

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

Meeting of October 21, 2014

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Tuesday October 21, 2014 12:30PM COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Discussion of Organ Transplant Fund
4. Discussion of Organ & Tissue Donor Registration Fund
5. Council member appointments

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: Tuesday October 21, 2014

Beginning Time: 12:30PM

Ending Time: 2:15PM

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	No
Dr. Heung Kim	Yes
Dr. Joren Madsen	Yes
Dr. Adel Bozorgzadeh	No
Summary	7 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 Tuesday October 21, 2014 at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Commissioner's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes

There were no changes made to the minutes of May 2, 2014.

Mr. Miley 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

Mr. Luskin discussed a meeting with the transplant centers who are still concerned that they know little about which patients are utilizing the funds. Discussion among council members 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. The New England Organ Bank (NEOB) provided a proposed redraft of the existing fund guidelines for discussion. 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. In the meantime, 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 a letter or other documentation from the patient's transplant team/center to ensure that there was still a medical need for the benefit.

ITEM 3. Discussion of Organ & Tissue Donor Registration Fund

a. RFP

Suzanne Crowther from the DPH communication team discussed how the RFP process would work 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. NEOB will provide data to determine which market to target and a proposal for the public campaign.

In coordinating with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to register an individual as an organ donor, 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. Mr. Luskin informed the council that his organization works with the RMV to provide such training.

ITEM 4: Council member appointments

There were no discussions around appointments to the council.

Action Items:

- DPH staff will redraft current guidelines for applying/reapplying for benefits through the Organ Trust Fund.
- NEOB will use expertise to develop a draft proposal for a public campaign to increase donor registration rates