

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary
February 21, 2020
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 02/21/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Data Advisory Committee (DAC) Update
2. New Committee Projects
3. Update on Project Sponsorship
4. Home Committee Presentation Preparation
5. Other Committee Updates

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

1. DAC Update

UNOS staff provided an update on the new role of DAC, which is responsible for making recommendations that improve data quality as well as collecting official OPTN data. DAC reviews projects that involve new data collection elements to ensure alignment with the OPTN data collection principles before they go to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) and the Board. In addition to reviewing these proposals, DAC does project-based work, (e.g. existing data element review, data standards and new data collection), ongoing operational work (e.g. data quality review and clarifying existing data definitions) and prepares an annual report to the Board of Directors and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) with recommendations.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair expressed support for DAC's new role and noted that the POC will appreciate having DAC involved with projects early and often. There were no questions from the Committee.

2. New Committee Projects

The Chair introduced four new committee projects. The POC voted to approve all four projects.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair reviewed the four projects up for consideration. The first two projects pertain to policies for vascularized composite allograft (VCA) transplantation. One project aims to collect registration and follow-up data on living uterus donors, and the other project aims to update Policy 14 to include living uterus donors in living donor policies. One member asked which OPTN policies will be impacted by the projects, and UNOS staff clarified that the Living Donor Committee is working on Policy 14 and the VCA Committee is working on Policy 18.1. The two committees are working in tandem to update policy related to VCA.

The third project focuses on clarifying general multi-organ allocation policy. The Chair noted that POC asked the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee to prioritize this work because differing interpretations and gray areas are leading to different allocation choices for similar situations.

The fourth project will update an existing white paper by the Ethics Committee regarding considerations in assessment for transplant candidacy. The Chair noted that there have been some legal developments related to this topic so it will be helpful for the Ethics Committee to look into these issues and provide guidance. A member of the Ethics Committee shared that the update will focus on intellectual disability as well as finance, social support, incarceration, and immigrant status, among others.

The Chair asked the Committee to vote via voice. The 10 members of the Committee present on the call voted to approve the four projects. No members present on the call abstained from voting or objected.

3. Update on Project Sponsorship

The Chair informed the Committee of a committee sponsor change. An approved project on reducing pediatric liver waiting list mortality changed sponsors from the Pediatric Committee to the Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee. The Chair explained that this is not an action item for the POC but just a notification to help the POC keep track of projects. There were no questions from the Committee.

4. Home Committee Presentation Preparation

UNOS staff briefed the Committee on the slides that the members will be presenting to the other committee on which they serve. The slides explain the role of POC and its membership and the strategic policy priorities established by POC. The presentation also touches on the main projects aligned with the strategic priorities, including continuous distribution; efficient matching and associated policy projects suggested by the committees; and multi-organ allocation sequence.

Summary of discussion:

There were no questions from the Committee. The Chair asked members to make sure their committees understand the sequencing of the main projects and to bring back any questions or concerns to the POC for action.

5. Other Committee Updates

UNOS staff notified the Committee that UNOS has updated the team structure to provide POC with the same level of support as other committees to support the POC's increased workload.

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting will be held on March 26, 2020.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 26, 2020