



# Governor’s Organ Donation Advisory Committee Minutes

5.16.2022 | WebEx Meeting ID: 2454 615 0557



**Note Taker(s):** Virginia Beatty  
**Attending Members:** Deb Simaitis, Peter Nicastro, Mary Ann Burns, Kevin Lee, Lori Clark, and Virginia Beatty  
**Absentee Members:** Jan Finn  
**Partners/Guests:** Gina Wisch, Kim Harbur, Jake Buxton, Laurie Hines, Shelly Wehmeyer, and Annie Kuhl  
**DHSS Staff:** Steve Cramer, Sandra Hentges, Ian Collins  
**Called to order:** 9:03 am by Vice-Chairperson Deb Simaitis. Quorum present.

## WELCOME/APPROVALS (Introductions; Approval of Agenda and Minutes | Informational & Actionable)

- Agenda approved as presented
- Minutes approved as amended excluding Addendum 4. Change meeting date from “1.28.2022” to “2.28.2022” on Addendum 1. Change the year “2021” to “2022” on Addendum 2, page 1 and combine page 6 and 7. Change “brain dead” under Donor Care Unit to “eligible organ donors.” Change “because” to “became” on page 1 of Addendum 4. Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) distributed an alternative Addendum 4 for member review and future vote
- Remembered Chaplain Joan Marie Keiser (8.25.1936-4.13.2022), former committee member and Chairperson
- Thanked Kenny Kovacs for his committee service (February 2022)
- Mr. Phil Duncan’s service recognition plaque ordered and will be mailed to him

Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Amend February 2022 minutes and draft May 2022 minutes	Ms. Beatty	ASAP
Send picture of plaque and working to GODAC once received	Ms. Beatty	ASAP
Mail plaque to Mr. Duncan and Send Copy to Members	Ms. Beatty	ASAP

## Standing Reports Q & A (Informational & Actionable)

- Dashboard, no questions
- Organ Donor Program Fund Financial Trend, no questions
- Organ Donor Program Fund Expenditure Report, no questions. Missouri Association for Court Administration gift of \$8,205 received May 13, 2022
- Annual reports sent to license offices, public libraries, legislators, and the Governor’s office

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Post standing reports to GODAC Box Site	Mr. Nicastro, Ms. Beatty	Before Next Meeting

## PARTNER UPDATES (Informational)

- Updates provided by partners prior to meeting for attendees to read (Addendum 1). Each partner highlighted an important item during the meeting
- MTN saw a decline in COVID-19 referrals; previously over 50 percent of their referrals (January-February 2022)
- Mid-America’s Family House community open house is Saturday, May 21, 2022
- Saving Sight reported a shortage of supply media used to store corneas prior to transplant
- DESE is preparing for the International HOSA Conference
- Gift of Life met with Representative Mark Ellebracht in Jefferson City about the driver’s education bill. No bill movement. Ms. Harbur will be on a work sabbatical during the month of June
- The Department of Conservation recognized for the meeting space and hospitality along with all of their support for the Donor Family Recognition Day. Illinois passed Matthews’s Law, pending the Governor’s signature, which mimics Missouri’s Department of Conservation online hunting/fishing license and registry enrollment opportunity
- Missouri Kidney Program remains committed to the Donor Family Recognition Program through financial and staffing commitments. Kidney transplant assistance available. Income or assets not considered
- Department of Revenue reports Mobile identification continues to move forward

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS Informational & Actionable

### **High School Education Project Update** (Kim Harbur)

- Gift of Life (GOL) has extended the timeline for 50 school board presentations to the end of July. The plan is to reach all 500+ public school districts by 2025
- Only two school boards have said no at this time
- Ms. Mary Ann Burns is assisting GOL in developing a pilot program for regional superintendent meetings. The first meeting is in the fall in the Joplin area. Approximately 60 superintendents attend each regional meeting

### **SWOT/SSC\*** (Kevin Lee)

- New threat, definition of a certified organ procurement organization. Refer to new business
- Opportunity: educate transplant candidates how to ask their social worker about available resources to assist and aid them before, during, and after the transplant process
- Opportunity: educate public about the difference between the symbol and the sticker for the back of the license. Ms. Wisch indicates the other designations on the back of the license have the same issue. While information is available on the web, many do not read the information

### **2022 Legislative Update** (Virginia Beatty)

- SS SCS HB 2331 and CCS HCS2 SB 710 are Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed and sent to the Governor's Office. Organ donor language remained unchanged despite efforts to have some language changed or removed. If enacted, the program will have more latitude for programming
- Mr. Lee reported unprofessional and personal things said about their in-house counsel. The person is a lawyer lobbying, and has followed all guidelines and required registration. Completed all testimonial paperwork
- Legislative communication feedback is good

### **Opposition Letter-SB 1146 and CC HCS SBHB 2680** (Peter Nicastro)

- No comments received. No response from legislature
- Mr. Buxton indicated if the issues might contribute to other issues of a Christmas tree bill, and the committee wants to restate their opposition, direct a letter to the Governor's office. Go through appropriate channels

### **2022 Donor Family Recognition Program – A Look Back** (Ian Collins) (Addendum 2)

- One hundred and eighty-seven people attended honoring 89 donors. It was a good day. No major complaints, just a few hiccups. Lessons learned and notes recorded. Submit ideas for 2023 event to Mr. Collins

### **Removal Reasons** (Virginia Beatty)

- Reviewed report. Beginning April 4, the program began tracking the number of callers removing their name because of COVID; also reflected in the report
- The top three removal reasons are: 1) need more time, 2) a family loved one's experience (and may be similar to the discussion the committee had about Ms. Simaitis' experience), and 3) spiritual/religious beliefs
- If "other" is a large number, offer more choices including I changed my mind or I did not agree to be registered
- Data should help focus education efforts. Another report will be provided in about six months

### **Hospital Representative Suggestion** (Kevin Lee and Lori Clark)

- Mr. Lee and Ms. Clark recommend Josh Allee. He works for SSM Health that has more than one facility. SSM Health's overall system has the largest number of donors for MAT and 20% tissue donors. He has also worked for Saving Sight and is a donation advocate
- Mr. Allee did submit an application. Ms. Beatty will check with the Boards and Commissions office about the status of his appointment. Members were encouraged to call the Boards and Commissions Office and recommend Mr. Allee. Ms. Clark will check to make sure Mr. Allee still has an interest in the committee

### **Two Questions and Symbol vs. No Symbol** (Deb Simaitis)

- The difference in documents (license vs registry) can fuel the angst. Families trust the driver's license
- Less than one percent of donors registering through the license offices said no to the symbol. The sample size is small. Ms. Wisch and Ms. Beatty will provide additional data
  - It is important that registered donors talk to their family
  - Poverty rates impact mortality rates and authorization. In MAT's designated service area (1/3 Missouri, Southern Illinois and NE Arkansas), 16-18% of the community is African American and up to 35% of the families approached for organ donation are African American. Thirty-six percent waiting for a kidney transplant identify as African American
  - Missouri offers more options for its citizens, including the option of having a symbol or not

- The two questions were implemented (2014) when the committee decided it was more important to capture yes to donor designation
- Saving Sight does not want to lose out on people joining the registry. Society, as a whole, has a lot of distrust right now and through conversations hope to rebuild trust
- Some people want their name removed and the symbol off their license. Others feel that if the symbol is on the license, they will not receive care
- People tire of answering required questions during the licensure process and start saying no. Sometimes staff alters the questions. DOR continually reminds staff there is a reason questions are written the way they are and to present them as written. Health and Revenue work collaboratively to communicate with offices
- Educating donor families about the symbol occurs at time of authorization (if needed)
- Response depends on what the donor family comprehends in the moment of their loved one's dying/death
- MAT surveyed 300 donor families (families that said yes, said no, said yes to organs and no to tissues, or vice versa; and families that said yes and loved one did not meet medical criteria). The results highlight that each family is unique in their grief, in what they hear, and with what is happening. Sometimes there is an issue when an extended family member tries to influence or change the donation decision at the last minute

#### **Age and Donation/Research and Donation (Deb Simaitis)**

- **Age:** Ms. Simaitis reiterated her personal experience as did Ms. Harbur and Ms. Burns
- There is a mixed message about age and donation. The committee has the opportunity to determine a unified message to convey to the public
  - If individuals 75 years of age and older are going to be ruled out as donors, then what is the sense in registering if you are older than 75?
  - Messaging suggestions:
    - "Potential organ donor regardless of age, race, etc.," or
    - "Consider yourself a potential organ donor and at the time of your death...."
  - Linguistically you are never a potential donor if there is an absolute bar
    - The OPO only has FDA approval to procure tissue gifts; to procure the gift, the gift first must have a home
    - Tissue processors change criteria daily, including age
    - COVID influenced, and continues to influence, individuals' decisions about surgery
    - Medical eligibility affects organ, tissue and eye donation; the first algorithmic assessment is age. It typically happens behind the scene with a medical team member
    - When a family brings up donation early, it is unknown if medical staff are prepared
    - Ms. Clark is taking that point away for future hospital development, primarily nurses
    - If Simaitis' donation issue can make things better for other families then he gave a significant donation
  - Committee focus history: first organ donation, then eye, and now tissue. Rules and demand are different; there is always a demand for organs; not always true for tissues
    - Age does not matter is a correct statement for organ donation because medical suitability determines donor status said Nicastro
    - The Committee needs to be careful when communicating about tissue donation
  - If the conversation had been, "We have enough tissue right now and will not be recovering your loved ones tissues. We are so grateful that you and your loved one considered donation", would that have been better? Ms. Simaitis said yes. The best would be the nurse saying, "I have a representative from \_\_\_\_\_ on the phone for you." Then the representative needs to explain everything
  - Ms. Burns believes more people have the conversation now. Many were afraid or uncomfortable with the conversation in the past. Since her initial experience (negative), several family members became donors
    - Professional education is important; know what to say, when to say it, and how to say it compassionately
  - Current health care situation includes a nursing shortage, traveling nurses, satellite and remote health care
    - Professional education is constant for the procurement agencies
    - Pre-mentions of donation by hospital staff decreases authorization rates by 10-20%
    - The organ transplant system is fluid. For example, a donated kidney with a score of 86, may or may not be transplanted (zero is good and 100 is poor)
    - MAT's hospital agreements changed from 90 minutes to three hours in advance of goals of care and end of life exams to facilitate family communication and donor authorization

- Medical processes do not matter to families in the moment. The nurse should not be delivering the news or conversing with the family about donation
- Community Health Workers serve as liaison between the medical community and the patients and if trained and well versed may be able to assist. Availability (24/7/365) and cost are factors
  - Procurement agencies prefer directly interfacing with families (by telephone or in person)
- Typically, tissue discussions and family support are over the telephone
- Education about a specialized life-saving health care initiative is difficult. OPOs do not want the public ruling themselves out because medical and age criteria are in a constant state of change
  - To help clarify the point, Ms. Clark shared a family physician informed a young African-America woman that she could not be a donor because of sickle cell. That is false.
  - The message needs to be broad
  - The word potential is very realistic term to use
  - Ms. Clark recommends that the broad community message remain unchanged and that Ms. Simaitis' perspective can help refine the message
  - GOL's tissue donation messaging is tissue donation is not a secondary donation; it is equally as important
  - More tissue donation messages need to circulate including on Facebook and other mediums
  - Ms. Beatty recommended a small group gather to review some of the educational messages
- Ms. Harbur revisited asking older individuals at the DMV about being a registered donor. She shared a lot of students say to her; I am a donor because I saw that on my mom, or grandmother's driver license. There is a light educational message that has the potential to spread through a family and beyond
  - Families do not care if the gift was an organ, tissue or cornea; their loved one saved a life
  - Families see lifesaving and life healing as the same thing; organ donation
  - It's the heroic and self-less act of saying yes that families celebrate
- **Research:** Research gifts are need driven, which continually fluctuates. The OPOs respond to demand. After screening for age and medical eligibility occurs for tissue recovery, and tissue authorization obtained, then authorization for research obtained. If the tissue processor finds something wrong with the tissue for transplant, the authorization for research allows the tissue to be used in that manner
  - Tissue processors do not request OPOs to send tissues exclusively for research
  - The OPOs do not track authorization for tissue research, no data available to review

**Donate Life Missouri Facebook Page**

- Tabled

**Donate Life America State Team**

- Tabled

**Action Items**

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Project Updates	Kim Harbur	Next Meeting
Removal Reasons Report	Virginia Beatty	Nov/Dec 2022
Contact Boards & Commissions Office (About Allee)	Members	ASAP
Age and Donation Community Message-Convener Sub-Committee to Refine Language	Virginia Beatty	ASAP
Increase tissue donation messages	Members, Partners, State	Throughout the Year

**NEW BUSINESS (Informational & Actionable)**

**Election of Officers**

- Mr. Lee nominated for committee chairperson. No other nominations. Nomination accepted. By a vote of five yeas and one abstain, Mr. Lee elected as chairperson
- Role of vice chairperson discussed. Ms. Lori Clark nominated. No other nominations. Nomination accepted. By a vote of five yeas and one abstain, Ms. Clark elected as vice chairperson
- New officer terms begin at the close of the meeting

**New Threat – OPO Definition Change**

- Health and Human Services Budget, page 83 of the President's HHS budget addendum, states that anybody can be a certified organ procurement organization. There are many concerns including conflict of interest, quality of care, and a disregard for specialized medicine

## Social Model Home – Columbia, Missouri

- Second social model home in Missouri at the St. Raymond’s House. It is entirely volunteer and donation based, and will not accept insurance. The first home is in Joplin. Facility expected to open in January 2023. Referral by hospice agency needed. Home wants to connect to MTN about donation after death
  - People can choose the model home for end-of-life care instead of their own home or hospital
  - Meals will be provided by local churches
  - Families will be able to stay at bedside and not have to worry about providing care

## Missouri State Fair

- Program working with the Revenue to have information on their table. There is a pending inquiry with Conservation about including information in their area tool. QR code on material will aid in registering donors
- For 2023, program may become a sponsor. With sponsorship comes announcements about your organization several times a day, a booth, and several other opportunities
  - If recently passed legislation becomes law, funding for sponsorship will be available. Sponsorships range from \$11K-\$60K. Pre-printed material goes to thousands. Need to determine audience and location for education
  - We need to figure out what we are going to do with Donate Life Missouri logo
  - MAT offered to assist with sponsorship (at an appropriate level) and requested an air-conditioned building

## Bylaw Review

- Mr. Nicastro requested feedback. What do you not like? As a follow up to the first question, is that something suitable to restrict with a bylaw change? Bylaws written to be flexible and provide a necessary framework without restricting the committee beyond what is in statute. The Bylaws, to date, have served the committee well
  - Framework is flexible and great
  - Article 2 Section 4 discussion held. Leave as written was the decision

## Action Items

	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
OPO: Definition Change Update	Kevin Lee and Lori Clark	Next Meeting
Updates: Missouri State Fair, Bylaws	Ian Collins	Next Meeting
Complete Bylaw Review	Committee	Vote, Next Meeting

## GOOD OF THE ORDER (Informational & Actionable)

### Closing Comments/Thoughts/Suggestions

- **New Regulations Impacting Organ Procurement Organization Contracts**
  - New regulations will begin impacting OPO four-year contracts beginning in August
  - OPO performance evaluation in 2024 determines 2026 contract renewal; the top 25% (Tier 1) automatic renewal; Tier 2 can apply for renewal, Tier 3 decertified and contract either bid or assigned to Tier 1 OPO
  - It is anticipated that there will be a significant number of OPOS that will be decertified
  - No target goal/measure set; federal government evaluation plan is to compare OPOs against each other
  - Unknown if evaluation will be kept separate or merged during the second four year contract period
- Add appointment of members as a standing agenda item; Committee important and a voice for Missouri
- Ms. Burns was thankful for the meeting materials, had issues printing from Box
- Ms. Beatty will send out instructions before the next meeting on how to print items from Box
- Mr. Lee and Ms. Clark were congratulated on their appointment

## Action Items

	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Update: New OPO Regulations and Performance Metrics	Kevin Lee and Lori Clark	Next Meeting
Box Printing Instructions	Virginia Beatty	Before Next Meeting

## NEXT MEETING (Informational & Actionable)

### Agenda/Logistics

- Agenda Items: Committee Appointments, Set Agenda Items, Tabled Items
- Next meeting will be in late August or early September

## Adjourn (Informational)

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm  
Approved: September 9, 2022 Meeting

Deb Simaitis

## GODAC Meeting 5.16.2022

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## Partner Reports/Updates

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### Midwest Transplant Network (Ms. Clark)

#### Community/Stakeholder Engagement

- End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative – MO Hospitals
  - MU Health Care
  - Research Medical Center
  - Saint Luke's Hospital
  - Children's Mercy
- MTN Excellence in Donation Awards Ceremony – May 3, Kansas City
- MTN Legacy Walk – Saturday June 4, WWI Museum and Memorial, Kansas City
- Kansas City hosting North American Transplant Coordinator's Organization (NATCO) Annual Meeting August 2-5
- Columbia Celebration of Heroes – Courtyard Marriott, Columbia
- NKF Mid-Missouri Kidney Walk – Sunday September 25, Columbia
- MTN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – September 2022 kickoff
  - Donor Memorial Garden Dedication – September 24, MTN office, Kansas City
- MU Blood Drive – October 10-13, 2022, Columbia

#### Donor Activity and Updates

- Direct Care Unit (DCU)
  - Projected completion late Spring 2022, first donor early/mid-summer and expected to go operational in July
  - 7 beds, 2+ operating rooms
  - Open House – June 8, 2022
- COVID-19
  - Decline in COVID-19 referrals, which had been over 50 percent of referrals in January and February
  - 18 COVID + organ donors (Jan-9, Feb-6, Mar-3)
  - Impact on Tissue Processors' acceptance of tissue gifts continues
- DATA: January-March 2022
  - Organ Donors – 97
  - Organ Transplants – 243
  - Tissue Donors – 324

### Mid-America Transplant (Mr. Lee)

- Family House community open house is Saturday, May 21, 2022. Supply and labor shortages impacted the timeline and budget. Sculptor Don Wiggins completed a 22" medallion that will hang in the Family House entrance. If there is a vacancy within the House, it may be opened to Bone Marrow Transplant patients. Patients should be begin arriving in June.
- The first of three First of three candlelight vigils will be June 2nd in St. Louis.
- Partnering with the St. Louis Cardinals, fans4life.org, with monthly registry drives at the Cardinals games.
- Donate Life Day in Springfield will be July 31st at Hammons Field.

- St. Louis Blues captain Ryan Riley's mother is a living kidney donor; directed donation. Story was part of a Mother's Day video

### Foundation

- MAT's foundation has an annual budget of \$150,000 for individuals recovering from or applying to receive a transplant and have not ever hit the maximum budget in 15 years.
  - Most expenditures are pre-transplant dental work related.
  - Turnover of social workers impacts the assistance opportunities and requires continual education efforts.

### Saving Sight (Ms. Kuhl)

- There is a shortage of supply media used to store corneas; a nation-wide eye bank issue.
- Connecting with volunteers and working on public education efforts.
- The Eye Bank Association of America, Saving Sight's accrediting agency, is having its first in-person annual meeting in June

### Gift of Life (GOL) (Ms. Harbur)

#### Life Savers High School Outreach | Kansas City

- On track to complete 550 classroom presentations this school year, our goal was 500.
- Kim Hamilton (kidney recipient) hired and began training April 1 and is already presenting in the classrooms. She also is assisting with school board presentations and will be creating a Train the Trainer Manual for future Life Saver Educators
- Examining the Life Savers program this summer to see what the next steps are moving forward. We will hire another educator, which will free Kim Harbur from the classroom so she can focus more on [learnlifesavers.com](http://learnlifesavers.com) and St. Louis.
- Met with Representative Mark Ellebrecht in Jeff City regarding his bill and mandating Drivers Education in all high schools, doubt that bill is going anywhere.

#### Transplant Mentors

- Revamped and revitalized the program.
  - Online training manual.
  - Surveying all mentors.
  - We have 63 active mentors at this time.
  - The Transplant Mentors cards used in waiting rooms and new patient packets have been refreshed with a new look.
- Next *Transplant Talks* is May 25. Held quarterly, the virtual platform includes topics of interests for transplant recipients, living donors and care partners.

#### Learnlifesavers.com | School Board Presentations

- The eight Regional Captains set a goal of 50 total school board presentations for this school year.
  - The Captains are presenting to school boards with great success.
  - The goal is to reach 50 school boards by the end of July. With staff shortages some challenges have occurred.
- We are exploring the opportunity to present to the regional meetings for Superintendents.

- There are about eight regions in the state that meet monthly with about 65 Superintendents in attendance at each meeting.
- Mary Ann Burns is developing a pilot presentation that will begin in the fall.

### **Life Savers High School Outreach | St. Louis**

- Suzy Ward is presenting both virtually and in person in the St. Louis schools.
  - Goal for the 2021-2022 school year is 50 presentations in 14 high schools.
  - Once an educator is hired for the Kansas City area, Kim will be spending more time in St. Louis (goal is 2x a month) to assist Suzy with her success.

### **Missouri Kidney Program (MoKP) (Ms. Hines)**

- Missouri Kidney Program remains committed to the Donor Family Recognition Program through financial and staffing commitments.
- Kidney transplant assistance of up to \$1,000 per individual is available. Income or asset limits do not apply. Assistance covers travel, childcare, recovery stay, and other expenses associated with transplant. Income or asset limits do not apply. Assistance covers travel, childcare, recovery stay, and other expenses associated with transplant
- Premium coverage is also available
- My Transplant Ready Workbook is still relevant and available.
  - Recent changes to quality metrics may be the driving force behind the dialysis centers utilizing the workbooks.
  - Workbook walks dialysis patients seeking a kidney transplant through the major parts of the process. It also allows the person to record their journey and important information that they need to have with them
- Inside Columbia, a local paper, printed an article about Ms. Hines paired kidney donation. The story highlights:
  - Living donation,
  - Kidney disease and transplant,
  - The state's registry, and
  - How to become a donor.
- The Missouri Kidney Program is partnering with the Department to try and keep people from entering into end-stage renal disease and dialysis. Probability of living for five years on dialysis is 50%

### **Department of Revenue (DOR) (Ms. Wisch)**

- Light legislative year.
- Mobile identification continues to move forward; an app to have a copy of your driver license in digital format.
  - Includes all statutory requirements, including the registry and symbol questions.
- Approximately 15 license offices are in transition; either as new contractors or renewal contracts.
  - New offices mean new training, monitoring for compliance, etc.
  - Revenue is more aggressive about compliance issues, including the questions that are statutorily mandated.
- Recent communications with local license office staff included messages about the registry removal forms. Questions arise when license office staff take on scope outside of their mandatory requirements, including did a form get missed, did the forms get submitted in a timely manner, if they were submitted did they get lost, etc.
  - The local license office staffs' responsibility is to ask the questions of people, record responses, know about the logo and sticker options, and pass out information. It is not the offices' role to help remove someone from the registry, rather, to provide the "how to" information.



- It is each individual's responsibility to complete the removal process.
- Ms. Wisch and Ms. Beatty sent a joint letter about the information cards and forms earlier this month
- Fifty percent of legacy document holders are through the license renewal process with a 30-40% Real-ID opt-in rate.
  - Many individuals already have passports,
  - Some people do not travel very often, and
  - Others question if the real ID is a real license.
- Revenue will be at the Missouri State Fair and share information about the Real ID, Mobile ID, etc. The program will also have information available at the table

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## Donor Family Recognition Program – A Look Back

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- One hundred and eighty-seven people attended to honor 89 donors
- The event was in three different locations. It was a good day with no major complaints; just a few hiccups along the way
- Mr. Collins apologized to Ms. Harbur for failing to send them packets of information and not having a volunteer assignment for them
- Several agreed the Truman building activity was good and nice to hear the First Lady's, Ms. Parson, story
- In 2017, the first donor family recognition day honored five donor families compared to this year's 89 donors
- Donor authorization rates increase by one-to-two percent each year; the state should anticipate event growth
- The crafts were very popular, especially the bracelet table; need to manage a bit different next year to address congestion and improve access for families
- Ms. Clark noted MTN's experience with donor families, it is a lonely feeling for donor families when they first arrive and do not know where to go, what the next step is, or what is expected. There were a lot of options available to families, so maybe a little card for capital exploration or something like that for future events
- Ms. Clark observed that families were very happy to be there
- Ms. Harbur suggested having someone near the security entrance to guide the families and perhaps hand out a card for the day's events/activities and as a welcome
- Mr. Nicastro and Ms. Simaitis did a great job speaking and sharing their stories
- Partners will send out the invitations next year with RSVPs being sent directly to the department
- Participant feedback indicated it was a long day, too much time between activities, and parking
- Considerations for next year include utilizing local park areas around the river and maintaining some Capital component
- Ms. Wisch suggested calling and asking if Departments that have reserved parking for employees to ask the employees if they are willing to give up their parking space for that day. Some are working remotely and may only have need for the parking space one day
- Lot 13 is a large lot yet it is not an easy walk to the capitol. Other considerations would be to get an organization to volunteer to shuttle participants from a parking area
- Most families did participate in the garden
- Submit any ideas for next year to Mr. Collins