

**OPTN Patient Affairs Committee  
Meeting Summary  
November 17, 2020  
Conference Call**

**Darnell Waun, R.N., M.S.N., Chair  
Garret Erdle, M.B.A., Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Patient Affairs Committee (PAC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/17/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Vice Chair Nomination Update
2. Regional Review Survey Results
3. Review Public Comment Process
4. Cross Committee Workgroup Updates

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

### **1. Vice Chair Nomination Update**

The PAC was updated on upcoming Vice Chair nominations.

#### Summary of discussion:

Four applicants are interested in serving as Vice Chair of the PAC. The PAC Chair and Vice Chair will conduct interviews with candidates. Then the PAC Chair and Vice Chair will meet with staff, discuss interviews, and make a primary and secondary recommendation for the position. The OPTN Vice President will review recommendations and make the final decision in January.

### **2. Regional Review Survey Results**

The PAC was briefed on the status of the OPTN Regional Review project. The OPTN Regional Review is evaluating the structure, processes, performance, and effectiveness of OPTN Regions, based on a directive from HRSA.

#### Summary of discussion:

During the Summer 2020 Public Comment cycle, the community had the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the OPTN regional structure. Community feedback sited the OPTN regional structure as effective and advantageous for building relationships. Community feedback also stated the OPTN regional structure is ineffective, outdated, and has negative effects in regards to broader sharing efforts. Community feedback highlighted the need for equal representation of transplant programs and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in each region.

A vendor will be hired to analyze potential restructuring options further. The hired vendor will start their research in early January. Based on work from the vendor and feedback from the community, the proposed regional restructuring plan will go out for Winter 2021 Public Comment cycle. Based on that Public Comment period, the plan will be slated for implementation at the beginning of 2022.

A member asked if changes to OPTN bylaws are currently subject to public comment. The presenter clarified that revisions to OPTN bylaws are required to go through public comment cycles. The member asked for more information about the responses regarding OPO performance and metrics. The presenter responded that the responses regarding OPO performance and metrics were not analyzed fully because it is out of scope of this project.

Another member stated the need for the vendor to address how potential changes to the regional structure would impact the patient population. The presenter agreed and suggested gathering questions and feedback from the PAC to provide to the vendor. The Vice Chair stated that the PAC and the Living Donor Committee could work together on this effort, to ensure the patient perspective is captured.

### **3. Review Public Comment Process**

The PAC provided feedback on their process of Public Comment review.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member stated there is not enough time in their meetings to fully discuss all the topics. The Chair agreed and responded that the lack of in-person meetings this year made the process more difficult.

Another member stated that, as a new member with a non-medical professional background, it would be beneficial to be paired with a more experienced member who has medical background in order to better understand topics. A member agreed and suggested some of this preparation could be accomplished during the onboarding process.

Members agreed that creating a PAC specific presentation template for cross committee presentations would be helpful. Additionally, members agreed the PAC should receive these presentations far in advance of the meeting in order to review and prepare.

### **4. Cross Committee Workgroup Updates**

There were no new updates from the PAC members in their cross committee involvement.

Staff shared that there are new OPTN Committee workgroups that are forming based off of the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) workgroups which analyzed efficient matching. Staff will follow-up with the PAC for a call for volunteers.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- December 15, 2020 (teleconference)
- January 19, 2020 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Anita Patel
  - Christopher Yanakos
  - Darnell Waun
  - David Skinner
  - Diego Acero
  - Earl Lovell
  - Eric Tanis
  - Garrett Erdle
  - James Sharrock
  - Kenny Laferriere
  - Molly McCarthy
  - Phil Williams
  - Sarah Koohmaraie
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Melanie Deal
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Emily Ward
  - Julia Chipko
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Peter Sokol
  - Sara Rose Wells
  - Shannon Edwards