

Organ Expert Committee

Conference Call Notes

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2009 at 12:00 EDT

Chair: Dr. Peter Nickerson

Participants: Dr. Noel Gibney
Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen
Dr. Anthony Jevnikar
Dr. Shaf Keshavjee
Dr. Norman Kneteman
Dr. Greg Knoll
Dr. Robert Levy
Dr. Frank Markel
Ms. Raylene Matlock
Ms. Deanna Paulson
Dr. Sam Shemie

Regrets: Dr. Ian Alwayn
Dr. Stephen Beed
Dr. Michel Carrier
Dr. David Grant
Dr. Greg Grant
Dr. Debra Issac
Dr. Adeera Levin
Mr. Scott McIntaggart
Dr. Joe Pagliarello
Dr. John Tallon

Observers (Canadian Blood Services):

Dr. Graham Sher, CEO, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Sophie de Villers, VP, Strategy Management
Ms. Kimberly Young, Executive Director, Organs and Tissues
Ms. Sylvia Torrance, Director, Business Initiatives

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all members and thanked them for attending the first meeting of the Organ Expert Committee. Members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their involvement with organ donation and transplantation.

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were noted.

Background

Dr. Nickerson provided background on how Canadian Blood Services had received its mandate to develop a national system design for OTDT for Canada:

- On May 28, 2007, Deputy Ministers of Health requested CBS to prepare a proposal examining possible merger with CCDT. CBS responded that it would be beneficial for CBS to assume responsibility for some OTDT services.
- In response, Deputy Ministers requested CBS submit a detailed options analysis. This analysis, which included reference to the development of a strategic plan for organs and tissues, was presented to the Conference of Deputy Ministers in Sept 2007. The Deputy Ministers, excluding Quebec, agreed to the proposal in principle.
- A Health Canada Contribution Agreement was signed in April 2008 between Health Canada and Canadian Blood Services, and a Letter of Intent was signed with all provinces, except Quebec, in August 2008.

Dr. Nickerson indicated the work that needed to be done at the national level need not be in conflict with initiatives that were in progress at the provincial level, and that both types of efforts would work towards best outcomes for patients. It was emphasized that Canadian Blood Service has the mandate to lead the development of a national system in collaboration with other OTDT stakeholders.

Concern was expressed that national activities would hinder those programs that were further ahead. In response, the Chair noted that the Committee would need to ensure that this did not happen by providing their best recommendations, respecting provincial mandates and activities.

There was another concern that the outcome for a specific national model had already been determined. Both Dr. Nickerson and Dr. Sher stated that Canadian Blood Services had no presumed or prejudged model, and that the process was intended to work with all three established committees to develop the best system for patients.

Process

Dr. Nickerson provided a high level overview of the strategic planning process as well as the committee structure. The process builds on previous work done by the former Canadian Council for Donation and Transplantation (CCDT), provincial and federal governments, and the September 2008 stakeholder consultation held by Canadian Blood Services. The process is designed to be open and transparent, and ensure stakeholders will support the plan when complete. The entire process is expected to be completed in one year.

Discuss Schedule

The next meeting will be held June 22, 2009 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the Toronto Airport. Meetings will be scheduled further in advance for the September, December, March meetings.

Other Business

The group was requested to refer media enquires to Canadian Blood Services through Lorna Tessier, Director, Public Relations (Lorna.Tessier@blood.ca, 613-739-2343). There will also be key messages and Questions and Answers sheets prepared for Committee members. There was a question on whether there was a restriction in discussing the Committees and its activities with colleagues. Dr. Nickerson indicated that they were encouraged to consult with their peers, in order to bring all opinions and knowledge to the Committee discussions.

Action: Canadian Blood Services to provide key messages and Q&As for Committee members.

There was also a question on how provincial governments would be engaged during the process. It was explained that there were many levels of government engagement. Craig Knight, Assistant Deputy Minister from British Columbia, sits on the Steering Committee. There is a working group of Assistant Deputy Ministers from Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island who are overseeing the process on behalf of the Provinces and Territories. Dr. Sher also noted that there would be multiple ways in presenting the recommendations to governments and that while Canadian Blood Services would take a lead role, the various Committee members would also play a role in this area.

Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Nickerson thanked the Committee members for their participation in this process. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50.