

OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)

Meeting Summary

November 16, 2020

Conference Call

Irene Kim, MD, Chair

Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/16/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Housekeeping Items
2. SES Update
3. Data Request Update
4. MAC Vice Chair Selection Process Update

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

1. Housekeeping Items

The Committee were provided updates regarding MAC support changes and upcoming meeting dates.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee was informed of staffing changes and introduced to the policy analyst and Policy and Community Relations (PCR) manager that will support the MAC moving forward.

The January and February meetings fall on the Martin Luther King Jr and Presidents' Day holidays respectively. An upcoming scheduling poll will be sent to the Committee to set a rescheduled date.

There were no comments or questions.

2. Socioeconomic Status (SES) proposal Update

The Committee Chair and Vice Chair provided the committee with an update on the SES proposal.

Summary of discussion:

A summary and determination of the proposal's next steps were summarized as follows:

- Overall, the outreach responses to the revised SES Proposal were similar to concerns expressed in Winter 2020.
- An SES project update was provided to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) during their 11/5/2020 teleconference
- The revised SES Proposal did not receive a recommendation from the POC for submission to the Winter 2021 public comment cycle
- The POC offered an option for a pilot study. MAC Leadership discussed and strongly recommends holding on additional SES work at this time
- The MAC will take this opportunity to work on other impactful projects

The Vice Chair stated that the stakeholders who were reached out to more recently voiced the same concerns that were brought up during public comment. With the suggestion of the pilot study, it is believed that this would be difficult in getting programs to provide information of this magnitude, which will cause challenges in collecting data.

The Chair stated that there is also a hesitancy in increasing the burden of data collection of other programs. The information is already being collected by programs so to avoid this burden, it is thought that the pilot project should not be something to pursue. Rather, it is thought that the MAC should look into new projects to embark on.

A member mentioned that there was a lot of time and effort that were expended on this project, but it was a learning experience to determine how the rest of the Committees and community perceives this issue. This allows insight on how to move forward on future projects.

The Chair stated that there are a number of Committees that are expected to develop a number of policy projects. From a MAC perspective, their role is more regulatory and in reviewing those policy proposals as they are being developed and move forward. The Committee was encouraged to bring about project ideas that the MAC may be able to address.

3. Data Request Update

The Committee was provided an update on their data request to analyze waitlist inactivation patterns in the COVID era.

Summary of discussion:

A data request was sent to HRSA last Thursday. The data request is to analyze waitlist inactivation patterns in the COVID era, to determine if there are disparities by sex, race/ethnicity, age, education level, primary payer of DSA.

The Vice Chair asked if this information was already being analyzed. UNOS research staff stated that due to their understanding, no other Committee has sent out this type of request to HRSA.

UNOS research staff added that SRTR has done some analysis related to patients who received a transplant during the COVID era, but not an analysis of waitlist removals during the COVID era.

SRTR staff stated that there is an application on the SRTR site that provides different ways to break down this sort of information on their dashboard. The SRTR offered to review this information with the Committee during an upcoming call.

The Chair stated that with an awareness that there are disparities seen within cases of COVID, the goal of this data request is to determine if COVID has presented disparities in transplantation.

A member stated that not only among African American communities, but there is also disparities seen within Latino communities in COVID cases. This information is very important to have and review for minority groups.

There were no additional comments or questions.

4. MAC Vice Chair Selection Process Update

The Committee reviewed the Vice Chair Nomination and Selection process.

Summary of discussion:

The goal of this new process is to increase transparency in the selection process. The full committee and other will participate in the nomination process to promote inclusiveness. There will be a thorough review and vetting of Vice Chair candidates.

The Committee will be asked to complete a survey to select their top four candidates. The top four candidates overall will be interviewed by MAC leadership who will give a recommendation of two of the candidates by the end of December. The OPTN Board Vice-President will make the final approval based on Committee leadership recommendations.

The Chair asked if this would be the process for all Committees moving forward. UNOS staff confirmed that this was correct.

A Vice Chair asked if there is a quorum that would need to be made. UNOS staff stated that the goal is to have participation from all Committee members.

Next Steps:

- An e-mail will be sent out to the Committee with a list of candidates and their personal statements.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 21, 2020 (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Juan Del Rio
 - Lakeicha Gunter
 - Stephen Gray
 - Nicole Hayde
 - Christine Hwang
 - Irene Kim
 - Adrian Lawrence
 - Reynold Lopez- Soler
 - Paulo Martins
 - Yesenia Mora-Coffey
 - Okechukwu Ojogho
 - Dolamu Olaitan
 - Tahaunty Pena
 - Manuel Rodriguez
 - Oscar Serrano
 - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Craig Connors
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Sara Moriarty
 - Lauren Motley
 - Kelley Poff
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Ross Walton
 - Joann White
 - Anne Zehner
- **Other Attendees**
 - Pono Shim (visiting board member)