Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee met via Microsoft Teams teleconference on 07/26/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Summer Public Comment Review
2. New Projects

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

1. Summer Public Comment Review

The POC reviewed fifteen proposals for public comment approval for August 2021:

- Report Primary Graft Dysfunction in Heart Transplant Recipients (Heart)
- Amend Status Extension Requirements in Adult Heart Allocation Policy (Heart)
- Establish Membership Requirements for Uterus Transplant Programs (VCA)
- Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs (Lung)
- Data Collection to Evaluate Cold Ischemic Time (OSC)
- Enhance Transplant Program Performance Monitoring System (MPSC)
- Update Data Collection to Align with the US Public Health Service Guideline 2020 (DTAC)
- Require Lower Respiratory SARS-CoV-2 Testing for Lung Donors (DTAC)
- Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status (AHIRC)
- Ethical Considerations of Continuous Distribution in Organ Allocation (Ethics)
- Review of National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Diagnoses and Update to Alcohol-Associated Diagnoses (Liver)
- Reassess Inclusion of Race in Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) Equation (MAC, Kidney)
- Update on Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata (Kidney, Pancreas)
- Update Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Equivalency Tables (Histo)
- Update on OPTN Regional Review Project (Executive)

The POC received presentations on two proposals they had not reviewed during their public comment preview in May:

- Update on OPTN Regional Review Project (Executive)
- Require Lower Respiratory SARS-CoV-2 Testing for Lung Donors (DTAC)

Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status

A member asked to speak to concerns about the AHIRC guidance document proposed for public comment. The member stated there were some incorrect statements in the document that need
correction. The member cited the sentence “In 2019, non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. residents comprise approximately 6% of the US population”, stating that the data, which references 6% of the U.S. population does not live within the country, seems incorrect. The member stated this may be a typo and the 6% refers to non-U.S. citizens/U.S. residents.

The member expressed concern that there is an over focus on the terminology of citizenship, when the focus of the data collection is residency. The member was concerned that the focus is not in line with the Declaration of Istanbul, which is referenced in the proposal as a reason for this data collection. The member expressed additional concern over the statement that it is not within the scope of the OPTN’s function to discern patients’ legal citizenship status, yet the document proposes a list of types of documentation to confirm citizenship status.

The Chair asked whether these concerns would prohibit the proposed guidance document for being submitted to Summer 2021 Public Comment. The member stated that the possible typo could be fixed, however there needs to be clarification on why the guidance document recommends documentation to confirm citizenship status, if it is not within the scope of the OPTN to discern legal citizenship status. The member stated that the data changes in 2011 aimed to identify individuals who travel for transplant as it impacts the U.S.’s donor pool. The member explained that those individuals who travel for transplant do not contribute to the donor pool, while non-U.S. citizens/U.S. residents do contribute to the donor pool. The member expressed concern that the guidance document misinterprets the focus of the data collection by using the terminology citizenship throughout and not residency.

The Chair requested the AHIRC Vice Chair to speak to this proposal. The Vice Chair was not in attendance.

Another member stated their agreement with the expressed concerns. The member stated that the guidance document should not be released for Summer 2021 Public Comment unless the concerns are addressed.

A member stated they would also have a hard time supporting the release of this proposal for Summer 2021 Public Comment based on the expressed concerns.

The Chair asked if there are other questions or concerns. There were no other questions or comments.

The Chair stated that if the concerns are not addressed, the Committee will recommend holding this proposal from Summer 2021 Public Comment. There was no objection.

Next steps:

POC will recommend approval of 14 proposals for public comment to the Executive Committee on their July 30th meeting. The Committee recommends holding Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status from public comment until the concerns raised in this meeting are addressed.

2. New Projects

The POC reviewed three new projects:

- Mandatory Offer Filters (OSC)
- Redefining Provisional Yes and the Approach to Organ Offers (OSC)
- Pediatric Candidate Pre-Transplant HIV, HBV, HCV Testing (DTAC, Pediatric)

POC discussed overall resource allocation prior to review of individual projects. One member posed that POC should have an increased level of awareness of various staff resources that a project would require, as well as determining the relative benefit of projects when allocating resources. Another member
posed that it would be beneficial to have this information available to all committees for when they are considering new projects.

Members and attendees expressed no concerns about scope or authority of any of the proposed projects.

**Next steps:**
The Executive Committee will review the projects for approval on their July 30th meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**
- August 11, 2021, 2 PM EDT, Teleconference
- September 8, 2021, 2 PM EDT, Teleconference
Attendance

- Committee Members
  - Alden Doyle
  - Alex Glazier
  - Andy Flescher
  - Emily Perito
  - Jennifer Prinz
  - Jim Kim
  - John Lunz
  - Lara Danziger-Isakov
  - Marie Budev
  - Molly McCarthy
  - Oyedolamu Olaitan
  - PJ Geragthy
  - Richard Daly
  - Scott Biggins
  - Sumit Mohan
  - Susan Zylicz
  - Valinda Jones

- HRSA Representatives
  - Chris McLaughlin
  - James Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
  - Shannon Taitt
  - Vanessa Arriola

- UNOS Staff
  - Abigail Fox
  - Amber Wilk
  - Chelsea Haynes
  - Courtney Jett
  - Elizabeth Miller
  - Eric Messick
  - Joann White
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Kristina Hogan
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Matthew Prentice
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Rebecca Brookman
  - Rebecca Murdock
  - Roger Brown
  - Sarah Konigsburg
  - Sharon Shepherd
  - Susan Tlusty
  - Tina Rhoades