

OPTN/UNOS TRANSPLANT ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE REPORT
June 26, 2007
SUMMARY

I. Action Items for Board Consideration:

- None

II. Other Significant Items:

- Electronic Organ Offers – The Committee continued extensive discussion of DonorNet 2007, the electronic organ placement system recently implemented to facilitate and expedite organ placement. (Item 1, Page 3)
- The Transplant Administrators Forum conducted in Washington, D.C. in April 2007 set another record for registrations and the 2008 Forum will be held in Dallas, TX. (Item 3, Page 4)

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**REPORT OF THE
OPTN/UNOS TRANSPLANT ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

June 26, 2007

Richmond, Virginia

Betty Crandall, MS, RN, Chair

The Committee meets monthly by conference call except in April, when the Transplant Administrators Committee (TAC) Forum occurs, and July and October when the Committee meets in person.

1. Electronic Organ Offers- The Committee continued to discuss the implementation of DonorNet 2007[®]. Numerous centers expressed concern with coverage/on call issues, hardware requirements, etc. Progress appears to be satisfactory, but this will be an ongoing effort for many centers and the Committee will follow it carefully.
2. HHS Program Goals- The Committee continues to devote considerable time to working on four program goals that were agreed to with OPTN/UNOS President Sue McDiarmid in mid-2006. Those goals are:
 - To collaborate with the Transplant Redesign Initiative already under way through the HRSA Breakthrough Collaborative. This year's Transplant Management Forum included an advanced track session on using Six Sigma methodology to enhance efficiency and improve capacity management in transplant centers. Presenters for this session were selected from centers participating in the Transplant Redesign Initiative. In addition, there was a plenary session coordinated by the HRSA staff person leading this initiative. This session presented some initial findings of the site visits and included presentations by some of the leaders at those site visit centers. There were presentations and discussions about the current plans for launching the initiative in the Fall of 2007. The session was well attended by administrators throughout the country.

The TAC chair and vice chair attended the Collaborative debriefing sessions in late February.

- To develop staffing guidelines, including physicians, surgeons, coordinators and other positions needed to support the expected transplant load of a program.

(and)

- To consider if the staffing survey done each year by UNOS should be improved, and/or made mandatory. The TAC does not support mandating completion of the survey at this time. The Committee has discussed this proposal on several occasions, weighing the pros and cons. There is reluctance to pursue mandatory staffing guidelines as centers vary greatly in their structure and organization. Committee members have had conversation with leaders in ASTS about how to best approach this objective. It has been suggested to continue the approach of providing data about the actual staffing in centers of varying size and allow members to do some projections. Changes have been made to the 2007 Staffing Survey to more accurately and consistently capture data about actual staffing from transplant centers. The staffing survey allows a center to benchmark among like-sized centers and also to use the data to project future needs as the center increases in size. Committee efforts are focused at this time on increasing participation in the voluntary survey. Several enhancements were included in the most recent release, including improved definitions and clarity to guide those completing the survey. Committee emphasis is now on increasing participation by transplant centers so that a more robust database can be established.
 - To develop a plan for identifying the concerns of payers and to formalize how these concerns are communicated to the OPTN. The bi-annual meeting of the Committee with all major payers in the transplant field will be held next year in July 2008. There is ongoing communication with the Committee Task Group on the Request For Information (RFI) to hear concerns of payers and to make changes as warranted. The Chairperson had several conversations with major payers at the 2007 Transplant Management Forum. There is interest among them in pursuing other means to hear the concerns and issues. There are also many regional and local payers whose voice is currently not being heard. At the July meeting of the TAC, specific details of how to accomplish this objective will be formulated. One consideration is using the Regional Meetings as a forum to seek input, particularly from those regional and local payers who are not represented at the current meetings held related to the RFI.
3. The 2007 Transplant Management Forum was held April 23-25 in Washington, DC. A total of 514 participants attended the meeting which is a record for the TMF. There were a total of 80 abstracts accepted for the meeting. A record 31 exhibitors and sponsors supported the meeting. Several physicians were among the attendees. A session on Physician Billing and Coding was included at the suggestion of Dr. Tim Pruett and with the cooperation of ASTS. It was very well attended. Evaluations of the meeting are still being reviewed, however, on first review, are very positive.

**OPTN/UNOS Transplant Administrators Committee
October 12-13, 2006
Chicago, IL**

Committee Members in Attendance

Betty C. Crandall, MS, RN	Chair
Cassandra Smith-Fields, RN, MBA, MSN	Vice Chair
Michael Sinacola	Region 1 Representative
Marla Rodgers, MBA	Region 2 Representative
Robin S. Pastush	Region 3 Representative
Tracy L. Giacoma, RN, MBA, MSN	Region 4 Representative
Kevin A. Paige, BS, MHA	Region 5 Representative
Gwen McNatt, MS, RN, CNN, CFNP	Region 7 Representative
Gene E. Ridolfi, RN	Region 8 Representative
Helen M. Hauff, RN, MBA, CCTC	Region 9 Representative
David A. Alvar, FACHE	Region 10 Representative
Elaine R. Berg	At Large
Rachael S. Wong, MPH	At Large
Jade K. Perdue, MPA	Division of Transplantation, Ex Officio, non-voting

Committee Members Unable to Attend

Emilie A. Fay, MSW	Region 6 Representative
Barry S. Marshall, BS	Region 11 Representative
Mesmin Germain, MBA, MPH	Division of Transplantation, Ex Officio, non-voting

Staff in Attendance

William G. Lawrence, JD	Liaison
Leslie Lieblein	UNOS Staff
Jude Maghirang	UNOS Staff
Cherri Carwile	UNOS Staff