



Governor’s Organ Donation Advisory Committee Minutes

DATE: 2.24.2021 | WebEx Meeting



Note taker (s): Virginia Beatty

Attendees: Deb Simaitis, Phil Duncan, Virginia Beatty, Peter Nicastro, Nicole Kellen, Laurie Hines, Joan Keiser, Kenny Kovacs, Kim Harbur, Lori Clark, Rachel Allen, Shelly Wehmeyer, Laura Beckmann, Gina Wisch, Michala Stoker, Steve Cramer, Sandra Hentges

Called by: Deb Simaitis, Vice Chairperson

Called to order at: 1:08 P.M.

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval and Minute Approval

Ms. Simaitis called the meeting to order. Roll call taken as individuals joined the call. Ms. Simaitis explained she was chairing the meeting because Mr. Nicastro stepped down as Chairperson at the end of the December 21, 2020 meeting. Ms. Simaitis asked for changes to the agenda and requested to move Recognition of Service from Good of the Order to Appointment Update. No objections. Agenda approved as amended. Minutes from December 1 and 21 just went out, so please review and submit edits. Approval will be at the Next meeting.

Reporting of Officers/Committees

Chairperson Report

- Committee Appointments. Ms. Simaitis read and the Committee accepted Joan Keiser’s letter of resignation. Ms. Keiser’s retirement from St. John’s Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri makes her ineligible to continue serving. In her letter, Ms. Keiser noted her appreciation of working with the committee members she met along the way and applauded their work. She indicated her work in organ and tissue donation has been rewarding. Ms. Keiser also indicated she would miss all and encouraged the group to continue doing what we do so well. Ms. Simaitis gave the letter to Ms. Beatty to forward to the Governor’s Office per Bylaws. Ms. Simaitis expressed her appreciation of Ms. Keiser’s knowledge of parliamentary law, her amazing ideas, and her commitment; all has inspired her. Ms. Simaitis presented the Recognition of Service Award to Ms. Keiser and Ms. Beatty read the inscription and will mail it to Ms. Keiser. All applauded. Ms. Keiser thanked everyone and said,
 - “This has been a very important and special part of my Chaplin journey. God has opened a lot of doors for me and I have met a lot of people whose passion is organ donation. I have been privileged to serve on this committee, because of the passion I developed and learning more about it. I have a great appreciation for what the OPOS and DHSS do, and it has been my pleasure to meet and work with each of you. It has enriched my life. I will continue to serve in the ways I can and continue to promote organ donation. I love each of you with the love of the Lord and thankful our paths did cross. So, continue your good ministry and know that I shall remember you. I will remain in contact.”
- Ms. Simaitis reported that Governor Parson has made some appointments to various boards and commission and she will reach out to her contacts and encouraged anyone who has applied to serve on the Committee to contact their Senator and the Boards and Commissions office about the status of their submitted application. Ms. Harbur inquired about the process. The application process is an online process through the Boards and Commission’s office. This office reviews all of the applications, submits them to the Governor, and the Governor makes the final decision about appointments. Once appointed, the applicant’s Senator presents them to the Senate for confirmation. Several applications have been in the Boards and Commissions office for several years. Ms. Keiser provided her insight and stated she believes a series of major events caused Committee appointments to be a low priority:
 - The election of Governor Greitens,
 - Governor Greitens’ resignation,
 - Lt. Governor Parson stepping into the Governor’s position,
 - Consolidation and elimination of some boards and commission,
 - Election of Governor Parson, and now
 - COVID-19.

Ms. Simaitis thanked Ms. Keiser for her insight and asked everyone waiting for appointment to follow-up. Do not disregard the ability of your Senator to be an advocate on your behalf as a nominee stated Mr. Duncan and Mr. Nicastro.

Dashboard and Financial Trend Updates

- Mr. Nicastro reviewed the Donor Fund Cash Flow table and balance graph. Looking at November-January, there was \$80,767.04 in revenue and \$44,505.15 in expenses, leaving a cash balance of \$550,000 at the end of January according to the Treasurer’s office. The fund was last at this amount in January of 2020; a balance of 1.63 times the trailing 12-month expense. Mr. Nicastro opened the floor for questions. No questions raised.
- Ms. Hines recommends increasing enthusiasm of obtaining an organ donor plate and recommended asking transplant hospital executive staff and transplant surgeons to sign up for an organ donor plate.
- Mr. Nicastro reported on the Dashboard.
 - Financial contribution rate continues to increase and is currently at 9.5% of transactions; up from 9.1% three months ago. Contribution rate reflects the number of individuals applying for a driver license or non-driver identification card who choose to contribute \$1 to the Organ Donor Program Fund. Ms. Beatty indicated part of the increase might be due to the approaching Real ID deadline of October 2021.
 - Adult consent registration trend continues to climb with the overall rate slowing. Currently, about 345 adults are registering daily compared to 412 a year ago. Youth numbers continue to decline with 90,232 15-17 year olds currently registered compared to 98,795 in August 2020. The expectation is that about ½ of youth registration numbers go away in any given 12-month period because the individuals turn 18 and move to the adult figures. Mr. Kovacs asked if there were percentages based on number who received their license. Currently there is no rate. Mr. Nicastro said we could look at census data, but the DMV data is not broken out by age. Ms. Beatty will send the most current Census data the Department has on file.
 - Mr. Nicastro reported he does not have any updated Social Media data at this time and has reached out to Mid-America Transplant. Ms. Kellen remarked Mid-America hopes to be able to provide data soon.

Secretarial Report

- No financial report. Ms. Beatty reminded the committee that she and Ms. Allen spend approximately 75% of their time assigned to COVID responsibilities and the rest of the time focusing on the Donor Family Recognition Program, registry work and keeping up with public inquiries.
- Most if not all members have read, signed and submitted their annual documents. Ms. Beatty did not have a report on if members completed the annual training. Ms. Simaitis encouraged everyone to complete the annual training.
- Ms. Allen completed the Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign application. Application submission is every two years. Ms. Simaitis thanked her for completing the application.

Action Items:

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Draft February Meeting Minutes	Ms. Beatty	Early May
Review December & February Meeting Minutes	Committee Members	Prior to Next meeting.
Submit Joan Keiser’s Resignation through the Chain of Command to the Governor’s Office	Ms. Beatty	As schedule permits.
Contact Senator & Boards and Commissions Office	Ms. Simaitis and Individuals asking to be appointed to Committee	Ongoing
Donate Life Missouri Social Media Data	Ms. Kellen	ASAP
Current Census Data to Mr. Nicastro	Ms. Beatty	As schedule permits.
Financial Report	Ms. Beatty	Next meeting.

Partner Updates

Mid-America Transplant (MAT)/Team Missouri

- Ms. Kellen provided MAT’s update and noted they continue to be impressed with the generosity of donor families. MAT reached a milestone of 815 organ transplants in 2020 with 415 of those being kidney transplants. She reported there were 2,424 unique tissue donors that provided over 181,000 tissues for transplant. MAT had 908 corneas transplanted and was able to provide site in their own local area to 344 individuals. Ms. Kellen explained that sometimes tissue and eye get lumped together as a whole and they try to separate that out. On the tissue side, they are talking about bone grafts, skin grafts, nerves, ligaments, tendons, and heart valves. A unique tissue donor could donate one tissue or they could donate multiple tissues.
- Over the past 14 months, MAT has been working to expand the Family House; a 10-apartment complex currently leased and located in the MAT business park. To date, MAT has been able to provide this service to over 200 individual families; used by patients waiting in the St. Louis area for a transplant or they come back after their transplant to recuperate. Staying close right after a transplant is necessary due to the number of needed medical visits. The MAT Foundation Board asked MAT to explore building their own Family House. Ms. Kellen reports that MAT has found and secured about a one-acre location close to the office off of Hampton and Highway 44. It

is a walkable area with shopping and restaurants and close to the transplant centers. Once built, there will be 15 one-bedroom apartments and 6 two-bedroom apartments. Of the two-bedroom apartments, two will have one wall that has the ability to swing out if an additional bedroom is required. These two flexible apartments fulfill an encountered need. The new building will have access to a catering kitchen, a business center for those who need to continue to work, a conference space for getting together for various celebrations, and a quiet space. MAT has an aggressive timeline and anticipates completion in April 2022. Construction to begin soon. Individuals and families staying at the facility, and by request, have access to a chaplain.

- Community restrictions still apply about the number of individuals with whom one can interact. All education has transitioned to virtual. DMV visits occurring where allowed, and staff is working hard to keep one-on-one contact.
- Donate Life Month activities are coming up and MAT has sent out Donor Family Recognition invitations and responses are coming in. Planning for a DMV decorating contest with the Garden of Life theme is underway. MAT has purchased garden decorations and creating a box with more information about the meaning of “Donate Life.” Boxes will be hand delivered to DMV offices with high transactions and high registration rates as well as offices with high transactions and low registration rates.
- A Blue and Green education contest is going out to all education partners encouraging them and their students to get involved and participate in Blue and Green Week. The contest includes a social media photo contest. The contest will have different categories in which students could win. All participating classrooms will receive a small gift card to purchase something needed for the classroom.
- The Saint Louis Candlelight Memorial service is usually an April event, and with it needing to be a virtual event, the event will move to the summer. It will be an inclusive event for the entire designated service area. A butterfly tribute garden is being created on one large MAT wall in a common space. Donor families will receive one, or several, 5” x 7” card stock butterfly to decorate and submit in honor of their loved one or in honor of their support of organ and tissue donation. Upon arrival, the experience of adding butterflies to the wall will be captured and shared on social media. By the end of April, a lovely honor wall of butterflies will be on display representing the benefit of donating or receiving a transplant. A separate designated butterfly wall is available for staff and hospital partners. Within three hours of sending out information, MAT received over 280 RSVPs. MAT will share a photo of the Butterfly Garden wall at the Next meeting.

Midwest Transplant Network (MTN)

- Ms. Kramer began with data for MTN and despite the pandemic miraculously had a record year for organ donors. For the 2019 calendar year, MTN had 282 organ donors and for 2020, 341 organ donors. MTN also saw a 50% growth in DCD (donation after cardiac death) donors. During 2020, MTN saw a higher frequency of death and eminent death referral calls. MTN’s transplant numbers went down slightly as transplant centers navigated and defined what was safe and unsafe. Yet, MTN is seeing a positive trajectory of growth for organ donation; a 52% increase since 2015. Ms. Kramer shared that MTN broke a tissue record too with donors in the 1,800s for 2019 and over 1,900 in 2020. These numbers are tissues and eyes combined.
- Focus areas for 2021 are:
 - Building the Donor Care Unit. MTN is looking forward to learning and building upon that success of MAT’s facility since they are in a similar geographic space. MAT offered to be a resource to address any family concerns, authorization to transfer to the facility, etc.
 - Assessing resources needed by donor families, hospital parents, transplant centers and staff.
 - Staffing models of the future.
- Celebrated National Donor Day for the fourth consecutive year in partnership and sponsorship with Kansas City radio station 90.9 The Bridge; “Songs from the Heart.” Six different recipient and donor families shared their story during the 12-hour day.
- The June 5 Legacy Walk registration is open and is a hybrid model; an in-person and a virtual component. The walk is at the World War 1 Museum and Memorial. The virtual component will begin at 9:00 am and the in-person component from 7:00-9:00 pm with CDC guidelines and precautions followed. The in-person event is a come and go as you please in an effort to avoid crowding. MTN found that the virtual event drew participants from across the country who previously could not participate. MTN plans to keep a virtual component for this event into the future. A local Kansas City band called “Funk Syndicate” will be on stage playing at the event. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic food and/or blankets so they can enjoy the music while sitting on the lawn. The in-person program will end with a ceremony and Union Station turning their building green as a beautiful photo backdrop. MAT noted they too see participation from areas outside of their service area at virtual events as well as individuals from rural communities who may not otherwise be able to travel to St. Louis. MAT will continue virtual options for programs too.

- Donate Life Month preparations include MTN's virtual tool kit for hospital staff. The virtual tool kit translates to us expanding the program and providing the resource to community partners.
- Select hospitals in the service area will have the opportunity to obtain empty and branded coffee sleeves to use in hospital coffee shops. This program activity is under development.
- Ms. Simaitis noted that the numbers reported by MAT and MTN are astounding and the result of everyone's work.
- Ms. Simaitis inquired of MAT and MTN about the February 4 report announcing the subpoena Senator Chuck Grassley initiated to investigate the organ procurement organizations. MTN reported staff made aware in a recent leadership meeting with not much detail. MAT does not have much information either and is waiting to see what transpires. Ms. Simaitis got the impression from the article it is more about the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) and their role in overseeing the organ procurement organizations rather than directly investigating organ procurement organizations. MAT and MTN concurred with Ms. Simaitis' understanding. Ms. Kellen noted that there is a lot of information coming out of DC looking at transplant center performance across the board and really trying to create consistencies, benchmarking and measures. She stated it will be interesting to see if the UNOS investigation continues or if the focus will be transplant center performance and measures. The next few years will be interesting as organ procurement agencies look for ways to increase their ability to serve the community and really lift each other up and make sure they are doing their best for their communities and individuals' needs while supporting families. MAT is supportive of changes and creating a better environment for all. Ms. Simaitis asked MAT and MTN to bring what they learn to the Next meeting.

Missouri Kidney Program (MoKP)

- Ms. Hines reports while there have been positive impacts of COVID, the impact they see the most is people on dialysis dying. More than twice the number of MoKP participants died in 2020 than in 2019.
- Ms. Hines encouraged committee members and partners to listen to a Kidney Echo. The Echo is a perfect example of remote education and a platform that has been around for a number of years. Next week's Kidney Echo topic is Dialysis and Transplant: What Primary Care Physicians Need to Know. Many primary care physicians care for patients with severe disease and may not know about transplant as an option. Ms. Hines says it is fascinating to watch a team of experts from across the state address challenging kidney disease cases.
- The My Transplant Ready Workbook developed with assistance of Ms. Beatty and others is getting traction. The U.S. Renal Care; a national dialysis company with facilities in Missouri, Georgia, Ohio, Texas, and others; approached MoKP to use the workbook with patients in their facilities. Ms. Hines noted that CMS now requires dialysis centers to report, as a quality improvement initiative, the percentage of people in dialysis centers listed for kidney transplant. This translates to dialysis centers being very interested in transplant as a treatment option. Ms. Hines will be contacting Ms. Beatty to discuss this further as well as inform her advisory council. She believes that U.S. Renal Care is willing to pay or make a donation for use of the workbook. Ms. Hines commented it is nice to know that a large dialysis chain appreciates and sees the value in the workbook for their patients.
- MoKP, while it will remain focused on end-stage renal disease, is interested in trying to keep people from progressing to end stage renal disease and perhaps even delaying the journey to dialysis and kidney transplant. One way to do this is to focus on early stage chronic kidney disease too. MoKP is supporting the partnership between the Department of Health and Senior Services and the National Kidney Foundation's main office out of New York City for a two-year start up chronic kidney disease primary care project. Missouri is one of only two states working on this initiative.
- Effective in 2023, any kidney transplant patient who does not have other insurance coverage will have permanent coverage under a very small segment of Medicare for indefinite immunosuppressant drug coverage. Other ongoing transplant issues or other health concerns will not have continued coverage. For the first time, this extended coverage results in anyone getting a transplant not having to worry about who or how to pay for transplant medications. The program anticipates the monthly premium to be approximately \$40 a month, but that is yet to be determined and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will have to issue regulations.
- Another positive outcome of the Coronavirus is for the people from the Compact of Free Association (COFA). COFA is an international agreement establishing and governing relationships with free association between the U.S. and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Ms. Hines reports a number of people from these islands reside in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. They will see their Medicaid coverage restored; good news as many have chronic diseases and do not have insurance.
- MoKP believes Medicaid expansion is important because anyone with end-stage renal disease is often dual eligible. If they have both, which many enrolled in MoKP do, they can avoid paying the 20% that Medicare does not cover. Many with chronic kidney disease are not disabled and typically do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. If they are childless adults, they clearly do not qualify for Medicaid. For the first time, some childless

adults with a chronic disease will have Medicaid coverage. The obvious hope is these individuals will receive quality continuum of care and that their care coordination will be better because they will have insurance. Often, individuals who end up on dialysis are in such bad shape partly due to lack of or poor coordination of care.

- Ms. Hines warns to watch out for Medicare Advantage Plans marketing. Last year, the Trump administration approved the allowance of Medicare Advantage Plans to market to people with end stage renal disease; it is turning into a disaster as evidenced by the calls received by MoKP staff. Individuals have Medicare and get confused because they get cards in the mail, and that time is running out, and in some cases you get a free gym membership, you get free hearing aids, etc. MoKP says the companies tend to pray a little bit on the elderly, particularly people with a chronic illness. MoKP is running into huge problems because over 60 people in their program were convinced to sign up for a Medicare Advantage Plan and now do not have the coverage they expected. The issue is those plans have limited networks and if these people want a transplant and the transplant center is not in network, they cannot get the transplant. MoKP has actually had people call from a transplant center saying, “they’re not covered; we are not in network.” In addition, post-transplant immunosuppressant drugs often have to have prior authorization.
- Ms. Simaitis added, as a personal note, how much she appreciates Ms. Hines’ commitment, as she lost a sister to end-stage kidney disease a few months ago. Her sister was on a transplant waiting list, did not receive a kidney, and stated her sister needed someone like Ms. Hines and her program to help navigate services.

Gift of Life (GOL)

- Life Savers program (classroom) goal for this school year was 250 presentation and we are on target to exceed that goal. Most presentations are virtual at this time and in classroom presentations occur as schools reopen. The program in St. Louis is getting some traction. The Director of the CAPS program has opened doors to schools GOL is specifically targeting as a requirement of the MAT grant.
- The Mentoring Program is on track to mentor 100 individuals this year. To date, 12 individuals from Missouri, Arizona, Illinois and California received mentoring. The program’s director, Andy Donnelly, is still battling stage four cancer and we continue to divide the responsibilities among our small team.
- The program does not receive state or federal funding and relies on individuals, corporations and foundations. The annual GoSeeDo event raises a large portion of GOL’s funding. Due to COVID, cancellation of the fundraiser was necessary for the second year. On March 1, GOL is launching an eight-week fundraising campaign with a goal to raise \$180,000. To date Ms. Harbur has early commitments of \$110,000 and expects to reach or exceed the fundraising goal.
- A new Executive Director is hired. One hundred and fifty applicants applied for the Executive Director position, and the field narrowed to three finalist by December 2020. After in-person presentations, the hiring of Ms. Julie Klima (Kleema) occurred. Ms. Klima started a month ago and has 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and private sectors. She has a master’s degree in public administration from George Washington University with a concentration in non-profit management. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma in marketing with a minor in finance. She comes with a lot of energy, knowledge and ideas on how to grow GOL programs in a controlled manner. Ms. Harbur recognized Ms. Janet Burton’s service of two-and-a-half years as interim Executive Director.

Department of Revenue (DOR)

- Ms. Wisch reports DOR continues to work on the medical notation project that becomes effective in July. The medical notation will not affect the donor symbol.
- Airports and local license offices received new posters and flyers with the revised Real ID deadline and highlighting the new card look, donor sticker and donor symbol.
- As of December 2020, there are 589 active organ donor specialty license plates. The committee talked about the impact the plates have in the community.
 - How we can encourage more people to order these specialty plates asks Ms. Simaitis. Her idea several years ago was to make concession for donor families, perhaps giving them a coupon that waves the emblem use fee. Ms. Simaitis asked this topic be on the Next meeting. agenda.
 - Ms. Wisch noted she has not completed a comparison to see how the organ donor specialty plates compares to other specialty plates. She offered to reach out to the motor vehicle division to find out if there is a better way to promote the plate. Keep in mind it is hard for DOR because the question is, how do you promote all of them over certain ones. Perhaps the motor vehicles division can help determine if some have a better purchase rate than others do, someone could research those plate promotion strategies.
 - Do OPO’s let their donor families know about the specialty plate asks Ms. Simaitis.

- Ms. Kellen noted MAT has not formally shared the plate with all donor families, and there is an opportunity to showcase the plate’s availability as may do not know about it. She also noted it takes several tries to get a unique plate configuration. Ms. Kellen committed to help showcase the plate.
- Ms. Beatty noted there is a flyer on the program website that is available for download.

Department of Conservation

- No representative at the meeting.

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)

- Ms. Wehmeyer reported she has been busy preparing for the HOSA conference that begins March 22. This year’s virtual event has 1,049 participants. Sponsorships continue to come in and MAT is a silver sponsor providing an educational symposium that represents their mission and vision.
- Ms. Wehmeyer noted she is working with Ms. Allen and Ms. Beatty on the Donor Family Recognition Program and that she is available to assist as needed.

Saving Sight

- The online 12-hour stream-a-thon was successful reports Mr. Kovacs. Participants heard from donor families, recipients, staff, and others associated with eye donation; including hospital members.
- Saving Sight continues to use the virtual world and hopes some in-person live events can begin toward the end of the 2021 year as COVID vaccinations become more available.
- During 2020, Saving Sight recovered 4,647 corneas. Thus far, in 2021, recovered approximately 800 corneas. Even with COVID impacting operations in April and early May 2020, cornea distribution included over 30 different countries with 1,622 staying in the United States. The next largest distribution went to Egypt, Germany and Pakistan. Saving Sight feels overwhelming gratitude for donors and donor families.
 - Ms. Simaitis inquired who makes the decision about which corneas go to other countries. Mr. Kovacs replied cornea quality, surgeon’s preference, and surgery type determine cornea distribution. He continued to explain that there are different types of cuts and peels that surgeons require domestically. For example, some prefer a DMAC cut which is a much thinner layer of the cornea and requires a higher cell count. Surgeons in other countries might use a different type of surgery requiring fewer corneas cells and still have a successful transplant. No one knows how many cells they have in their cornea and so an evaluation of donated cornea is necessary; literally someone counts the cells using a microscope. Once cell count is known, Sight knows what surgeons they are going to offer the corneas to based on the surgeons expertise and preference. Cell count can diminish with age, but that is not always the case explained Mr. Kovacs. People are usually born with over 4,000 cells in their cornea and while cell count generally deteriorates over time, he has seen 75 year olds that still had cell counts over 3,000.
- Hospital development continues. COVID still makes it hard for staff to get into hospitals, though it is easing.
- Working and building relationships continue with coroners, medical examiners, and funeral home staff. The creation of “Champion of Sight” recognition program is underway; an award program for people who go above and beyond to make sure donation happened, even in a difficult situation like COVID. For example, sometimes hospitals are not able to accommodate recoveries so funeral homes are letting Saving Sight recover at the funeral home. We have funeral home directors getting up in the middle of the night to make sure that technicians can make the recovery.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Family House & Butterfly Wall Update	MAT Representative	Next meeting.
UNOS Investigation Update	MAT & MTN Representatives	Next meeting.
My Transplant Ready Workbook Update	MoKP Representative	Next meeting.
Ask Motor Vehicle Division about Specialty Plate Promotion & Plate Comparison Data	Ms. Wisch	Next meeting.

Unfinished Business

High School Education Project Update

- Ms. Harbur commented that while the project is about a year behind schedule, the team is not defeated.
- The team will reconvene in late March and discuss getting school board presentation scheduled; a matter of timing because of the complications schools faced/continue to face with COVID. After a few presentations are scheduled and completed, we will review, learn what needs tweaking, and then by August begin volunteer training.
- Ms. Simaitis inquired if there is a sunset date on the law. Ms. Harbur does not believe so.

- Ms. Harbur indicated she is contemplating going back for a legislative change to make it mandatory, especially now with the rapid expansion of virtual learning. She believes this will make the program more appealing to school districts as it can be a virtual program; another topic for the next team meeting.
 - Ms. Simaitis reminded everyone that when Governor Parson was Lieutenant Governor and she talked to him about a possible mandate, he indicated everyone just really freezes up. Ms. Harbur wonders if there is a different or better word and does not believe it is a farfetched idea since we know the challenges.
 - Ms. Simaitis stated supportive data needed, i.e., how many listened to the presentation and subsequent response.
 - Ms. Harbur provided the web address of the program, learnlifesavers.com

2021 Donor Family Recognition (DFR) Update

- Ms. Allen reports planning is fully underway as April approaches. The team anticipates having an initial family count in an effort to gauge total family participation.
- Team members are working to secure videos from partners and donor recipients. Ms. Allen invited GODAC meeting attendees to submit a video and to contact her for video requirements. Ms. Simaitis noted that Brad Bashore at the Department recorded her video today.
- Mailing of a small donor family packet along with the video link will occur in late March. Packet content will depend on the number of participating families.
- March will be busy finalizing the program and Ms. Allen stated she is looking forward to the finished project in April and sharing the outcome with the Committee.

2021 Legislative Session Update

- Ms. Beatty will send out an update with the latest status on several bills and highlighted the following:
 - HB 131 related to autopsy provisions and procurement agency requirements has not progressed.
 - It is uncertain if HB 362 related to sunshine law changes will affect GODAC or the Registry as the Registry does collect phone numbers and email addresses. This information is optional information collected and provided by potential donors and is a means to communicate registry status. If bill passes, it will require legal interpretation. The bill has passed in the House and read first time in the Senate.
 - HB 585 addressed next of kin in the final disposition of deceased person's remains. The bill lists the order of priority for who can control the disposition of a dead human body. It contains language about a surviving spouse will not be considered as next of kin, if an action of dissolution of marriage has been filed and is pending in a court. The next of kin of a deceased person may delegate the final disposition to an agent through a power of attorney. The bill has passed with consent in the House. Ms. Beatty solicited the opinion of the procurement agencies.
 - Ms. Stoker, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Kellen expressed concerns. While the proposed language will not impact most recoveries, it will impact some and become a barrier to securing authorization. How will a family services coordinator validate filing of a dissolution of marriage?
 - Ms. Beatty asked partners to review the bill and submit opinions via email.
 - HCR 41 Minority Organ Donation Awareness Week. Concerns expressed about the language in today's social climate.
 - MTN provided their perspective and indicated they are moving away from the term minority based on feedback from the communities they serve. The community does not feel the word has a positive connotation or represents their stand or who they are. Instead, MTN is moving away from Donate Life America's National Minority Donor Awareness Month and focusing language on multi-cultural awareness in August. MAT agrees with, and is supportive of, MTN's position and noted they are moving to multicultural language.
 - GOL has shifted to communities of colors based on research they conducted and minority includes women. Ms. Harbur expressed that we need to be clear on the language as society is more sensitive about the language, a good thing. The language in the bill needs to shift to something different.
 - Mr. Kovacs is in agreement with Ms. Harbur and cannot speak for Saving Sight as others address that within the agency.
 - SB 426 addressing enforcement of rules and regulations promulgated by federal agencies has not moved after the first read. The act, if passed, prohibits all state departments and agencies from enforcing any federal rule or regulation until the rule or regulation is first been approved by the Missouri General Assembly. There are a lot of rules and regulations around organ and tissue donation.

SWOT/SSC* Results Data Discussion

- Ms. Simaitis asked about the SWOT and Start, Stop, Continue (*) results data collected by Mr. Nicastro in the fall and the next steps. Mr. Nicastro replied he did not have anything to share today.

New Business**Election of Chairperson**

- Ms. Simaitis referenced the December 24 minutes where Mr. Nicastro announced his resignation as chairperson. She stated she hopes he changes his mind and if not, we need to elect a new chairperson. Ms. Simaitis announced a new Vice Chairperson also needs electing. She opened the floor for nominations for a Chairperson.
 - The opinion of Ms. Beatty is to hold off on elections until Committee appointments made. Ms. Simaitis was okay with that and said she could continue in her role as Vice Chairperson for a while and asked the opinion of Mr. Nicastro.
 - Mr. Nicastro noted that Ms. Beatty does not have a bad idea, and that he is not as optimistic about the Boards and Commissions acting on appointments. Strategically, it is fine. He is unsure things will be different by the time we meet again in April, May or June.
 - Ms. Simaitis inquired of Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan said he is saddened that the Committee is in this position, agrees with Mr. Nicastro to wait, and feels the Committee composition will not change. Even if there are two or three new appointees, it is unlikely they will want to step into the chair role. Mr. Duncan stated he wished Mr. Nicastro would reconsider his position between now and the Next meeting; he did a good job the last time. Mr. Duncan noted everybody does a good job and stated he is unable to do the job if nominated because he does not have the ability to do the work with a computer.
 - Ms. Simaitis made the following statements and inquired if Mr. Duncan and Mr. Nicastro are okay with these decisions:
 - We can wait until the Next meeting.
 - Even if Governor Parson makes appointments, it takes a while to get Senate confirmation
 - She is happy to conduct the Next meeting and move the elections to the Next meeting.
 - Mr. Nicastro indicated the Committee needs at least unanimous consent to vote to postpone the election to the Next meeting.
 - Mr. Duncan moved to postpone the election until the Next meeting. Ms. Simaitis seconded. Three voted in favor, one abstained, motion passed.

Action Items:

Learn Life Savers Update

Person Responsible:

Ms. Harbur

Deadline:

Next meeting.

2021 Donor Family Recognition Outcome

Ms. Allen

Next meeting.

Report 2021 Legislative Session Insights/Updates

Committee & Partners

Ongoing During Session

2021 Legislative Session Outcome

Mr. Bogle or representative

Next meeting.

SWOT and Start, Stop, Continue Outcome

Mr. Nicastro

Next meeting.

Elections

Committee

Next meeting.

Good of the Order**Closing Comments/Thoughts**

- Next meeting. is usually in late May or early June and Ms. Simaitis stated hopefully the meeting can be a face-to-face meeting
- Mr. Duncan reminded everyone to stay safe.

Next meeting.**Agenda/Logistics (May/June 2021)**

- Submit meeting preference, agenda items, etc. for the next meeting.

Overall Action Items:

Provide updates as noted during the meeting.

Person Responsible:Committee members,
partners and DHSS staff**Deadline:**

Next meeting.

Submit agenda items.

Committee

May

Develop agenda.

Ms. Beatty & Ms. Simaitis

May

Issue meeting poll.

Ms. Beatty

As schedule permits.

Send out agenda and handouts.

Prior to next meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 P.M.

Deb Simaitis, Vice Chairperson

Approved as Amended July 21, 2021