

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Steering Committee

Conference Call Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, September 14, 2009 at 2:00 EDT

Chair: Dr. Graham Sher

Participants: Dr. Andrew Baker
Dr. John Hamm
Mr. Craig Knight
Ms. Anne McLellan
Dr. Judith Shamian
Dr. Michael Strong
Dr. Simon Sutcliffe
Dr. William Wall

Regrets: Cdre. Hans Jung
Dr. Maurice McGregor
Dr. Brian Postl

Observers: Dr. Peter Nickerson, Chair, OTDT Organ Expert Committee
Dr. Locksley McGann, Chair, OTDT Tissue Expert Committee
Ms. Sophie de Villers, Canadian Blood Services, VP, Strategy Management
Ms. Kimberly Young, Canadian Blood Services, Executive Director, Organs and Tissues
Ms. Lorna Tessier, Canadian Blood Services, Director, Public Relations
Ms. Sylvia Torrance, Canadian Blood Services, Director, Business Initiatives

Welcome

- Graham welcomed Steering Committee members to the call. The purpose was to discuss the agenda for the upcoming meeting and provide an update on OTDT activities occurring in the fall.
- Graham also gave the committee members notice of an upcoming legal case involving Canadian Blood Services. Canadian Blood Services is a defendant in a Human Rights complaint regarding MSM (men who have had sex with men) deferrals. This case is expected to attract significant media attention and may raise questions related to OTDT donor deferrals. The trial will start on September 22, 2009. In response to questions, the following information was provided: MSM is a permanent deferral for blood donors and a 5 year deferral for stem cell and organ and tissue donors. There are deferrals for other high risk behaviour as well. Physician can invoke an exceptional release for high risk organ and tissue donors, as long as proper informed consent is obtained from the recipient.

Process Review

- Graham reminded the group that they are in the second phase of the strategic planning process, i.e. establishing strategic direction. To that end, the Expert Committees would be discussing key topics and developing options for resolving major problems identified through the case for change document.
- Outcomes will be taken back to the Steering Committee as well as the broader stakeholder community for review.
- The process will move systematically from the development of basic system principles, to process principles, governance principles, which then will lead to identification of roles and responsibilities within the system.
- Timelines for fall activities were also reviewed.

Draft Meeting Agenda

- The proposed meeting agenda for October was reviewed.
- The OEC and TEC Chairs will review their work plans with the Steering Committee and inform them of key issues.
- It was suggested that the Steering Committee would then engage in a discussion of the fundamental principles that should guide the development of a nationally integrated OTDT system. A summary of the discussions with a list of proposed principles will then be presented to the two Expert Committees, to help guide their discussions, and to seek their feedback
- Canadian Blood Services would also present an analysis of previous government efforts at reforming OTDT in Canada, to learn successful strategies as well as to identify barriers to implementation.
- Discussion will then focus on stakeholder engagement. It was suggested that the group discuss areas where there may be expected challenges or resistance to the plan, as well as examining critical relationships and identifying actions to close gaps in the stakeholder engagement plan.

Background Documents

- Background documents for the meeting will be sent at least two weeks before the meeting.
- Documents will also be available on the Canadian Blood Services website (Organ&Tissue/Members Only section)

Upcoming OTDT Activities

- Graham provided a brief update on the International Speakers Series, the Public Dialogues, and the Tissue End User Dialogues
- Graham asked members who were interested in attending the public dialogues to contact him for further details.

Meeting Adjourned

- Graham thanked the Steering Committee members for participating in the call.