

**OPTN Board of Directors
Meeting Summary
September 5, 2023
Webex**

**Dianne LaPointe Rudow, ANP-BC, DNP, FAAN, President
Richard Formica, MD, Vice President**

Introduction

The Board of Directors met via Webex on 09/05/2023 to discuss the following agenda items and public comment items:

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. OPTN Task Force on Efficiency

The following is a summary of the Board of Directors discussions.

1. Welcome & Announcements

Dianne LaPointe Rudow, OPTN President, welcomed the Board to the meeting and presented the OPTN Task Force on Efficiency. The objective of the meeting was to provide the Board with an overview of the Task Force on Efficiency, including the scope and responsibilities, timeline, communications plan, committee appointment plan, and potential impacts to the OPTN budget. Dr. LaPointe Rudow introduced the Task Force and explained that the Board that the Task Force is an initiative that came out of the June Board Meeting.

2. OPTN Task Force on Efficiency

Dr. LaPointe Rudow explained that the Task Force has been developed to address inefficiencies throughout the community. The Task Force hopes to address the increase in deceased donor kidney non-use and the increase in organs allocated out of sequence. Dr. LaPointe Rudow shared that although there has been an increase in organ transplants in recent years, there has also been an increase in organ non-use. The Task Force plans to address these issues before other organs are implemented into the continuous distribution framework. Dr. LaPointe Rudow noted that the Lung Transplantation Committee has established a work group to evaluate some of the efficiency challenges that have resulted from launching the continuous distribution of lungs.

The Task Force will utilize resources that have already been published about allocation efficiency, including the OPTN ad hoc Systems Performance Committee (SPC) Report and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASSEM) Report on Realizing the Promise of Equity in the Organ Transplantation System.

The Task Force will engage the entire community for feedback on what is contributing to the non-use of organs and the allocation of organs out of sequence. The goal of the Task Force is to identify potential solutions and processes that will promote efficiency, and then implement these improvements by means of standardized practices and collaboration with OPTN committees. The Task Force hopes to advise the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), and the community at-large on what can be done to address efficiency moving forward.

Dr. LaPointe Rudow shared that the key responsibilities of the Task Force are to:

- Evaluate existing data and recommendations regarding system challenges and improvements
- Engage directly and frequently with the community to obtain data, feedback and suggestions
- Prioritize issues to address and recommend both short-term improvements and long-term strategies to address larger challenges
- Update the Executive Committee and Board of Directors frequently

The Task Force will continue community engagement during regional meetings to align with the OPTN strategic planning process. Dr. LaPointe Rudow explained that community engagement will be one of the main drivers of the Task Force's efforts, and the priorities of the Task Force may shift based on community feedback. The Task Force plans to provide significant opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the process, even if they are not a member of the Task Force. Dr. LaPointe Rudow shared the communications plan, the appointment process, the potential co-chairs of the Task Force, and the potential impact to the OPTN budget. Dr. LaPointe Rudow presented the potential impact the Task Force could have on the continuous distribution timeline.

Summary of discussion:

The Board discussed the importance of addressing efficiency issues before implementing more policies focused on broader distribution through the continuous distribution framework. The Chair of the Pancreas Transplantation Committee, actively working on continuous distribution, agreed that it is important to adjust the continuous distribution timeline to focus on efficiency.

The Board agreed that IT resources are of the utmost importance when addressing efficiency. Andrea Tietjen, Treasurer of the OPTN, stated that it is important for the Board to develop a flexible budget for work like the Task Force, noting that it should not be limited by the constraints of the budget.

A Board member suggested the Task Force analyze how the entire system views allocation in order to improve efficiency. The Board discussed how performance metrics may impact organ non-use and allocations out of sequence. They agreed that it is important for the Task Force to consider the impact these performance metrics may have on system inefficiencies.

A Board member asked who from in the community will be involved in the Task Force. Dr. LaPointe Rudow explained that everyone within the transplant community, whether it be surgeons, physicians, coordinators, patients, patient families, or OPO leaders, will all be included in the Task Force. The Board also discussed the role the Board of Directors will play in the Task Force. A Board member suggested renaming the Task Force to exemplify how important this work is to the entire transplant community.

A Board member stated that it is important to have support from the government to address efficiency. It was noted that because the Task Force could potentially operate under multiple contracting organizations in the year to come, it is important that there is understanding from our government colleagues on how important this effort is. A representative from HRSA stated that HRSA is supportive of the Board of Directors being the policymakers of the OPTN. They said that HRSA is monitoring the work closely and will not interfere with efforts to improve system efficiency.

The Board discussed efforts to ensure work is not duplicated, and how committees will be involved in the process. Dr. LaPointe Rudow commented that collaboration and integration between the Task Force and Committees will be an integral part of the Task Force.

Vote:

The OPTN Board of Directors approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the OPTN Board of Directors supports the Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Committees as they continue to move toward an equitable Continuous Distribution allocation framework and appreciated the work done to date to customize the framework to the clinical needs specific to those in need of kidney and pancreas transplants; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the impact the ultimate adoption of the Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata will have on the transplant community, and the opportunity presented to have this policy address significant issues related to non-use/non-utilization and out of sequence allocation; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the OPTN Board of Directors directs the Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Committees to ensure that any future proposal for Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata considers how the framework will impact the following goals:

- Decreased non-use/non-utilization of kidneys and pancreata
- Decreased out of sequence allocation of kidneys
- Consideration of expedited placement pathways for kidneys at a high risk of non-use; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Committees are asked to report back to the OPTN Executive Committee on the incorporation of these goals prior to the approval of any future public comment cycles related to an aspect of the Continuous Distribution framework; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Committees are relived of their previous commitment to submitting a proposal for consideration of the OPTN Board of Directors at their June 2024 meeting and shall pursue a timeline for the adoption of the proposal that aligns with the work outlined in this directive.

The meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 22, 2023
- October 25, 2023
- November 29, 2023
- December 4, 2023

Attendance

- **Board Members**
 - Alan Langnas
 - Andrea Tietjen
 - Andrew Kao
 - Christopher Jones
 - Colleen McCarthy
 - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
 - Emily Blumberg
 - George Surratt
 - Heather Hunt
 - Jennifer Lau
 - Jerry McCauley
 - Jim Sharrock
 - Julie Spear
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Laura Butler
 - Laurel Avery
 - Linda Cendales
 - Lloyd Ratner
 - Luis Hidalgo
 - Manish Gandhi
 - Maryjane Farr
 - Meg Rogers
 - Melissa McQueen
 - Michael Kwan
 - Nicole Hayde
 - Reginald Gohh
 - Richard Formica
 - Stuart Sweet
 - Valinda Jones
 - Wendy Garrison
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor
 - Daniel Thompson
 - Frank Holloman
 - Shannon Taitt
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ann-Marie Leary
 - Anna Messmer
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - James Alcorn
 - Jason Livingston
 - Julie Nolan
 - Kayla Temple
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Liz Robbins Callahan

- Maureen McBride
- Michelle Rabold
- Morgan Jupe
- Rebecca Murdock
- Tiwan Nicholson
- Tony Ponsiglione
- **Other Attendees**
 - Alden Doyle
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Jim Kim
 - Oyedolamu Olaitan