

UNOS/OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting of July 19-20, 2007

The meeting was convened by Chairwoman Cassandra Smith-Fields. Following introduction of new Committee members, Ms. Smith-Fields introduced new Committee Liaison Angel Carroll, who will replace Bill Lawrence in that position.

Ms. Smith-Fields next reviewed the TAC guidelines and expectations. She emphasized that TAC members are expected to be active at regional meetings and to participate regularly in the monthly conference calls conducted by the Committee. Members are also expected to serve on at least one Committee work group.

The Committee then engaged in a conference call with Dr. Thomas M. McCune from the Renal Transplant Program at Norfolk Sentara Hospital. Dr. McCune discussed the activities of the Living organ Donation Network (LODN), which is a group presently consisting of four centers that promote living kidney donation by offering insurance to cover the life, health and income of living donors. LODN also conducts post-donation follow up surveys of living donors, an area of ongoing concern to the OPTN and HRSA. Dr. McCune reported survey response rates to be 78% at three months, 69% at six months, and 62% at one year. He noted also that more complications are reported using this method than are currently reported to UNOS/OPTN.

Ms. Smith-Fields then initiated a review of the updated Mission & Objectives of the TAC. She also noted that the operating objectives of the Committee had been approved by former UNOS/OPTN president Dr. Sue McDiarmid and current president Dr. Tim Pruett. New items include the topics of a DonorNet survey, data elements for UNOS/OPTN MPSC audits, CMS Conditions of Participation analysis, and best practices for OPO/center flight operations.

Immediate past chairwoman Betty Crandall then presented her report of the June, 2007 UNOS/OPTN board meeting. At that meeting she reported to the board concerning DonorNet implementation, the 2006 TAC Forum and contributions made by TAC members to the Transplant Center Redesign project at HRSA.

UNOS/OPTN staff member Jude Maghirang then reviewed progress in implementing of the HHS Program Goals. There was considerable discussion of the impact of DCD vs. non-DCD organs on OPO costs, center costs, and outcomes. Committee members agreed that these factors needed to be considered together, not as individual issues, and that HHS needed to recognize their impact and amend goals accordingly as experience is gained.

Work Group Updates:

Payer Relations Work Group- Mike Sinacola reported that while utilization of the RFI is increasing, it still is not the central repository of information for all payers that was envisioned in past years. The Work Group will continue to work with payers to make the form as useful as possible. He also reported that there have been some concerns with the accuracy of SRTR data but that this was being reviewed. Work continues on a set of RFI FAQs and wide circulation of the final product is anticipated.

Staffing Survey Work Group- Robin Pashtush reported that recent data indicates an increase in center participation in the Survey, which has been a major objective of the Work Group for several years. The Work Group is examining various new data elements for future versions of the Survey, such as possibly grouping FTEs by organ.

OPO Work Group- Elaine Berg reported that the Work Group has under consideration several OPO-center issues, including model elements of center-OPO agreements, relations between the OPO and transplant administrator communities, and OPO/center cooperation in organ transportation issues.

The Committee then engaged in a conference call with UNOS/OPTN Communications Department representative Karen Sokohl regarding reaction to the new policy notice format, which was designed to be more user-friendly. The Committee members were unanimous in praise for the new format. On the subject of public policy notices, Ms. Smith-Field stated that her policy will be to assign specific notices to individual Committee members who would lead discussion of the proposal at the next meeting or conference call.

A brief discussion of pending Congressional activities and bills was then conducted by Bill Lawrence. Most significantly, final passage of the paired kidney donation bill, H.R. 710 is expected by the end of summer.

Work Group rosters:

The following people have agreed to serve on the indicated TAC work groups:

- **Payer Relations:** Michael Sinacola, Chair, Pam Gillette, Janie Morrison, Gary Sigle, Kim Nicoll, Robin Pashtush.
- **OPO/Transplant Center Relations:** Elaine Berg, Chair, Tim Stevens, Kim Nicoll, Pam Gillette, Colleen O'Donnell
- **Staffing Survey:** Robin Pashtush, Chair, Tim Stevens, Gary Sigle, Marla Rodgers, Gwen McNatt

- **CMS/COP Work Group:** Cassandra Smith-Fields, Chair, Alexander Aussi, Angie Korsun, Jennie Perryman, Anita Principe, Gene Ridolfi, Marla Rodgers
- **TAC List Serve:** Gwen McNatt, Chair, Marla Rodgers, Susan Umberly
- **DonorNet Workgroup:** Pam Gillette, Chair; Janie Morrison; Cassandra Smith-Fields

Forum Planning:

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion of planning for the 2007 Forum. Leading the discussion was Ms. Rosie Schuman, Six Sigma Master Change Agent, University of Nebraska. While she will prepare a comprehensive report of these discussions, incorporated herein, it should be noted that topics included approval of the schedule for organization matters, selection of plenary session topics, and work group assignments.

Members attending this meeting were chair Cassandra Smith-Fields, vice chair Gene Rinaldi, Betty Crandall, Michael Sinacola, Elaine Berg, Marla Rogers, Robin Pashtush, Colleen O'Donnell, Tim Stevens, Pam Gillette, Gary Sigle, Kim Nicoll, Janie Morrison and Gwen McNatt. Present representing HRSA were Chris McLaughlin and Jade Perdue.

Not attending was Rachael Wong.

Also present were UNOS/OPTN staff: William Lawrence, Angel Carroll, Cherri Carwile, Jennifer Mekolichick and Jude Maghirang.