

**12/14/12 Meeting Summary:  
Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup**

**Present:** Harry Chen, MD, Commissioner of Health; Matt Boger, NEOB; Steven Kind, CDT (by phone); James Carter (TDN); Michael Scollins, MD; Antonio DiCarlo, MD; Michael Smith, DMV; Robert Ide, Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles; Dixie Henry, VDH; Dawn Philibert, VDH

Dr. Chen chaired the meeting and welcomed the workgroup members. Introductions were made.

**Review of Notes from 10/24/12 Meeting**

Two revisions were suggested for the notes: 1) Madeleine Mongan of the VSMS was present at the meeting and should be noted as so and 2) Dr. Carlo's name is misspelled.

**Discussion of Workgroup Activities and Initiatives**

Suggestion to Add information about live donation to Donate Life VT website The group discussed the request by Katherine Devine to add links to information about live donations on the Donate Life webpage. This is done on the Donate America website. The group agreed that adding links-not content- to the webpage of Donate Life Vermont would be a good idea, and Steve Kind agreed to take care of adding the links Katherine suggested.

Information for Insertion in Vermont Driver's Manual The group reviewed Mat Boger's mock-up of a one-page organ donation promotion message that DMV has offered to insert in the front, empty page of the driver manual that DMV publishes every year. The message is targeted to new drivers in hopes that they will sign up to be donor when they get their licenses. The group decided that credibility would be added to the message if the Department of Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles logos were on the message (but not the individual commissioner names). VDH graphic designer Kathleen Horton will work to further develop the message and will send it to Commissioner Ide for his review and legal review.

Letter to Driver Education Instructors Mat Boger also distributed a mock-up of a letter about organ donation that would be sent to all public school driver education instructors as well as private driver education schools. The letter would be accompanied by a 10-minute video tape for the instructors to show to their classes. NEOB commits to making the having enough videos for distribution to all public and private schools of driver's education. This letter will also include the VDH and DMV logos, as well as contact information for the CDT. The letter and videos should also go to VDH Communications Office for design, and then to Mike Smith at DMV for approval. When it is in final form, Mat and CDT will distribute. Target date for distribution- January, 2013.

**Review of Legislative Report**

The group reviewed and discussed the legislative report as drafted by Dixie and thanked her for her fine work. Some minor clarifications and edits were made to the draft which will be submitted to the Vermont legislature in January, 2013. In the course of the review of the report, the following issues were discussed:

- The Report and the meeting notes will soon all be posted on the VDH website
- The role of DMV, customer service and making information available about organ donation: Because the DMV staff are often asked about the organ donation check box on a driver's license application, several committee members stated that it is important that DMV staff be positive and accurate in their provision of information. Commissioner Ide emphasized the DMV's commitment to good customer service, but added that the DMV offices are very busy. They will continue their efforts to emphasize positive messages about organ donation. Matt said that the NEOB has an ambassador program where donors and recipients go into DMV offices to thank staff for their efforts and emphasize the importance of donating life. The OPO's also offer training to DMV staff and occasionally stop in to offices and bring snacks to thank staff for their public service.
- Update on DMV computer system. DMV is adding an improved computerized photo system that will be effective in January, 2013. The new photo system will be where the information about organ donation is collected by the applicant checking off a box stating whether or not they want to be a donor. The system then records and compiles information about the number of applicants who indicated they want to donate. After the system is up and running, efforts will be made to produce reports on the percentage of license applicants who indicated they want to become donors. The DMV will wait to completely replace its system until other states have had success in doing so.
- Other opportunities to indicate willingness to donate. Because license photos only need to be updated every 8 years, applicants who renew the license on-line may not have their donation intents entered into the system. The group discussed that this is why there are other ways to register as a donor- through Donate Life.
- Duration of Workgroup. There was a discussion about why the report limited the duration of the workgroup to 18 months. Dixie explained that this will provide the group with a reasonable horizon to accomplish some work, and if more time or resources are needed, the group can then seek more time or resources

## Next Steps

- Report will be finalized by adding edits suggested by workgroup today
- Dawn will talk with Kathleen Horton in VDH Communications about designing manual insert and letter to driver education instructors
- Mike Scollins will be meeting with Representative Ann Pugh to discuss the workgroup's work
- Dawn will schedule another workgroup meeting in late January to prepare for April's activities.