

OPTN Network Operations Oversight Committee

Meeting Summary

January 12, 2024

Webex

Daniel Yip, MD, Chair

Introduction

The Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC) met via Webex on 1/12/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Review Member Facing API Dashboard
3. Member Security Project Update
4. Revising Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System
 - a. Additional Background
 - b. Workgroup Recommendations
 - c. Draft Policy/Bylaw Language
 - d. High-Level Timeline
5. Closed Session

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

1. Welcome

Dan Yip, Chair of the Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC), welcomed committee members and advisors, and provided an overview of the agenda.

2. Review Member Facing API Dashboard

Marty Crenlon, Healthcare Integration Program Manager, and Read Urban, Business Intelligence and Data Products Manager, reviewed the member facing API dashboard with the committee. Mr. Crenlon explained that there is a new API dashboard on the OPTN Computer System Data Portal that extends the public version that is accessible on the OPTN website. He shared that the objective in showing the NOOC the dashboard was to review the dashboard's contents and layout. Mr. Crenlon explained that the dashboard will show electronic data submission rates, APIs, and file imports per center. He explained that content is tailored to OPTN members based on their member type. Mr. Crenlon noted that the data is refreshed on a monthly basis and data will be regularly updated as integrations are introduced, changed, or retired.

Mr. Crenlon previewed the public facing dashboard and shared how the member facing dashboard differs. He noted that the contents of the member facing dashboard illustrate how much manual data entry is being avoided due to current integrations, how much manual data entry could be avoided through adoption of current integrations, and which centers are leading with integrations.

Mr. Urban then provided a demonstration of the member facing API dashboard for the committee.

Summary of Discussion:

A committee advisor inquired if the NOOC can provide feedback on the data provided before the dashboard goes live. Mr. Urban explained that if there is substantive feedback from the NOOC, they could discuss changes before the dashboard is available to members. A committee member inquired if there is a way for the dashboard to show which members are actively pursuing API adoption.

A representative from HRSA inquired how the NOOC planned to utilize the information provided in the member facing API dashboards and if the committee planned on implementing any educational support to members. The representative also inquired if the committee considered how to increase API utilization among OPTN members. The representative suggested that the NOOC determine what is hindering members from utilizing APIs and how the committee could utilize this information to encourage API adoption. The committee chair stated that the first step is to educate members and provide data on API usage. They stated that utilizing APIs could increase safety and quality when it comes to data, but was likely outside of the scope of the committee. A committee advisor suggested that if the OPTN wanted to increase members adoption of APIs, then the OPTN should implement policy that mandates API adoption.

The committee discussed the dashboard's capabilities and the layout of the information. The committee also discussed whether dividing the OPTN Data System information by region would be useful to members. The committee explained that they did not perceive an added value in separating the information by region but did see potential value in separating the information by center. A committee advisor suggested that the information be separated by users that use specific vendors. The committee discussed the potential benefits detailing various vendors used throughout the community and how vendor use differs across member types. A committee member noted that vendor information at member organizations is not information that is provided to the contractor and likely not something the contractor would be able to incorporate into the member facing API dashboards. Mr. Crenlon confirmed that the contractor does not have data on which vendors members are utilizing. A representative from HRSA inquired how the Data Advisory Committee (DAC) could be involved in the member facing API dashboards and how they could collaborate on data collection. A representative from HRSA asked the NOOC to identify ways that the contractor can improve member facing API dashboard.

The committee chair commented that currently, it is important for the dashboard be available to members for their knowledge, and then later when all the information is sufficiently provided, then the OPTN can consider requiring API adoption among members.

3. Member Security Project Update

Terry Doolittle, Manager Member Security Program, provided an update to the NOOC on the member security project. Mr. Doolittle shared that the first third of members have been sent notifications requiring their attestations. He shared that the OPTN has been collaborating with members to discuss different controls, information to be submitted, gaps in their system, and where systems could improve. He shared that members have shared concerns about having to submit attestations for each institution that is a member. Mr. Doolittle shared that if a transplant hospital has an HLA lab, members will need to submit two attestations.

Mr. Doolittle shared that attestations are due for the first third of members on February 18, 2024.

Summary of Discussion:

The committee discussed how many members have submitted their attestations thus far and whether they provided sufficient information.

4. Revising Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System

Courtney Jett, Policy Analyst, reviewed the conditions for access to the OPTN Computer System with the committee. Ms. Jett shared that the goals for the discussion were to review the interconnection security agreements (ISAs), review workgroup recommendations for policy language, discuss the draft policy and bylaw language, and review high-level project and implementation timelines.

Ms. Jett shared that a data use agreement (DUA) set standards for how someone is able to access data, and an ISA is a security term for when someone can interconnect with the OPTN Computer System. She shared that the standards for someone to connect to the OPTN Computer System are based on NIST 800-53 controls, which state that the OPTN needs to document, authorize, review, or update ISAs with OPTN member organizations that utilize APIs to access OPTN data. She shared that a DUA applies to every member that accesses the OPTN Computer System, whether they access through APIs or not, and ISAs apply only to members that access the OPTN Computer System utilizing APIs. Ms. Jett noted that DUAs and ISAs are separate and distinct from one another.

Ms. Jett shared that a workgroup was created to review the policy and bylaw language on behalf of the NOOC and make recommendations for the full committee to review. Ms. Jett shared that the goals of the workgroup were to develop recommendations for the NOOC's review of OPTN policy and bylaws questions. She shared the questions the workgroup discussed, and the workgroup's recommendations and rationale.

Ms. Jett presented the goals of the draft policy and bylaw language, explaining that the goals are to: require OPTN membership as a condition of access to the OPTN Computer System and reduce potential barriers to OPTN business membership, limit reasons for access to the OPTN Computer System to facilitating organ transplantation and fulfilling OPTN Obligations, require all members who access the OPTN Computer System to execute a DUA and ISA with the OPTN, and require OPTN business members who access the OPTN Computer System to follow the same information security requirements that apply to other member types. Ms. Jett then discussed the changes to the policy and bylaw language with the committee.

Ms. Jett shared a high-level timeline specific to DUAs and ISAs. She shared that the NOOC is currently in the policy development phase and is working to develop a program for the distribution and collection of ISAs. She shared that the NOOC will pilot DUAs and ISAs once the NOOC has reviewed the templates for each. Ms. Jett noted that the draft DUA and ISA language, once approved by the committee, will be added to the policy proposal so members are able to review the templates and provide feedback during public comment. Next, Ms. Jett shared that the NOOC will select an internal tool for collection and distribution of DUAs and ISAs and develop a communication strategy, to hopefully deploy the program in October 2024. Ms. Jett shared that the goal would be to complete all DUAs and ISAs by March 2025.

Ms. Jett presented the next steps are to incorporate NOOC feedback into revised policy and bylaws language, review draft DUA and ISA formats, and vote on the policy and bylaw language for special public comment.

Summary of Discussion:

The Chair stated that they hoped the committee could vote on policy and bylaw language during their next meeting.

5. Closed Session

The committee met in a closed session.

Attendance

- **Committee Members and Advisors**
 - Bruno Mastroianni
 - Colleen McCarthy
 - Daniel Yip
 - Edward Hollinger
 - James Pittman
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Laura Butler
 - Melissa McQueen
 - Paul Connelly
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Christopher McLaughlin
 - Cle Diggins
 - Cliff Myers
 - Jacqueline Rodriguez
 - Manjot Singh
 - Vanessa Arriola
 - Vinay Vuyyuru
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alicia Hennie
 - Anna Messmer
 - Courtney Jett
 - Dale Smith
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - Julie Chatman
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Liz Robbins Callahan
 - Marty Crenlon
 - Michael Ghaffari
 - Morgan Jupe
 - Nadine Cahalan
 - Read Urban
 - Susie Sprinson
 - Terry Doolittle
 - Tiwan Nicholson