

Update on Continuous Distribution of Hearts

*OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee
Richard Daly, Committee Chair*

Purpose of Request for Feedback

- Provides update about continuous distribution of hearts project
 - Additional information and detail concerning proposed attributes for the first iteration of continuous distribution of hearts
 - Share proposed rating scales and Committee's considerations around prioritization
 - Describe mathematical optimization activity
- Seek community feedback regarding:
 - Proposed attributes and rating scales
 - Priority to assign each attribute in the continuous distribution of hearts framework
 - Values-based decision-making for weighing attributes against each other
 - Project plan and approach

Rationale

- Establish more equitable approach to matching heart donors and candidates
- Better balance impact of criteria used in matching organs
- Consider multiple candidate attributes simultaneously through a composite allocation score rather than within categories
- Establish an allocation system flexible enough to address all organs

Identified Attributes

	Medical Urgency	Post-Transplant Survival	Reducing Biological Disadvantages	Patient Access	Placement Efficiency
In Current Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult statuses • Pediatric statuses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for pediatric candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance between transplant and donor hospital (Proximity Efficiency)
Not In Current Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting time on LVAD 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for prior living donors 	

Rating Scales and Weights

- Committee identified preliminary rating scales to prioritize specific factors
- Committee will begin considering relative weights to assign attributes based on data analyses, experience, and community feedback

Rating Scale

- Rating scales are functions that calculate how much priority is assigned to each candidate on a match run for a specific attribute
- Rating scales are derived from clinical and operational data or value judgements.

Weights

- Weights reflect the relative importance of each attribute in the composite allocation score (CAS)
- The sum of weights of all attributes will be 100%
- Weights are derived from value-based decisions.

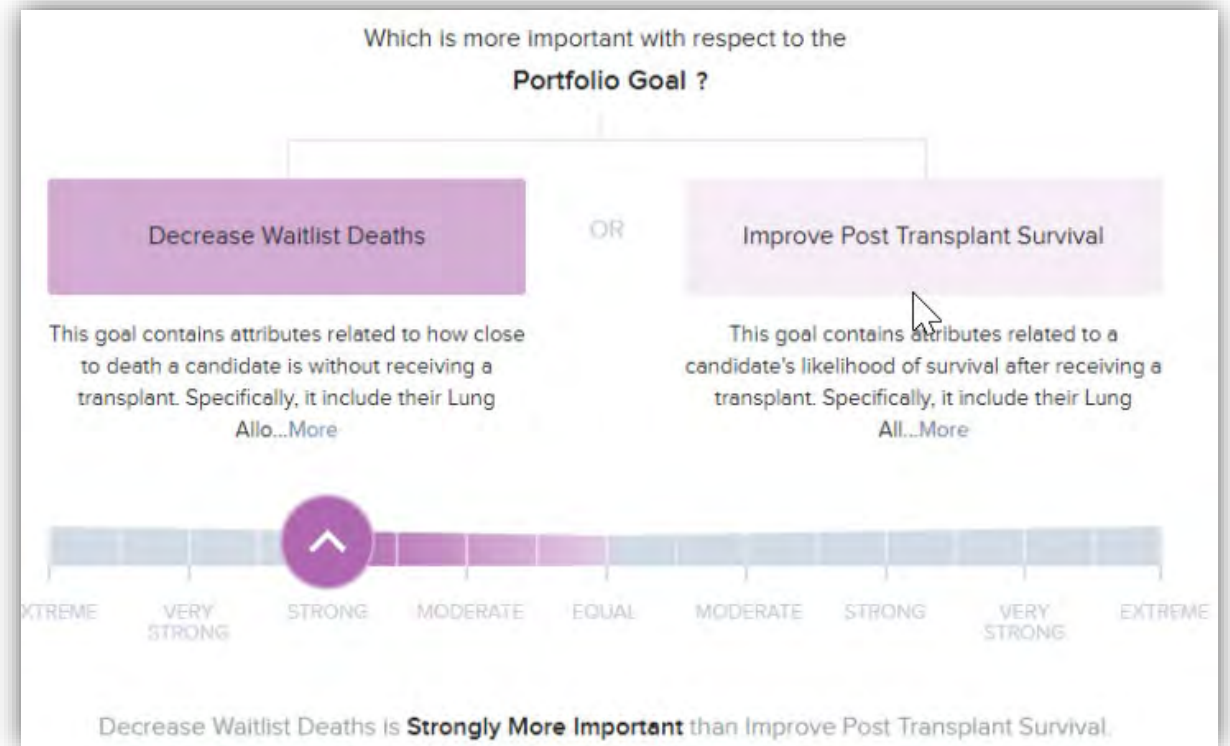
Values Prioritization Exercise

- Values Prioritization Exercise uses analytical hierarchy process (AHP) methodology to aid in values-based decision-making
- Community prioritizes on attribute against another
- Participants are asked:
 - Which attribute is most important when prioritizing candidates for donor hearts?
 - How much more important is the attribute than another?
- Participants are encouraged to leave comments explaining their decisions because such info is very helpful in Committee deliberations

Example of Community Input Through AHP

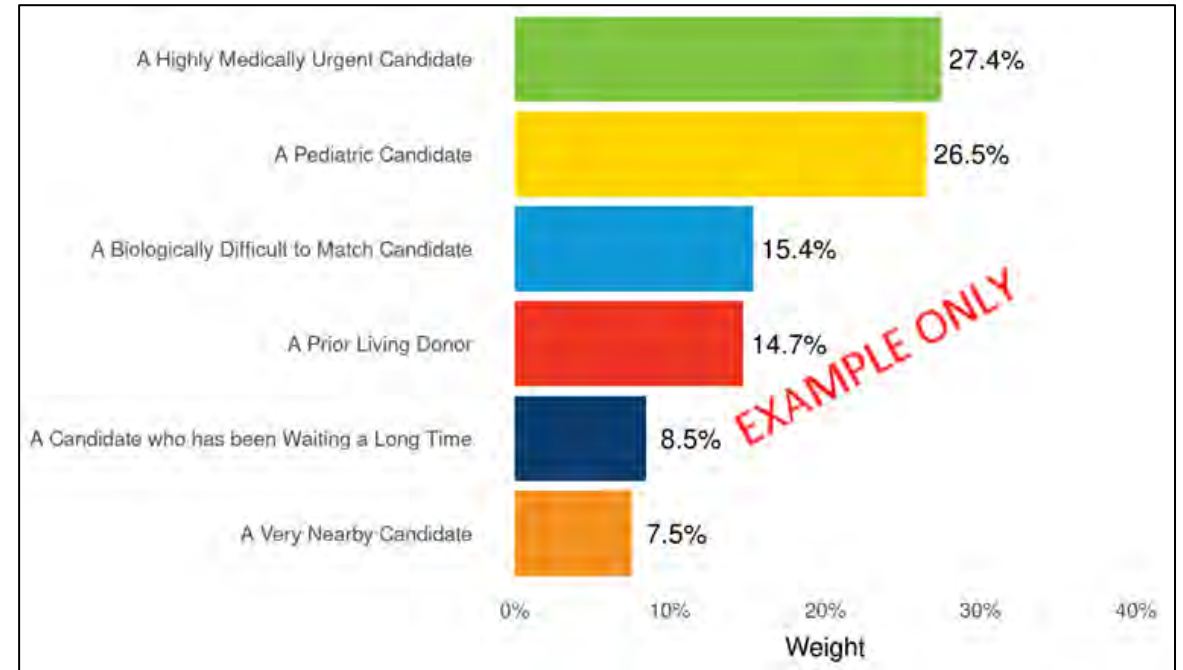
Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) Prioritization Exercise

- Effective method for involving patients to inform clinical decisions
- Participants compare two attributes against each other and select level of importance
- Used to inform the weight of each attribute to the overall score
- Empowers methodical incorporation of value-based preferences



Preliminary Weights

- Results serve as advisory info for Committee
- Results will be compiled and analyzed by type of respondent and location
- Committee is ultimately responsible for developing eventual policy proposal and is not bound by VPE results
- NOTA and Final Rule govern policy development



How to Participate

- Click link appearing on OPTN Website's public comment page
- Provide
 - First and last name
 - Requested demographic info
- Aggregated results are shared, but not personally identifiable results

The screenshot shows the OPTN website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'Policies & bylaws', 'Patients', 'Professionals', 'Data & calculators', and 'News & events'. The main content area is titled 'Update on Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines'. On the left side, there are buttons for 'Read proposal' and 'Comments'. Below these are sections for 'Committee Review', 'Explore this page', 'Documentation', 'Committee: Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation', and 'Contact'. The main text area on the right is titled 'Update on Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines' and includes an 'At a glance' section. The 'Current policy' section explains that in December 2018, the OPTN Board of Directors approved a new framework for organ allocation. The 'Requested feedback — Liver Values prioritization exercise' section asks the community to participate in a prioritization exercise. At the bottom right, there is a red circle with the number '1' and a button that says 'Participate in the liver values prioritization exercise'.

Next Steps

- Committee will review VPE results and submitted feedback
- Use info to assist with
 - Finalizing rating scales for each attribute
 - Determine weight for each attribute compared to others
 - Build draft framework and submit for info for mathematical optimization
 - Continuously update and engage community through entirety of developing continuous distribution allocation framework

What Do You Think?

- Please participate in the Values Prioritization Exercise
- Respond to request for feedback by answering about
 - Attributes and rating scales for hearts
 - How to incorporate the attributes in a heart allocation framework
 - Whether additional priority should be provided to candidates who have been supported for a long time by an implanted LVAD

Additional Questions?

- Eric Messick, Heart Committee policy analyst
- Eric.Messick@unos.org

Provide Feedback

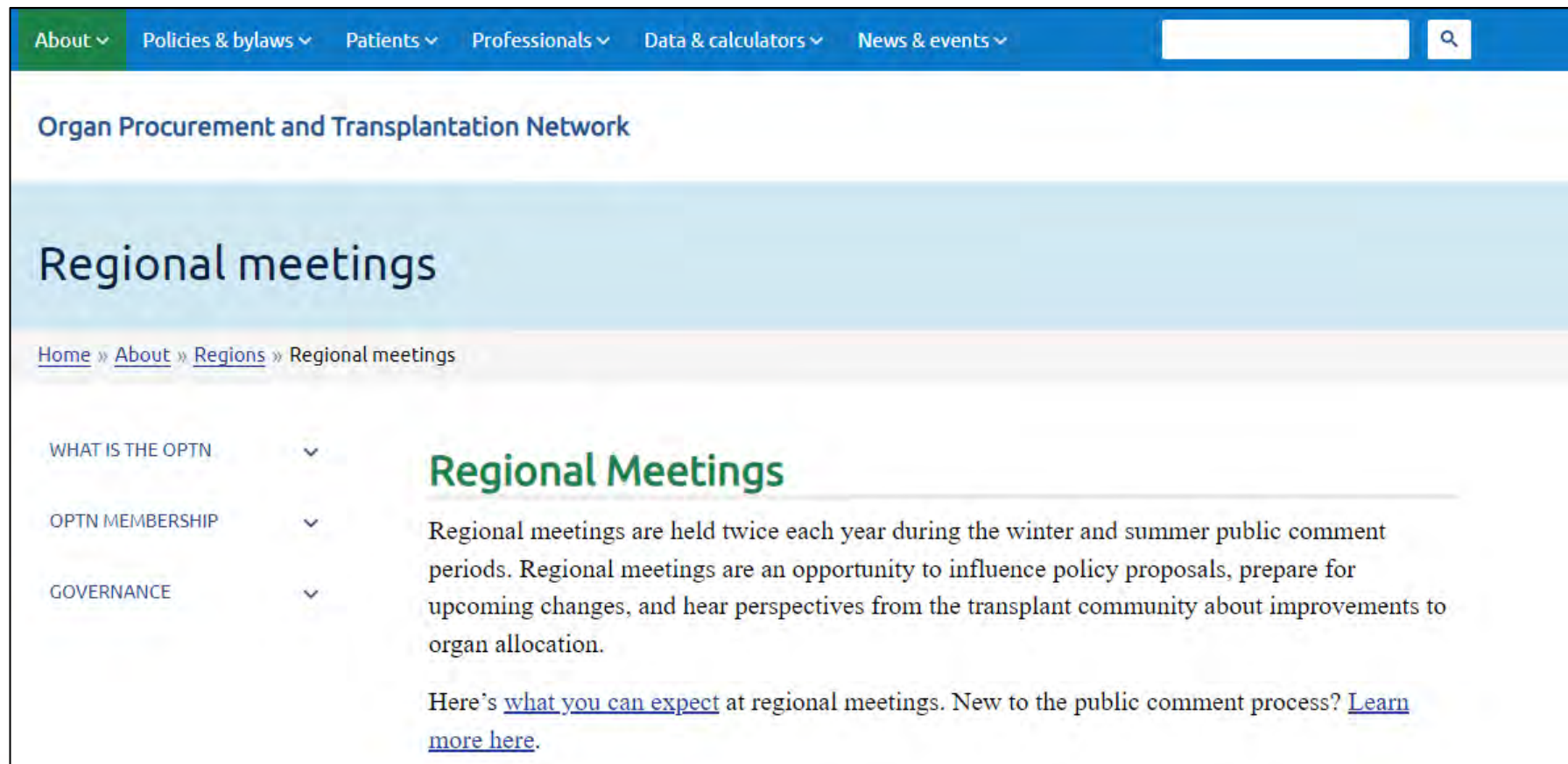
Submit public comments on the OPTN website

- January 23 – March 19, 2024
- **optn.transplant.hrsa.gov**



Regional Meeting Information

- Visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/> for the latest regional meeting information and meeting materials



The screenshot shows the OPTN website's navigation bar with links for 'About', 'Policies & bylaws', 'Patients', 'Professionals', 'Data & calculators', and 'News & events'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network' is displayed. The main heading is 'Regional meetings'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » About » Regions » Regional meetings'. On the left, there is a sidebar menu with 'WHAT IS THE OPTN', 'OPTN MEMBERSHIP', and 'GOVERNANCE'. The main content area features the heading 'Regional Meetings' followed by a paragraph: 'Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.' Below this, there is a link: 'Here's [what you can expect](#) at regional meetings. New to the public comment process? [Learn more here.](#)'

Thank You For Listening!