

MINUTES OF THE Advisory Council on Organ and Tissue Transplants and Donations

Meeting of December 23, 2014

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANTS AND DONATIONS
AGENDA**

Tuesday December 23, 2014 1:00PM Massachusetts Public Health Council Room

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Discussion of Organ Transplant Fund
4. Discussion of Organ and Tissue Donor Registration Fund
5. Scheduling of next meeting

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANTS AND DONATIONS

Presented below is a summary of the meeting, including time-keeping, attendance and votes cast.

Date of Meeting: December 23 2014

Beginning Time: 1:00PM

Ending Time: 2:30PM

Attendance and Summary of votes

Board Member	Attended
Jennifer Barrelle	Yes
Adrienne Gerlach	Yes
Tim Miley	Yes
David Hanlon	No
Sandra Duffy	Yes
Richard Luskin	Yes
Ann Linehan	Yes
Dr. Heung Kim	Yes
Dr. Joren Madsen	Yes
Dr. Adel Bozorgzadeh	No
Summary	8 members attended

PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Advisory Council on Organ and Tissue Transplants and Donations (Section 2 of Chapter 190 the Acts of 2010) was held on December 23, 2014 at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Henry I. Bowditch Public Health Council Room, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes

There were no changes made to the minutes of October 21, 2015.

Mr. Luskin made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Madsen seconded that motion, all approved.

ITEM 2. Discussion of Organ Transplant Fund**a. Guidelines and Application**

Council members discussed the transplant centers who are still concerned that they know little about which patients are utilizing the funds. Discussion addressed concerns about the length in which individuals are receives assistance, how they are qualifying and how much assistance they are receiving, and whether to allow the transplants to disburse funds. After review of the statute and further discussion the council decided that the funds would continue to be administered through DPH and possibly propose statutory changes to the legislature in January.

The Council members voted on changes to the guidelines including the financial criteria used to determine if an individual is eligible for monies in the fund. These changes included:

- Applicants must be residents of the Commonwealth
- An individual may not have an adjusted gross income over 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL), as demonstrated on their Massachusetts tax return.

The revised guidelines, along with a renewed annual re-application process, will take effect on January 1, 2015. DPH criteria and application would be updated as to the process of selecting candidates and capping the length and dollar amount of the benefit. Likewise, DPH would require some sort of letter from the patients transplant team to ensure that there was still a need for the benefit.

ITEM 3. Discussion of Organ & Tissue Donor Registration Fund**a. RFP**

Suzanne Crowther from the DPH communication team came in and discussed how the RFP process would work to market to increase awareness of the donor registry and grow its capacity. Suzanne explained what the council could expect and what types of questions should be asked to a prospective marketing company, and that this process could take up to several months. New England Organ Bank will provide data to determine which market to target.

In coordinating with the registry to register an individual for the organ bank, a suggestion was made to ensure that RMV staff is trained properly in asking drivers whether or not they want to be an organ donor.