

**OPTN Board Policy Group
Meeting Summary
May 17, 2024**

Colleen McCarthy, Group Leader

Introduction

The Board Policy Group met via Webex on 05/17/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027 (Executive Committee)
3. Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy (Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee)
4. Concepts for Modifying Multi-Organ Policies (Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee)
5. Clarify Requirements for Pronouncement of Death (Organ Procurement Organization Committee)

1. Welcome and Announcements

Board Members gathered to discuss select items from Winter 2024 Public Comment cycle to prepare for the June Board of Directors meeting.

Contractor staff presented the purpose of Board Policy Groups and explained the next steps ahead of the June Board Meeting in Richmond. Board Policy Group members will be asked to vote on the agenda placement for proposal items for the discussion or consent agenda.

2. OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Dianne LaPointe Rudow, Chair of the Executive Committee, presented the OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027 proposal. Dr. LaPointe Rudow shared the purpose of the strategic plan and explained that the four proposed goals are:

1. Increase opportunities for transplant
2. Optimize organ use
3. Enhance OPTN efficiency
4. Support OPTN Modernization Initiative

Dr. LaPointe Rudow shared the public comment analysis and the main themes that were seen throughout public comment. She explained the changes that have been made to the plan since public comment, including the addition of a fourth goal to support OPTN Modernization. Dr. LaPointe Rudow noted that in response to public comment the committee refined the plan to increase emphasis on equity and refined the goals to emphasize equity, living donation, and OPTN Modernization. Dr. LaPointe Rudow presented the implementation considerations for the OPTN and noted that the plan is projected to be implemented on July 1, 2024.

Summary of discussion:

The Board Policy Group discussed whether changes to NOTA could impact the strategic plan in the future. Dr. LaPointe Rudow explained that there may not be changes to NOTA, and a representative from HRSA shared that changes to NOTA come from government. The Board Policy Group discussed the

language chosen for the goals, objectives, and metrics within the plan. A Board Policy Group member commended the committee's plan to review the strategic plan on a quarterly basis.

Vote:

The Board Policy Group voted on agenda placement for the proposal and the results were 1 consent agenda and 6 discussion agenda.

3. Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy

Lisa Stocks, Chair of the Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee, presented the proposal to Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy. Ms. Stocks shared that the purpose of the proposal is to address situations in which offer acceptance conflicts with required multi-organ shares, and to support OPOs to move forward with placing single organs, once multi-organ shares are completed to help avoid last-minute redirection of organs from single to multi-organ candidates. She shared that the proposal aims to modify policy to clarify that once an organ has been accepted by a transplant program, that acceptance takes priority over policies requiring multi-organ shares.

Ms. Stocks shared an example of where this policy would apply. Ms. Stocks shared that during public comment the proposal received broad support and the key themes seen during public comment were focused on efficiency, the meaning of acceptance, the impact on patient groups, timeframes, and education to support implementation. Ms. Stocks shared that based on public comment feedback, the committee made minor changes post-public comment to the policy language to clarify the meaning of acceptance, to ensure OPOs can continue to make backup offers after acceptance, and to allow OPOs flexibility to proceed with multi-organ offers after acceptance. Ms. Stocks shared the implementation considerations for both members and the OPTN.

Summary of discussion:

Board Policy Group members commended the work of the committee and commented that the changes made after public comment were appreciated.

Vote:

The Board Policy Group voted on agenda placement for the proposal and the results were 7 consent agenda and 3 discussion agenda.

4. Concepts for Modifying Multi-Organ Policies

Lisa Stocks, Chair of the Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee presented the request for feedback on Concept for Modifying Multi-Organ Policies. Ms. Stocks presented that the purpose of the request for feedback is to gather community input on policy on multi-organ transplantation allocation, and on prioritization of kidney-alone candidates and multi-organ candidates. Ms. Stocks noted that the public comment item is an informative update to the Board and is not an action item.

Ms. Stocks shared that during public comment, the proposal received feedback focusing on multi-organ transplantation allocation order and prioritizing multi-organ, kidney-alone, and kidney-pancreas candidates. Ms. Stocks explained that the committee is still considering the feedback received and there is currently no clear consensus on the order of priority among the types of candidates.

Ms. Stocks explained that next steps for the committee are to develop a policy proposal directing multi-organ allocation order, and to develop a ranked list which prioritizes between multi-organ candidates on different match runs versus multi-organ candidates and single-organ candidates on different match runs. Ms. Stocks shared that the committee is collaborating with the OPTN contractor and SRTR staff on a data request to ensure that the proposed changes align with relevant data, and the committee is

coordinating with OPTN contractor staff to develop a values prioritization exercise (VPE) to help identify areas of clinical consensus.

Summary of discussion:

A Board Policy Group member asked about the timeline associated with the work, and Ms. Stocks noted that the committee is eager to submit a proposal for Winter 2025 public comment.

5. Clarify Requirements for Pronouncement of Death

Lori Markham, Vice Chair of the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee, presented the proposal to Clarify Requirements for Pronouncement of Death. Ms. Markham shared that the purpose of the proposal is to update policies for consistency and to ensure a valid and unbiased pronouncement of death. Ms. Markham explained that the proposal recommends updates to *Policy 2.14.A: Conflicts of Interest* and *Policy 2.15.G: Pronouncement of Death*.

Ms. Markham shared that the proposal received broad support during public comment. Ms. Markham noted that no changes were made to the proposal post public comment. Ms. Markham shared the implementation considerations for members and the OPTN.

Summary of discussion:

The Board Policy Group commended the work of the committee and supported the proposal. A Board Policy Group member commented that having the individual making the pronouncement of death not be associated with the organ recovery is important, and the committee incorporated this in to the proposal in an effective manner.

Vote:

The Board Policy Group voted on agenda placement for the proposal and the results were 10 consent agenda and 0 discussion agenda.

Attendance

- **Group Members**
 - Andrew Kao
 - Christopher Jones
 - Christopher Woody
 - Colleen McCarthy
 - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
 - Erika Demars
 - Evelyn Hsu
 - Jen Lau
 - Jerry McCauley
 - Julie Spear
 - Laura Butler
 - Meg Rogers
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Frank Holloman
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Anna Messmer
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kimberly Uccellini
 - Morgan Jupe
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ross Walton
 - Sarah Roache
 - Trish Jasion
- **Other Attendees**
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Lori Markham