

OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET | Location of Event: Zoom

The following is a meeting summary from the OPTN Board of Directors meeting, which took place on **April 16, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET.**

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Prior Meeting Summaries – **VOTE**
- Allocation Out of OPTN Sequence (AOOS) Next Steps
- Updates from the OPTN President
- Other/New Business

Closed Session

- The Board met in a closed session.

Attendees

Attendee Name(s)	Affiliation
John Magee (President), Shelley Hall (Vice President), Alan Reed (Treasurer), Justin Wilkerson (Secretary), William (Bill) Ryan (Vice President for Patient and Donor Affairs) Gina-Marie Barletta, George Bayliss, Jen Benson, Vincent Casingal, Kenneth Chavin, Ari Cohen, Andrew Courtwright, Ryan Davies, Meelie DebRoy, Nahel Elias, Samantha Endicott, Gitthaline (Candie) Gagne, Joshua Gossett, John Hodges, Mary Homan, Darren Lahrman, Kevin Lee, Reynold Lopez-Soler, Joseph Magliocca, Jerold Mande, Dan Meyer, Cathi Murphey, Annette Needham, Robert (Cody) Reynolds, Austin Schenk, Mark Wakefield, Kymberly Watt, Steve Weitzen	OPTN Board of Directors
Aite Aigbe, Mesmin Germain, Kristen Hansen, Sarah Laskey, Marilyn Levi, Raymond Lynch, Joni Mills, Patrick Mauro, Nolan Simon	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Representatives
Doug Fesler	OPTN Executive Director

Attendee Name(s)	Affiliation
Christine Jones, Rachel Shapiro, Vanessa Amankwaa, Melanie Bartlett, Marija Blagojevic, Jady Dunning, Becca Fritz, Brianna Heslin, Sam Hoff, Mona Kilany, Mary Lavelle, Taylor Melanson	OPTN Board Support Staff
Liz Robbins Callahan	OPTN Matching System & Data Contractor Staff
Cliff Miles	MPSC
Allyson Hart, Ryutaro Hirose, Roslyn Mannon, Jon Snyder	Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Representatives

Meeting Summary

Open Session

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

OPTN Executive Director Doug Fesler convened the open session and confirmed quorum. After the meeting was called to order, OPTN Board President (“President”) John Magee reminded the Board members that the meeting would start in open session and then move into closed session. He noted the meeting was being recorded and encouraged Board members to keep cameras on and microphones muted unless speaking, and to use the raise-hand feature for any questions or comments to support engagement and meeting efficiency.

Dr. Magee began his opening remarks by introducing newly appointed Board Director Steven Weitzen, who represents the patient and donor family community.

Approval of Meeting Summaries

The Board voted on a motion to approve the February 19, 2026, and March 19, 2026, meeting summaries:

RESOLVED, that the meeting summaries for the Board of Directors meetings held on February 19, 2026, and March 19, 2026, be and hereby are approved, as presented, with authority granted to the Secretary to make any non-substantive corrections as may be necessary.

Final Vote: 24 approve, 0 reject, 2 abstain.

Allocation Out of OPTN Sequence (AOOS) Next Steps

Board Secretary and AOOS Workgroup Chair Justin Wilkerson provided an update on ongoing efforts to address AOOS. Mr. Wilkerson shared that AOOS work is closely aligned with broader OPTN modernization efforts, requiring coordination between policy development, technology capabilities, and resource constraints. He emphasized that while policy solutions are advancing, implementation will depend heavily on system infrastructure and timing.

Updates on AOOS Subgroups

- **Offer Team.** The workgroup developed a standardized analytic definition of an organ offer to address longstanding inconsistencies in how offers are recorded. Previously, only transplanted organs were consistently tracked, limiting visibility into allocation practices. The new definition establishes clear criteria and requires electronic documentation, enabling more complete data capture, improved auditability, and stronger compliance monitoring across all allocation activity.
- **Expedited Placement Pathway (EPP) for Kidneys.** The EPP work introduced criteria to identify kidneys that may require expedited allocation due to clinical or logistical challenges. By separating these organs from standard allocation processes, the approach aims to reduce delays, improve placement efficiency, and allow more accurate identification of out-of-sequence events. While it is currently focused on kidneys, the framework may serve as a model for other organ systems.
- **Compliance Team.** The workgroup developed a framework to monitor AOOS activity, including mechanisms for auditing, identifying patterns of non-compliance, and supporting program improvement. The workgroup also reviewed international models as potential long-term enhancements, though many would require significant technological investment.

Progress and Remaining Challenges

Early data indicates a reduction in AOOS activity since 2025, suggesting that increased oversight has already influenced behavior across programs. Several components remain in development or paused pending further review, particularly those requiring alignment with modernization efforts or significant system changes.

Updates from the OPTN President

Dr. Magee provided updates on key operational priorities, focusing on policy alignment, stakeholder engagement, and governance activities.

- **Policy and Operational Updates.** Dr. Magee reinforced the discontinuation of COVID-era flexibilities in donor screening, emphasizing that programs must now operate fully within standard OPTN policy following the end of the public health emergency. To support compliance and improve consistency, a new workgroup will focus on clarifying appropriate use of inactive status and standardizing data entry practices, including the potential use of front-end validation checks.
- **Stakeholder Engagement.** To ensure consistent communication during the current transition period, the OPTN will hold national town halls in place of traditional regional meetings. These sessions are intended to provide system-wide updates, facilitate engagement with HRSA, and allow for structured stakeholder feedback.
- **Governance and Elections.** Dr. Magee reviewed upcoming election activities, including the May 2026 national elections and associated ad hoc Board meetings to approve candidate slates and ratify results. He stated that these actions support continuity in leadership and governance during a period of ongoing organizational change.

Other/New Business

Board Directors discussed the status of contractor onboarding intended to support committee operations. Raymond Lynch, Acting Director of the Division of Transplantation at HRSA, shared that although progress is underway, federal procurement constraints limit the level of detail that can be shared publicly. Dr. Lynch acknowledged stakeholder frustration and emphasized the importance of managing expectations, particularly ahead of upcoming town halls where community members may seek greater clarity.

Board Directors also highlighted the need for proactive communication around ongoing policy initiatives to reduce uncertainty and maintain trust among stakeholders.

Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.