

**OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc Geography Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2018  
Conference Call**

**Kevin O'Connor, MS, PA, Chair**

**Introduction**

The OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc Geography Committee met by Conference Call on 04/13/18 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Recommendations Report Draft Review

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

**1. Recommendations Report Draft – Review and Voting**

Summary of discussion:

The Committee Chair “the Chair” reviewed the principles identified by the Committee and discussed during the Committee’s meeting in Chicago. A committee member stated that it would be more appropriate to remove the “should’ s” from the principles, and that Principle 1, which emphasizes donor organs as a national resource, should be the primary principle and other principles are supplementary. There was agreement that Principle 1 can be a part of the overarching principle, and the remaining principles are subject to the overarching goal. It was stated that the principle referencing “potential donor supply” was contentious and that it would be preferable to remove it as a modifier. There was agreement that “potential” organs cannot be distributed and the focus was on actual organs available. There was no fundamental disagreement with the principles but there was agreement to revise the principles to remove the ambiguity.

The Committee discussed that Principle 3, which emphasizes organ distribution should reduce organ discards, should include the references resource utilization that is currently in Principle 4. Additionally, there was agreement that the term “wastage” should be used to maintain consistency with the Final Rule. The Committee agreed to modify Principle 4, which references resource utilization, to emphasize that geographic distribution may be constrained to increase efficiencies of donation and transplant system resources.

The Committee voted to approve the principles in the recommendation to OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors, 13 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain.

The Chair reviewed the three distribution frameworks identified by the Committee during the Committee’s meeting in Chicago. There was a question regarding the potential downsides to the Distribution without Boundaries concept. A committee member expressed concern over the lack of information and previous analyses related to this framework. There was agreement that the concept is advantageous but there would need to be extensive discussion to work out the parameters of the framework. It was noted that extensive discussion was required for any of the proposed distribution frameworks.

The Committee voted to approve the themes of geographic organ distribution models in the recommendation to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors, 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The Committee discussed the recommendations and next steps to be included in the Committee’s report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. The committee discussed their intent to receive feedback on the proposed principles and recommended distribution frameworks. There were questions regarding the recommendation for organ-specific committees to perform a policy analysis of current organ distribution policies. There was

agreement that a gap analysis of some kind was important and should be a recommendation, but the specificity that the organ-specific committees will perform the analysis was removed.

The Committee voted to approve the proposed next steps as recommendations to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors, 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Teleconference
- May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Teleconference