

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2019
Conference Call**

**Alexandra Glazier, JD. MPH, Chair
Nicole Turgeon, MD. FACS, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on 07/29/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Recommendations on Public Comment Proposals
2. Strategic Policy Priorities

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Recommendations on Public Comment Proposals

Prior to public comment, the Policy Oversight Committee reviews proposals then recommends to the Executive Committee which proposals are ready for public comment.

In June, the Committee received an overview of the proposals and discussed whether there were any red flags that would prevent the OPTN from potentially adopting the proposals. The Committee did not identify any red flags at that time.

Summary of discussion:

Prior to the meeting, the Committee received seven potential public comment proposals.

1. Remove DSA And Region From Pancreas Allocation Policy
2. Remove DSA And Region From Kidney Allocation Policy
3. Modify Appointment Process For The Histocompatibility Vice Chair
4. Data Collection To Evaluate The Logistical Impact Of Broader Distribution
5. Update To Definition Of Pre-Existing Liver Disease
6. Expedited Placement Of Livers
7. Modify Data Submission Policies

Prior to the meeting, committee members responded to a survey regarding each proposal. Six proposals received unanimous support while the "Modify Data Submission Policies" received one no vote.

The Committee then discussed the proposals. One member commented that they opposed a proposal based upon the impact to the member's institution but agreed that the sponsoring committee had performed their due diligence and the proposal was ready for public comment. The Committee discussed the role of the Committee to make decisions in the best interests of the entire transplant community and not specific members. Upon discussion, the Committee recommended that all of the proposals be released for public comment.

Next steps:

The Committee Chair will present the Committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee on August 1st.

The Committee will also receive an electronic copy of the Continuous Distribution of Lungs concept paper. Committee members will have the opportunity to review it and provide any feedback prior to the Executive Committee discussion on August 1st.

2. Strategic Policy Priorities

The Committee has begun a new process to identify strategic policy priorities for the committee project portfolio. These will be used to guide the network in selecting committee projects that deliver the greatest benefit to the transplant community.

Prior to the meeting, the Committee received a summary of eight potential strategic policy priorities. The summary included information about what we're trying to improve, what works has been done on each topic, an explanation of why this topic should be a priority, and a list of potential committee projects. Committee members then completed a survey to indicate their priorities and offer feedback on the potential strategic policy priorities.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair recapped the discussions to date regarding the strategic policy priorities and the path forward for using the priorities. The path forward will include approval of the strategic policy priorities by the Executive Committee. The committees will then discuss these at their in-person meetings this fall. Those conversations will include an opportunity to recommend new projects that align with the strategic policy priorities. The Policy Oversight Committee will then review the project proposals at their in-person meeting in October. At that time, the Committee will select specific projects for the strategic policy priorities.

The Committee then reviewed the results of the survey. The majority of the Committee agreed with the top two strategic policy priorities: more efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization (71%) and continuous distribution (59%).

The committee agreed that some of the potential strategic priorities, while laudable topics, might not be ripe at this time. (For example, improved equity in access to transplant registration.) Instead, the Committee discussed the potential formation of workgroups to strategic what would be needed to prepare these topics.

The Committee then focused their attention on the identification of a third strategic policy priority. The committee focused on two potential priorities: a more consistent framework for incorporating longevity into organ allocation and improved equity for multiorgan and single organ candidates. The Committee discussed each in terms of the threshold questions for the identification of a strategic policy priority. Both topics would impact multiple organ systems; impact multiple member types; require expertise from multiple committees and stakeholder organizations; require changes to multiple policies to provide a consistent approach; and result in a large scale improvement to the transplant community. One difference between the two topics is that multiorgan is riper for immediate action. The Policy Oversight and Executive Committee previously agreed to a workplan for multiorgan and the Board recently adopted principles of multiorgan allocation. In contrast, the transplant community has not yet agreed upon principles for the incorporation of longevity into organ allocation. For this reason, the Committee leaned toward the prioritization of multiorgan. Given the importance of incorporating longevity into organ allocation, the Committee recommended that a workgroup be formed to further consider and develop it as a potential strategic policy priority.

Next steps:

The Committee Chair will provide an overview of the discussion to the Executive Committee on August 1st. The Committee will then refine their recommendation on their August conference call.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 22, 2019
- September 18, 2019