

**Minutes**  
**MSSNY's Committee on Bioethics**  
**May 3rd, 2024**  
**8:30AM via zoom**

**Present**

Jeffrey Berger, MD Chair  
Arthur Cooper, MD Vice-Chair  
Patricia Bomba, MD  
Stanley Bukowski, MD  
Laura Cunnington, MD  
Loren Wissner Green, MD  
Daniel Nicoll, MD  
Joel Potash, MD  
Edward Powers III, MD  
Renee Solomon, MD  
Anthony Vine, MD

**Excused**

John O'Brien, MD  
Cheryl Stier, Alliance  
David Zuckerman, Student

**Absent**

Vaidehi Mujumdar, MD  
Jane Marie Simpson, DO  
Corinne Salonsen-Lojos, MD

**Invited Guests**

Jerome Cohen, MSSNY President  
Nancey Agard, RN  
Deborah Bush

**Staff**

Patricia Clancy, Sr. VP/Managing  
Director  
Brian M. Land, Administrative

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**1) Welcome, new vice chair and new members**

**2) Adoption of February 2, 2024 minutes - approved**

**3) Organ Donation Presentation: Nancey P. Agard, RN, MS, Director, Bureau of Organ Donation and Transplantation, New York State Department of Health, Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Office of Primary Care and Health Systems**

**Management** – Nancey Agard provided insight on the New York State Donate Life Registry, of which the DMV is currently the largest registration source. She also discussed the responsibilities of the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO), as well as organ allocation rules, living donation and the current status of organ donation in New York State. This led to a discussion from the committee, exploring topics such as the ethical considerations of organ donation, the length of the organ donation waitlist and the impact of proposed federal changes to OPO.

**4) 2024 House of Delegates Action**

- a) Principles of Public Health** – The 2024 HOD adopted this resolution as MSSNY policy.
- b) Medical Aid in Dying** – Dr. Stanley Bukowski expressed his disapproval that MSSNY, as noted by Pat Clancy, has shifted it's position from supporting previous assisted suicide policy, to supporting

26 the Medical Aid in Dying act. It was remarked that physicians should  
27 continue to retain their choice to opt in or out of any processes and  
28 procedures outlined in any medical aid in dying legislation. The  
29 reference committee during the House of Delegates meeting in May  
30 fully supported this. Dr. Joel Potash expressed concerns over hospice  
31 accessibility as well as the ability of certain populations to fully consent  
32 to be administered the drugs that would end their lives. Dr. Jeffrey  
33 Berger also expressed his concerns over the impact of medical aid in  
34 dying on marginalized populations in New York State. Dr. Dan Nicoll  
35 raised concern over safe and effective means for the euthanasia drugs,  
36 immunity from lawsuits and potential coercion issues. He also  
37 discussed the implications of using EMTALA to enforce institutional  
38 compliance with medical aid in dying.

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40 **5) Topics for next meeting** – The committee discussed adding topics such as  
41 organ donation, compassionate exception for prescription drugs, interstate  
42 transportation of abortion pills and gender-affirming surgery for minors to the  
43 agenda for the next meeting

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45 **6) Adjournment: Next meeting October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 -**  
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