Meeting Summary

OPTN
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

OPTN OPO Committee Meeting

Date: 8/4/2026
Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET
Host: HRSA OPTN Meetings
Purpose: Members of the OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee met to review the Board briefing paper process, discuss implementation resources and timelines for the proposed DCD policy, and identify additional resources, feedback needs, and considerations to support successful implementation if the Board approves the policy.

Meeting Attendees

Organization	*Name(s)*
HRSA	Diane Brockmeier Brianna Doby Kelly Edwards
OPO Committee Members	Leah Buck Micah Davis Dan DiSante PJ Geraghty Kathleen Giery Lori Markham Luis Mayen Helen Nelson Sharyn Sawczak Nicole Violett
OPTN Board Members	John Magee Gina-Marie Barletta Kevin Lee
OPTN Meeting & Logistics Contractor	Hammad Aslam Lindsey McEntee Allie Vega
OPTN Patient Safety Contractor	Susan Fargo

Action Items

Action Item	*Owner(s)*	*Due Date*
Finalize the Board packet, including the Board briefing paper, policy materials, public comment policy, redlined final policy language, and proposed implementation plan	OPO Chair and Vice Chair; HRSA	8/13/2026
Hold the Board vote on the proposed DCD policy	OPTN Board of Directors	8/20/2026
Issue a notice to the community after the Board votes on the proposed DCD policy	HRSA	Shortly after August 20, 2026 (pending BOD vote)
Develop and post a recorded webinar to support community implementation of the proposed DCD policy	HRSA	September 4, 2026 (pending BOD vote)

Action Item	Owner(s)	Due Date
Develop a policy webpage, guidance document, and FAQ modeled after the Ventilated Patient Form guidance document, including versioning so updates can be made as additional questions arise	OPO Chair and Vice Chair; HRSA	Complete by September 16, 2026, upload to OPTN 360 ASAP for asynchronous OPO Committee member review (pending BOD vote)
Review the draft webpage, guidance document, FAQ, spreadsheet, and related implementation resources and provide feedback before materials are released to the community	OPO Committee members	Before September 16, 2026 committee meeting (pending BOD vote)
Develop two UNOS Connect modules, including one for transplant professionals and third-party vendors with UNET access and one focused on OPO professionals	UNOS/support team	October 1, 2026 (pending BOD vote)
Issue the final policy notification with the implementation date	HRSA/support team	Mid-October 2026 (pending BOD vote)
Upload existing implementation tools, templates, and examples, such as pause cards, education materials, donor hospital resources, donor family handouts, or QR code resources, into the OPTN 360 working documents folder for potential broader community use	OPO Committee members	Not specified
Consider whether a midpoint pulse check, professional society communication, or other readiness-support mechanism could help assess member awareness, progress, and implementation needs	OPO Chair and Vice Chair; HRSA ; professional society partners	Not specified (pending BOD vote)
Explore whether MPSC resources, member evaluation plan updates, or safety contractor implementation support should be aligned with the proposed DCD policy implementation	HRSA, Patient Safety Contractor	Post-Board adoption (pending BOD vote)

Meeting Notes and Key Decisions

Meeting Notes

Board Briefing Paper Modernization and Board Timeline

- The Chair opened the meeting by clarifying that the committee is meeting sooner than originally anticipated to support deadlines for the upcoming Board meeting. The Chair stated that the purpose of this committee meeting is to discuss the information that is to go to the Board for review and vote on August 20 and the implementation plan if the Board approves the proposed DCD policy
- The Chair explained that the Board briefing paper process has been modernized to make the materials easier for the Board to review. The Chair noted that the Board read the initial policy before it was released for public comment, so the revised briefing materials are intended to focus on post-public comment information, adjustments made to the policy, and the final policy language
- HRSA confirmed that full committee review of the briefing paper is not part of the development process, but committee leadership provided input.

- The Chair stated that the final version of the Board packet, including the briefing paper, policy materials, public comment policy, redlined final policy language, and an implementation plan, is to be sent to the Board on August 13, seven days before the August 20 Board meeting, with a vote on the proposed policy planned for August 20

Implementation Resources and Timeline

- The Chair explained that the proposed DCD policy represents a major policy overhaul and stated that the committee does not want to release the policy to the community without resources to support successful implementation. The Chair noted that the implementation plan is designed to help the community understand the changes and prepare to comply
- The committee discussed an implementation timeline that assumes Board approval on August 20 and November 18 as the implementation date. The Chair noted that the November 18 date had not been formally set
- The Chair stated that a notice is to be sent to the community communicating the Board's decision shortly after the vote. The Chair also noted that a recorded webinar would be developed and posted on the OPTN website by September 4
- The committee discussed developing a webpage, guidance document, and FAQ similar to the Ventilated Patient Form guidance document. The Chair explained that the guidance document could include general guidance, policy definitions, FAQs, examples, and scenarios. The Chair also noted that the document would be versioned so it could be updated as questions arise
- The Chair stated that committee members have a calendar hold for a committee meeting on September 16, and that the goal of the meeting is for committee members to discuss the guidance document and related resources at that meeting. The Chair said the materials would ideally be sent out in advance so members could review them and be prepared to discuss if the draft resources are appropriate for community release
- The committee also discussed two UNOS Connect modules under development. The Chair explained that one module would support transplant centers and vendors with UNET access, particularly related to training and education about unplanned pauses. The Chair also noted that a separate module would focus on OPO professionals, expected to be available by October 1
- HRSA expressed support for the implementation planning work and described the resources as part of modernization. HRSA emphasized that the goal is to make tools and resources work for the committee and the community, rather than producing resources based only on vendor preferences

OPO Implementation Considerations

- The Chair asked committee members to consider what OPOs will need to prepare for successful implementation. The Chair identified several implementation considerations, including how to enter cases into DonorNet, define case initiation within each organization, update internal policies, inform organizational leadership and boards as needed, educate staff, and prepare resources for donor hospital staff and donor families
- The Chair noted that some OPOs have already developed resources such as pause cards, handouts, and QR-code materials. The Chair asked committee members to upload existing tools or examples they have into the OPTN 360 working documents folder so they can be considered for broader community use

Committee Feedback, Readiness, and Dissemination

- A committee member asked how member compliance or readiness would be assessed, including whether the committee would try to understand how members are progressing toward implementation or wait for an audit process. A committee member suggested that a midpoint survey or readiness check could assess awareness of the policy change, awareness of the changing elements, and whether members need help
- A committee member supported the idea of a proactive approach and stated that the committee should not be passive about ensuring that members understand what they need to do. The committee member also raised the importance of standardizing education so that OPOs and transplant centers are using consistent language, and asked whether the UNOS Connect courses could be used as a standard training resource
- The Chair responded that the committee would have an opportunity to review the UNOS Connect content before it goes out to the community and stated that committee feedback would be important
- HRSA stated that a survey may not normally be within OPTN's purview, but updates to MPSC resources or member evaluation plan materials could be considered if the committee thought that would be helpful. HRSA also emphasized that OPTN members have an affirmative responsibility to keep up with OPTN policy changes, while HRSA and OPTN can support members by issuing bulletins, making resources available, and providing ample notice
- A committee member asked whether regular reminder communications could be sent to members to reinforce that the policy change is coming, direct members to available resources, and provide a point of contact for questions. The Chair noted that professional societies, including Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) and the Organ Donation Alliance, may be useful channels and stated that a pulse check through those formats could be helpful
- HRSA expressed support for dissemination of accurate information and stated that HRSA would work with the new patient safety contractor to determine whether there are associated implementation considerations for membership or the member evaluation plan. HRSA reiterated that the UNOS Connect modules would address education about what a pause is, when a pause can be called, and when transplant centers or third-party vendors would be informed of a pause
- HRSA also noted that the committee had consistently raised the importance of not being overly prescriptive for OPOs. The Chair agreed and stated that the committee is balancing the need for some degree of standardization with the need to preserve OPO flexibility. The Chair stated that providing successful resources that help OPOs determine their own implementation approach may be the most important support the committee can provide
- The Chair asked whether the September 16 OPO Committee meeting would be a realistic opportunity for the committee to review implementation resources and provide input. HRSA responded that the slides identified where committee leadership review and full committee feedback would occur, and noted that HRSA is trying to involve committees more in what contractors develop and release to support teams
- The OPTN Board President stated that the effort to answer questions ahead of time and get members on the same page is important but emphasized that input should occur asynchronously. The OPTN Board President explained that having the full committee review a document from beginning to end during a single call would not be an effective mechanism, and said members should review materials in advance, identify questions or challenges, and provide feedback asynchronously
- The Chair agreed and stated that once the spreadsheet or related implementation resource is available, committee members should review it before the September meeting so the committee can discuss missing content, needed adjustments, or major issues before the materials go out to the community

- HRSA stated it would work to get drafts posted for committee review and noted that materials would not be posted publicly without committee members having an opportunity to look at them and provide feedback. HRSA also emphasized that versioning allows the support document to be updated as questions arise, and that push notifications to OPO members could alert members when the proposed DCD policy support document has been updated
- The Chair closed the discussion by stating that the purpose of the call was to review the implementation plan and identify whether members wanted anything changed or added. The OPTN Board President noted that the policy had been presented, gone out for public comment, and would proceed to a yes-or-no Board vote. The OPTN Board President encouraged members not to wait until after Board approval to review the materials, because The OPTN Board President anticipated Board approval and believed implementation planning should continue
- The OPTN Board President added that implementation has been challenging at times and emphasized the need for a clear path to the go-live date and as much information as possible for the impacted community. The Chair thanked participants for their attention and encouraged members to reach out after the meeting with additional thoughts

Key Decisions

- The committee Leadership to finalize the proposed DCD policy packet for Board review, including the Board briefing paper, public comment policy, redlined final policy language, and implementation plan
- The committee aligned around an implementation support model for the proposed DCD policy that includes a post-vote community notice, recorded webinar, policy webpage, guidance document, FAQ, and UNOS Connect modules
- The committee agreed that OPO committee feedback on implementation resources is important before materials are released to the community, with the September 16 committee meeting identified as a target opportunity to review the webpage, guidance, FAQ, spreadsheet, or related resources
- The committee emphasized that review of implementation materials should occur asynchronously before full committee discussion, rather than attempting to review materials from beginning to end during a single meeting
- The committee recognized the need to balance standardization and flexibility by providing consistent implementation resources while allowing OPOs latitude in how they operationalize the proposed DCD policy
- The committee agreed that members should begin reviewing implementation materials and considering operational needs before Board approval, because the Board vote was anticipated to be favorable and implementation planning should continue