

Tissue Expert Committee

Conference Call Notes

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2009 at 12:00 EDT

Chair: Dr. Locksley McGann

Participants: Mr. Mike Bentley
Mr. Scott Brubaker
Ms. Mary Gatien
Dr. Michael Gross
Dr. Frank Hohn
Dr. David Howarth
Mr. Sean Margueratt
Dr. Hassan Moghadam
Dr. Jutta Preiksaitis
Mr. Christopher Snow

Regrets: Dr. Brian Berry
Mr. Dermott Kelly
Dr. Sarvesh Logsetty

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
Ms. Lorna Tessier, Director, Public Relations

Welcome and Introductions

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

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were noted.

Background

Dr. McGann 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. McGann also indicated the work that needed to be done at the national level would be coordinated and linked with the work currently in progress in the provinces to ensure they were not in conflict with each other. It was emphasized that while Canadian Blood Service has the mandate to lead the development of a system design, this would be done in collaboration with other OTDT stakeholders.

In response to a question, Dr. McGann indicated that there were no elements of the plan that had been pre-determined or already decided, and that the purpose of this process and these Committees was to create the system. Dr. Sher added that this initiative had the support of the Ministers of Health (except for Quebec). It was also noted that Canadian Blood Services would provide the administrative resources to support the Committees.

Process

Dr. McGann 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.

A question was raised regarding Quebec's participation. It was clarified that though there were discussions in progress regarding Quebec's participation in a national organ donation and transplantation system, at this point they were not involved in the national system for tissue.

Terms of Reference

The members were asked to review the Terms of Reference before the next meeting, as they would be discussed and finalized then. Clarification was provided that the Chair was able to add members to the Committee as required.

Discuss Schedule

The next meeting will be held June 30, 2009 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the Toronto Airport. Meetings will be scheduled in advance for the September, December, March meetings. Documents will also be sent in advance of the meetings to allow adequate time for member review.

Other Business

The group was requested to refer media enquires back to Canadian Blood Services through Lorna Tessier, Director, Public Relations (Lorna.Tessier@blood.ca, 613-739-2343. Dr. Sher also stated that the work of the Committees was intended to be open and transparent and that they were encouraged to consult with their peers, in order to bring all opinions and knowledge to the Committee discussions.

There was a question on how the three Committees would work together. Dr. Sher explained that the structure was meant to be dynamic and interactive. Dr. Sher, as Chair of the OTDT Steering Committee, would attend as an observer at both the Tissue Expert Committee and the Organ Expert Committee. Likewise the Chairs of the Expert Committees would sit as observers on the Steering Committee.

Meeting Adjournment

Dr. McGann thanked the Committee members for their participation in this process. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47.