

## **OPTN Living Donor Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Jun 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **Conference Call**

**Stevan Gonzales, Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Living Donor Committee met via Cisco WebEx teleconference on 6/11/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

- Announcements
- Q and A: OPTN Modernization and Changes
- Data Collection Proposal: Discuss Public Comment Outreach
- Other Items/Meeting Wrap up

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

#### **1. Announcements**

- The OPTN Board Meeting occurred June 9-10. All proposals that went out for winter public comment were approved.
- There will be a new OPTN Board after June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Public Comment Period: Scheduled for August 8 – October 7, 2025.

#### **2. Q and A: OPTN Modernization and Changes**

Ray Lynch, Organ Transplantation Branch Chief, Division of Transplantation, HHS, was available to field questions and concerns from Living Donor Committee members.

##### Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Lynch addressed several questions from committee members regarding HRSA's modernization efforts and policy oversight. Members inquired about the measurable impact of HRSA's February 2025 comments on Allocation Out of Sequence (AOS) practices. Dr. Lynch confirmed a 30–40% reduction in AOS occurrences and noted that preliminary data shows a decline in organ discard rates without negatively affecting transplant rates.

Committee members also asked about the definition and enforcement of AOS. Dr. Lynch explained that HRSA has established a comprehensive definition to guide future policy and ensure consistency across transplant centers. He emphasized the importance of fairness and transparency in allocation practices.

Questions were raised about the status of the Expedient Task Force (ETF), which he said was paused due to regulatory conflicts. Dr. Lynch clarified that while the ETF is inactive, its analytical tools and findings will continue to inform HRSA's policy development. He also addressed inquiries about SRTR's role, confirming that its contract has been extended and that HRSA values its contributions to data transparency and analysis.

Further discussion focused on governance and policy implementation. Members asked how HRSA plans to handle implementation challenges post-policy approval. Dr. Lynch encouraged transparent

communication and collaborative problem-solving among stakeholders, reiterating HRSA's commitment to supporting OPTN's governance structure.

### **3. Living Donor Data Collection Proposal: Discuss Public Comment Outreach**

Staff led a discussion on ideas for targeted outreach to stakeholder organizations and individuals to provide public comment feedback on the data collection proposal.

#### Summary of Discussion:

The committee discussed the upcoming public comment period for the Living Donor Data Collection Proposal, which is scheduled from August 8 to October 7, 2025. Staff noted that the proposal is currently being finalized and will be reviewed by the Policy Oversight Committee and the Executive Committee before being released for public comment. Phase two of the proposal will be considered later in the year, with final board approval for this project anticipated in December.

Staff led a collaborative session on stakeholder outreach strategy. She emphasized the importance of engaging both professional and patient communities to gather diverse feedback. Staff requested committee members to:

- Identify and share key stakeholder organizations and patient advocacy groups.
- Provide direct contacts where possible to ensure effective communication.
- Assist in disseminating outreach materials through their networks and social media.

Committee members suggested outreach to:

- AST Living Donor Community of Practice (COP)
- ASN Living Donor Interest Group
- National Kidney Donation Organization
- Heart disease communities, particularly parents of pediatric patients
- AST's Circle of Excellence businesses

Staff proposed creating two tailored outreach blurbs:

1. A donor-facing version suitable for social media and patient groups.
2. A professional-facing version for transplant clinicians and organizations.

Members volunteered to help distribute these materials and offered to connect staff with relevant contacts. Committee leadership highlighted the importance of leveraging past outreach efforts and ensuring continuity by revisiting previous stakeholder lists. Staff committed to compiling and updating the outreach list and sending a follow-up email with materials and assignments.

This proactive and inclusive outreach plan aims to ensure robust participation in the public comment process and to reflect the voices of both professionals and living donors in shaping future policy.

#### Next Steps:

Committee members are to share stakeholder contacts with staff and assist with outreach during the public comment period. Staff will distribute outreach materials and coordinate follow-up communications.

#### **4. Other Items and Meeting Wrap Up**

Most committee members accepted term extensions. Replacements are being sought for Region 1 and Region 11 representatives. A call for nominations will be issued to fill any remaining vacancies.

A member brought attention to a recent “STAT” opinion piece that resonated with many living donors and called for reform. The committee acknowledged the emotional impact of the article and expressed interest in discussing it further in future meetings.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- 7/9/2025

## **Attendance**

- **Committee Members**
  - Stevan Gonzalez
  - Trysha Galloway
  - Tiffany Caza
  - Annesha Shetty
  - Laura Butler
  - Nathan Osbun
  - Nancy Marlin
  - Trysha Galloway
  - Danielle Reuss
  - Milton Mitchell
  - Anita Patel
  - Frankie McGinnis
- **SRTR Representatives**
  - Katie Siegert
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - N/A
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Emily Ward
  - Lauren Mooney
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Sara Rose Wells
  - Jennifer Wainwright