

OPTN Board of Directors

Meeting Summary

August 15, 2024

Webex

Richard Formica, MD, President

Lloyd Ratner, MD, MPH, Vice President

Introduction

The Board of Directors met via Webex on 08/15/2024 to discuss the following agenda items and public comment items:

1. Welcome & Announcements
2. Introduction to Public Comment & Regional Meeting Reminders
3. Summer 2024 Public Comment Items
4. Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System (Network Operations Oversight Committee)
5. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing (Lung Transplantation Committee)
6. Update from the Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee
7. Updates from the OPTN President
8. Closed Session

1. Welcome & Announcements

Rich Formica, OPTN Board President, welcomed to the Board to the meeting and presented the agenda.

2. Introduction to Public Comment & Regional Meeting Reminder

Contractor staff presented information on the role of Board members role during Summer 2024 Public Comment and regional meetings. Contractor staff shared the agenda for regional meetings and the timeline for public comment.

3. Summer 2024 Public Comment Items

Contractor staff presented the following items that are out for Summer 2024 Public Comment:

- Continuous Distribution of Kidneys (Kidney Transplantation Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Pancreata (Pancreas Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Livers & Intestines (Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee)
- Continuous Distribution of Hearts (Heart Transplantation Committee)
- Review and Update OPTN Histocompatibility Guidance and Policy with Current Practice (Histocompatibility Committee)
- Reducing and Reporting Critical HLA Discrepancies (Histocompatibility Committee)

Summary of Discussion:

A Board member asked about the relationship between population density and continuous distribution. The Board President encouraged the Board to specifically review the Histocompatibility Committee's proposal on Reducing and Reporting Critical HLA Discrepancies.

4. Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System (Network Operations Oversight Committee)

Andrew Kao, Chair of the Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC), presented the proposal to Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System. Dr. Kao presented that the purpose of the proposal is to enhance the security of the OPTN Computer System by revising conditions for access, expand accountability for securing the OPTN Computer System to business organizations who access it, and to require all members with system interconnections to the OPTN Computer System to develop an Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) with the OPTN. Dr. Kao shared the changes in policy language, the proposal's rationale, the impact on members, and other details of the proposal.

Summary of Discussion:

The Board discussed the current status of business member access to the OPTN Computer System and discussed that business members have the same access as professional members do. The Board also discussed how business members roles might change as part of this proposal, specifically when it comes to interacting with the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC). The Board discussed which portion of OPTN members are considered business members and what percentage of business members are assisting with facilitating organ offers for member institutions.

A Board member asked if the OPTN has considered charging business members a fee to access the OPTN Computer System. The Board then discussed the possibility of charging business members to access the OPTN Computer System. HRSA shared that as of now, there are no other means for the OPTN to incur funds other than through the OPTN Registration Fee.

A Board member noted the importance of the proposal for the OPTN and shared feedback the proposal may receive during public comment. A Board member noted that they received feedback from their IT department on the new security requirements and shared that they were concerned with the level of detail that will be provided to the OPTN. The Board discussed how business members may access the OPTN Computer System, specifically considering the device on which they access the system, and how this could impact the security of the system. A Board member asked if feedback had been shared during the regional meetings so far and some Board members shared that the proposal had not incurred a large amount of discussion during their regional meetings.

5. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing (Lung Transplantation Committee)

Matt Hartwig, Chair of the Lung Transplantation Committee, presented the proposal to Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing. Dr. Hartwig shared that the purpose of the proposal is to promote efficiency of lung donor testing by proposing changes to lung donor testing requirements in OPTN policy and guidance. Dr. Hartwig presented the rationale of the proposal, the proposed changes in policy language and the proposed changes to policy guidance. Dr. Hartwig shared the anticipated impact of the proposal on OPTN members and questions the committee is asking the community to consider during public comment.

Summary of Discussion:

The Board President acknowledged the committee's efforts to ensure OPTN policy and guidance is regularly revised. Board members asked about the possibility of the information requested by policy being unavailable or unable to be obtained. Dr. Hartwig acknowledged that the committee understands some information is not always going to be available but that the intent in updating the policy and guidance is to move the allocation process along more efficiently when appropriate and feasible. Dr. Hartwig noted that the committee has received feedback to consider including alternative language in the policy and guidance when members are unable to run tests designated in the policy and guidance.

6. Update from the Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

Lisa Stocks, Co-Chair of the Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee, presented an update on the work of the committee. Ms. Stocks shared a brief overview of multi-organ allocation, current projects throughout the OPTN that impact multi-organ allocation, and the MOT Committee's workplan.

Summary of Discussion:

A Board member asked if the committee has seen an increase in discussion around kidney allocation and kidney-lung allocation. The Board member also asked about the impact of multi-organ transplants on the pediatric community. Ms. Stocks explained the current process for allocating kidneys alone and allocating kidneys with another organ. Ms. Stocks acknowledged that the MOT Committee recognizes the possible effect multi-organ allocation could have on single-kidney receipt lists. The Board President asked that the MOT Committee continue to keep the Board updated on their work.

A Board member asked how pancreas allocation factors into multi-organ allocation. Ms. Stocks explained that the list of multi-organ allocations and combinations is lengthy and acknowledged that the topic of kidney-pancreas allocation has been a focal point for the MOT Committee. A Board member acknowledged the committee's efforts and commented that their work will help expedite the placement of organs because currently multiple lists must be consulted when placing organs.

7. Updates from the OPTN President

Rich Formica, OPTN Board President, provided an update on activities around the OPTN. Dr. Formica briefed the Board on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Organ Transport Working Group. He shared that as part of the FAA Reauthorization Bill, the FAA convened a working group to develop recommendations to address organ transportation issues and best practices for above wing transportation of organs and biological materials. He shared that working group members include HRSA, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), OPOs, transplant centers, airline administrators, couriers, airport workers, OPTN representatives, and patients. A Board member on the working group shared their experience from their first meeting and shared the timeline of the working groups' project. A representative from HRSA shared additional information on the focus of the working group and noted that the FAA is looking to receive recommendations from the working group to share with members of the government.

Dale Smith, Chief Operations Officer, shared an update on the Expeditious Task Force. Dr. Formica shared that the Task Force's resources have been a focal point of the OPTN over the past year, and he shared how the allocation of OPTN funds has impacted the work of the Expeditious Task Force.

Mr. Smith explained that when the task force was created, it was created after the FY24 Budget had been submitted to HRSA; thus, funds for the task force were not factored into the original budget. Mr. Smith explained that this made the task force an unbudgeted item. Mr. Smith shared how funds have been reallocated from other areas of work around the OPTN to pay for task force expenses to-date. Mr. Smith explained that in the proposed FY25 Budget that has been submitted to the government for their review, \$5.2 million dollars is allocated to the Expeditious Task Force.

Mr. Smith provided information on the OPTN Registration Fee, a current snapshot of the OPTN Financials, options to fund the task force until the FY25 budget is approved, and anticipated costs associated with the task force's work during FY25.

OPTN Board Leadership shared their sentiments and experiences while working with the Expeditious Task Force over the past year. They shared that Task Force Leadership is eager to continue their work, specifically noting their efforts on securing commitments and rescue pathways. Task Force Leadership

shared their sentiments towards continuing their work, and noted that it is important for their work to continue for the benefit of the patient and donor family members that are calling for this work to be done expeditiously.

Andrea Tietjen, OPTN Treasurer, shared that the OPTN is waiting for a decision from HRSA on the proposed FY25 Budget that was submitted in June 2024. Ms. Tietjen shared that the Finance Committee will undertake a special project to consider whether the OPTN Board is able to access the OPTN Reserve Funds to address insufficient funds that might occur on a periodic basis due to the timing of revenue collection. She shared that the Finance Committee's work on this project is forthcoming.

8. Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 19, 2024
- October 17, 2024
- November 21, 2024
- December 2 & 3, 2024
- December 19, 2024

Attendance

- **Board Members**
 - Andrea Tietjen
 - Andrew Kao
 - Brittany Clayborne
 - Caroline Alquist
 - Catherine Kling
 - Christopher Jones
 - Colleen McCarthy
 - David Vega
 - Deb Adey
 - Deborah Levine
 - Dev Desai
 - Dianne LaPointe Rudow
 - Dorris Dils
 - Emily Blumberg
 - Erika Demars
 - Gaurav Gupta
 - George Surratt
 - Glen Kelley
 - Jen Lau
 - Jennifer Muriett
 - Jennifer Reese
 - Joe Brownlee
 - Julie Spear
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Laura Butler
 - Macey Levan
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Nancy Metzler
 - Patrick Northup
 - Richard Formica
 - Robert Harland
 - Sandra Amaral
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor
 - Frank Holloman
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ann-Marie Leary
 - Anna Messmer
 - Cole Fox
 - Dale Smith
 - Jacqui O'Keefe
 - James Alcorn
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Liz Robbins Callahan

- Maureen McBride
- Morgan Jupe
- Sarah Roache
- Susie Sprinson
- **Other Attendees**
 - Alden Doyle
 - David Marshman
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Matt Hartwig