

**OPTN Executive Committee
Meeting Summary
February 18, 2022
Conference Call**

Matthew Cooper, Chair

Introduction

The Executive Committee (EC) met via teleconference on 02/18/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. New Project from the Policy Oversight Committee
3. Project Resources
4. Policy 1.4.F Reinstatement Monitoring
5. Draft OPTN Comment on Proposed Change to PHS Guideline for Pediatric HIV, HBV, HCV Testing
6. Draft Memo from Executive Committee to CDC: Living Donor Specimen Storage Requirement
7. Regional Review Project Update
8. Adjourn

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

1. Welcome and Roll Call

The Executive Committee Chair welcomed all attendees to the teleconference. The agenda was reviewed.

2. New Project from the Policy Oversight Committee

The chair of the Policy Oversight Committee presented the new project from the Ethics Committee on the Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listings. They would like to develop a white paper evaluating the implication of permitting patients to be listed at multiple transplant programs. The paper would consider the ethical impact on patients unable to pursue multiple listings and the resource strains on transplant programs. The policy oversight committee supported the white paper moving forward. A board member wasn't sure how this advanced the operation of the OPTN and will be a no win situation. The POC chair agreed that there were challenges but that we will be able to go back and review as the white paper develops. A board member noted that the job of the ethics committee is to ask these hard questions and many times the answers are not clear. A motion was moved and seconded to for the committee to approve the following project as recommended by the POC?

The vote was 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.

3. Project Resources

The project resources were presented by the chair of the policy oversight committee. The programming complexity of policy changes has increased over time. The current available resource hours is 15,000 per board cycle and we have a need for more hours. Within the next 5 years we only have capacity for 10 of the 23 projects. There will be a new review of projects by quantifying benefit relative to anticipated costs. The next steps will be requesting an increase to implementation capacity in the next fiscal year budget. The POC will also start earlier with deeper discussion about the solutions and how to

achieve them while avoiding unnecessarily complicated implementation. A board member asked about the estimated hours and has there ever been an audit after a project to see how it aligns. Brian Shepard, Executive Director, said that typically the estimates of hours are pretty close to the final need. Before this comes to the board for approval it will have input from POC, Finance and NOOC. The strategic priorities, how does the POC come up with that list and how frequently are they reviewed? The chair stated that there isn't a formal review but they are revisited regularly. A board member asked how do they decide which projects get dropped? The chair of the POC says that all of these are important and that is why there is a need for an increase in resources. She also explained that this is informational for the committee so they are aware of what the committees are working on prior to a formal ask.

4. Policy 1.4.F Reinstatement Monitoring

The chair of the Executive Committee presented the Monitoring Report: Reinstatement of Updates to Candidate Data during the COVID-19 Emergency. Safety of our patients and people is first, which is why this policy was reinstated on January 11, 2022. The policy is expected to expire 90 days following this reinstatement. Very few candidates have been using this emergency policy. There were no questions from the committee.

5. Draft OPTN Comment on Proposed Change to PHS Guideline for Pediatric HIV, HBV, HCV Testing

The chair of the executive committee presented the proposed change to PHS Guidelines for Pediatric HIV, HBV, HCV Testing. The change requested is to not require pediatric blood testing for HIV, HBV and HCV on the day of transplantation. This is a large blood draw on pediatric patients potentially causing anemia. This proposed guideline change will allow for candidates 10 and younger to have this test completed prior to transplant. The request is for the Executive Committee to submit a public comment responding to the proposed policy change. A motion was moved and seconded to for the committee to approve the OPTN response to the HHS RFI "Request for Information: Regarding a Revision to U.S. Public Health Service Guideline: Assessing Solid Organ Donors and Monitoring Transplant Recipients for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis C Virus Infection", as presented during today's call, for submission?

The vote was 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.

6. Draft Memo from Executive Committee to CDC: Living Donor Specimen Storage Requirement

The chair of the executive committee presented a draft memo to the CDC: Living Donor Specimen Storage Requirement. The OPTN in alignment with the PHS Guideline is required to store living donor specimens for 10 years. The DTAC supported this requirement but the Executive Committee felt that it was a burden on living donor hospitals and that the data was rarely used for disease transmission information that long after the donation. Deceased donor specimen storage cost is covered by Medicare but living donor specimen storage is managed and paid for by the hospitals. The estimated fiscal impact on living donor recovery hospitals in 2021 exceeds \$7million. The request is for the CDC to reconsider the requirement in the PHS Guideline. What infection would we be looking for 10 years after the donation? The answer received so far is that we don't know what could come up and that is why we should be maintaining the 10 year retention of samples. Another member mentioned that the cost per time of use of the samples. It was also mentioned that living donors should be treated differently than deceased donor. The next step if the committee approves the letter is to send the letter to the CDC requesting them to reconsider the guidelines. The motion was moved and seconded for approval of the memo regarding living donor specimen storage, as presented during today's call, for submission?

The vote was 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.

7. Regional Review Project Update

The regional review project was presented by the executive committee chair. This project has been presented at the regional meetings and is up for public comment. There is still a general support for 11 more equal regions. There were suggestions to ensure representation of minority populations, distribution of pediatric transplant centers, consider the organ acceptance patterns, the ease of travel and avoiding crossing time zones. There has been some feeling among the community as to why we are changing the regions. If we changed regions would it give people more chance to participate and something that needs to be thought about moving forward. Encourage your colleagues and friends to participate in feedback.

8. Adjourn

The Executive Committee Chair adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

March 24, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Matt Cooper
 - Jerry McCauley
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Mindy Dison
 - Richard Formica
 - Patrick Healey
 - Stacey Lerret
 - Valinda Jones
 - William Hildebrand
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - *Chris McLaughlin*
 - *Shannon Taitt*
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kaitlin Swinner
 - Jason Livingston
 - Eric Messick
 - Isaac Hager
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Roger Brown
 - Sarah Payamps
 - Kelley Poff
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Betsy Gans
 - Alex Tulchinsky
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Brian Shepard
 - Rebecca Murdock
 - Carrie Caumont
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Anne McPherson
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Kim Uccellini
 - Rebecca Brookman
 - Susie Sprinson
 - Courtney Jett
 - David Klassen
 - Kayla Temple
 - Mary Beth Murphy
 - Cole Fox
 - Steve Harms
 - Lindsay Larkin

- Maureen McBride
- Lisa Stocks
- Laura Schmitt
- Liz Robbins Callahan
- **Other Attendees**
 - Ajay Israni
 - Jon Snyder
 - Nicole Turgeon