SRTR.

The Pediatric Committee Vice Chair provided data to the group that shows that waiting list mortality is high for children under the age of one and that results from SRTR modeling predict no change in pediatric waiting list mortality under the proposed system. He also provided the following information for the Committee to consider in regards to the project's strategic goal alignment:

The Pediatric Committee identifies the proposal as most closely aligned with Goal 3 because the project could improve pediatric waitlist outcomes by reducing or eliminating mortality in very young liver transplant candidates. Long-term pediatric recipient outcomes (graft and patient survival, growth, psychological development, quality of life, and decreased impact from comorbid conditions) are also expected to be improved by benefits of earlier transplantation. This is due to time-limited opportunity for growth and development (Prudential Lifespan Account), as well as the need to maximize life benefit post transplantation (Fair Innings Concept). In addition, these liver transplant candidates, especially very young candidates, are detrimentally impacted from lack of appropriate size matched donors and rapid progression of liver disease.

He also noted that there is a potential impact on Goal 2 (access), since pediatric liver transplants are relatively fixed in number and not expected to change significantly. The project would impact timing of access to liver transplants for at risk populations with impact of improving early and late outcomes.

The strategic alignment with the project as a Goal 3 project is shown below:



The Committee voted unanimously (13-0) to recommend to the Executive Committee that this project be taken off hold. The Chair will report the Committee's recommendation to the Executive Committee at its conference call in January 2018.

The POC then provided an overview of some recommended changes to the project review process based on discussions at the in-person meeting. She confirmed that these changes apply to the Committee's review of *new* projects only:

1. Project Review (**Change**): Break review groups into groups based on identified committee stakeholders and subject matter experts.
2. Project Review (**Change**): Aim to focus as much on *content and substance of the project as resource allocation* (include an additional survey question that specifically asks for input on the project according to reviewer's expertise and committee viewpoint)
3. Pre-review (**New**): Early review to identify stakeholders/constituent committees for a project

To accomplish these goals, the review groups would be smaller groups composed of stakeholders identified during a pre-review. Reviewers will be assigned to projects based on expertise and identifies constituent committees. The hope is that fewer reviews per person would enable the reviewer to perform a more focused and in-depth review of the project. After discussion, the Committee determined that a pre-review is probably not necessary since we could easily identify the best people to review and those who would be considered stakeholders. Also, during the project discussion, additional input could be provided in regards to stakeholders and constituent groups to be consulted.

The Committee agreed that one or more new survey questions should be created to focus the review more on content and substance, not just on alignment with the strategic plan and resources. These questions should also enable input based on an individual's expertise and the individual's main Committee to inform the sponsoring Committee of any current project that may be impacted by this new proposed project.

Finally, the Committee agreed on these next steps in the process improvement:

1. Create new survey question (s) for focus on content/substance
2. Distribute updated survey for POC review/approval
3. Continue to explore a potential pre-review process
4. Consider when and how to implement

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, December 20, 3:30 PM ET, conference call
- Wednesday, January 17, 3:30 PM ET, conference call