

**3/19/13 Meeting Summary:
Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup**

Present: Harry Chen, MD, Commissioner of Health; James Carter (TDN); Michael Scollins, MD; Antonio DiCarlo, MD, FAHC; Dawn Philibert, VDH. **By Phone:** Jennifer DeMaroney, FAHC and CDT; Rob Ide, Commissioner of DMV; Mike Smith, DMV; Mat Boger, NEOB; Art Magnaghi; Kate DeVine, FAHC; Michael Thibault, CDT

Dr. Chen chaired the meeting and welcomed the workgroup members. Introductions were made. Several Workgroup members stated that they had not received the December 2012 Legislative Report that Dixie Henry wrote on behalf of the Workgroup. Dawn said she would distribute it to members.

Dawn reported that due to the good work of the workgroup and VDH's Kathleen Horton's talent, the insert for the Driver's Manual was complete and will be in next year's manual (page 1); Kathleen also finished the letter that Matt drafted for Driver Education instructors, and Jim distributed the letters and the 10 minute videos to 105 Driver Education instructors.

Update on Legislation

Dr. Chen updated the group on the status of the legislative bill that will extend the workgroup for an additional two years. The bill is H. 178, and includes other provisions related to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and anatomical gifts. Dr. Chen stated that he expects the bill to pass the House soon. Dawn will send the bill out to workgroup members.

The extension of the workgroup will allow for a focus on the range of public policy issues, particularly as they relate to live organ donation. The workgroup can bring in experts to speak to various issues such as insurance for donors. Mike Scollins asked why the workgroup could not extend indefinitely, especially if the Commissioner of Health in 2015 is interested in continuation. Harry stated that he would consider this suggestion.

DMV Organ Donor Registration Update

Commissioner Ide, Mike Smith and Matt Boger reported that since the implementation of the new DMV photo system, license applicants indicating an interest in donating organs have risen dramatically. That is because license applicants must respond to the question about donation in order to continue with the process. Dawn passed out data on register donors since January.

Register Organ Donors in Vermont, 2013

January 7	18,648
January 25	21,147
February 28	29,402
March 11,	31,958

The DMV application process represents a 75% yield, or DDR (Donor Designation Rate) rate of individuals indicating they will donate. Dawn said that she plans to create a data dashboard to indicate Vermont donation data over time. This could go on the VDH website. The importance of distributing these data to DMV offices as positive feedback was discussed. Commissioner Ide said that his office sends a quarterly

newsletter out to all DMV offices, and that the data could be included in the newsletter. Mike Smith also said that they will ask the photo vender to break out the data by district DMV offices.

Matt Boger reported that he and some organ recipients have been visiting local Vermont DMV offices to educate DMV staff about donation and to emphasize its importance. He said that the response from offices has been very positive and he acknowledged the importance and effectiveness of the leadership support from DMV. Dr. Chen asked if we could continue having transplant recipients be ambassadors to DMV offices to continue to stimulate the enthusiasm that DMV staff have shown. Matt said his organization will continue to work on this.

Planning for April- Organ Donation Month

April is Donate Life Month; the group discussed the following events to celebrate the month and promote organ donation:

Statehouse event with Governor Shumlin and Health/ Human Services Chairs

The Governor will do an event at the Statehouse, but will only have a half hour at the most. **Note for reader: When the committee met on 3/19, the date for the Governor's event was April 2, 2013. It has now been changed to Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 10:30 in the Statehouse Ceremonial Office.**

This will be an opportunity for the Governor to acknowledge the importance and effectiveness of the new DMV system, to present data about Vermont donors and for advocates to acknowledge the governor's support for Organ Donation. Commissioners Ide and Chen will be there, and Rep. Ann Pugh, Chair of the House Human Services Committee will be invited in addition to other members of the legislature. The committee suggested that perhaps an organ recipient, a family member of a recipient and a person waiting for an organ could be present to speak. The Commissioners agreed to discuss the best way to use the limited time with the Governor. It was also suggested that this be a press event.

Press event at South Burlington DMV Office

The workgroup discussed the idea of having a press event at a local DMV office to highlight the role they play in recruiting organ donors. Commissioner Ide suggested the South Burlington office. Dr. Chen will work on coordinating this.

Other possible events- in April or at Other times

Some other ideas that were offered included:

- Setting up the "Less than 5%" video at Statehouse on a continuous loop with a computer nearby to register donors.-Dawn will work with Jim and the Sergeant of Arms to coordinate this.
- Press release re: organ donation or public service announcement
- Legislative Resolution
- In future, have the Governor attend a monthly meeting of the Transplant donor Network.
- Send out notices to legislators encouraging them to register –Mat will develop language for Dr. Chen to send out.
- Letter to Vermont State Medical Society members to be included in the bi-monthly *Green Mountain Physicians* newsletter. Mike Scollins will draft and send to Harry. Madeleine will place it in the May-June edition.

- Dr. DiCarlo offered to put together some ideas about future events for the Governor to recognize organ donors or family members of donors.
- Art Magnaghi and Jim reported that at last year's Vermont Marathon on Memorial Day Weekend, there was a running team called Spare Parts of advocates/beneficiaries for organ donation. This year there will be two teams, and the group would love to get Governor Shumlin on one of the teams. Art has written to the Governor inviting him and will follow-up with him.
- Write a letter of thanks to the "H-Team", or Heritage Automotive Group and Dave Machavern, for financing the organ donation video that was shown in Vermont during the Superbowl . A representative of this group should also be invited to the event with the Governor. Jim Carter offered to draft the letter for Commissioners Chen and Ide to sign. Jim Carter offered to draft the letter.

Work Plan for Upcoming Year

Dr. Chen suggested that the group meet 3 or 4 times before January 2014.

The group listed some of the work it would like to accomplish over the next year. This included:

- Getting the Donate Life logo and link on the VDH website (Dawn)
- Getting a link to the live donation site on the Vermont donate Life website (Mat)
- Learning about the barriers to live organ donation and possible policy options to pursue to improve live donation. Dr. Chen acknowledged that these issues are very complicated and need to be approached in a thoughtful and deliberate way.
- Develop data dashboard.

Other Business and Future Meeting Schedule

Dawn will be in touch with Committee members to schedule upcoming meeting dates for 2013.