I. **Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. and facilitated by Dr. Rosenkranz, council chair.

II. **Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2009 meeting without correction.

III. **Election of Vice Chair**

Dr. Rosenkranz opened the floor for nominations. After a brief discussion, Dr. Neiberger volunteered to take over this position. There were no objections and a motion was made and seconded to elect Dr. Neiberger vice chair for the council.

IV. **Staff Updates**

Ms. Kumar presented the following:

- Medicaid transplant statistics for the fiscal year 2008/2009
- Elimination of transplant authorizations and global payments for transplant evaluations with a brief history of the analysis process
- Potential changes re: automation of global transplant reimbursements
State Plan Amendment change deleting medicare and medicaid services (CMS) and organ procurement transplant network (OPTN) approval for bone marrow transplant programs
State Plan Amendment addition of intestinal/multivisceral global payment amount

There was a brief discussion on global payments for pediatric transplants and the need for legislative approval for funding.

V. **Discussion on Travel Time/Distance for Florida Panhandle Transplant Recipients**

Ms. Kumar introduced the issue with transplant centers on the East coast becoming reluctant to accept Medicaid recipients from the Florida panhandle as transplant candidates, due to time and travel distance from the transplant centers.

Discussion centered on transportation, relocation and housing coverage by Medicaid. Council requested that the specific organ and number of recipients affected be identified for presentation to the council at the next meeting.

VI. **Discussion on Out-of-State Referrals**

Ms. Kumar reported that there is conflict in Medicaid policy concerning pediatric transplant referrals to out-of-state facilities that do not have CMS approval.

Dr. Schuler led discussion identifying that free standing children’s hospitals or children’s hospitals affiliated with a university, do not usually seek CMS approval. A recommendation was made for staff to revise handbook language to read, “out-of-state pediatric transplant centers must meet all transplant program criteria listed in the Physician Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, except CMS certification.” A motion was made and seconded to approve this new policy language.

VII. **Discussion on Recertification of Medicaid Designated Transplant Facilities**

Discussion centered on how often and what type of data should be reviewed by the council for recertification of Medicaid designated transplant programs. The council recommended Medicaid recertification every three years following CMS recertification. Council to review the following for recertification:

1. CMS recertification report or letter and
2. Current SRTR data
A motion was made and seconded to review the above for recertification of Medicaid designated transplant programs.

VIII. Discussion on Live Donor Transplants

Mr. Bolin requested council opinion regarding whether or not live donor transplants are still investigational or are an accepted current medical option. Council’s discussion confirmed that live donor transplants are an accepted form of treatment but concerns centered on donor informed consent, donor risk, donor advocates, donor costs and Florida centers that perform live donor transplants. Mr. Bolin questioned the need for a separate living donor program designation. Council recommended that programs with CMS and United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) approval would be appropriate for live donor programs. Council recommended that CMS guidelines be used as a reference for living donor programs. Additionally, current programs would be grandfathered in for the time being.

Dr. Angelis gave a brief explanation on kidney organ transplant parity exchange.

IX. Planning for Next Meeting

Dr. Rosenkranz suggested that a few months in advance of the next meeting an OTAC member would be assigned to review organ specific SRTR data in preparation for Medicaid recertification of designated transplant programs.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.
The next Organ Transplant Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled for Monday, August 29, 2011 in Orlando, Florida Hospital, pending meeting space availability.

These minutes are a summary of what transpired at the meeting. An actual transcript is available with Medicaid Services as produced by Executive Court Reporting Services.

Action Items

1. Staff to identify specific organs and number of recipients affected by distance to transplant facility from the panhandle.
2. Revise handbook language to state, “Out-of-state pediatric transplant centers must meet all program criteria except CMS certification.”
3. Staff to send reminder to OTAC chair to assign a council member to review specific SRTR data for recertification of CMS approved transplant programs prior to yearly meetings.