

OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Thursday, May 21, 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 **May 21, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET.**

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Prior Meeting Summaries – **VOTE**
- OPTN System Snapshot
- 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, James (Jim) Cason, Kenneth Chavin, Ari Cohen, Andrew Courtwright, Ryan Davies, Meelie DeRoy, Samantha Endicott, Gitthaline (Candie) Gagne, Joshua Gossett, John Hodges, Mary Homan, Darren Lahrman, Kevin Lee, Joseph Magliocca, Jerold Mande, Dan Meyer, Robert (Cody) Reynolds, Austin Schenk, John Sperzel, Mark Wakefield, Kymberly Watt, Steve Weitzen	OPTN Board of Directors
Aite Aigbe, Mesmin Germain, Stephanie Grosser, Kristen Hansen, Allison Hutchings, Sarah Laskey, Raymond Lynch, Joni Mills, 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, Tennille Daniels, Jady Dunning, Becca Fritz, Brianna Heslin, Mona Kilany, Anthony LaBarrie, Markus Louis, Taylor Melanson, Zulma Solis	OPTN Board Support Staff
Scott Lindberg	MPSC
Allyson Hart	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”) Dr. 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.

Approval of Meeting Summaries

The Board voted on a motion to approve the April 3, 2026, and April 16, 2026, meeting summaries:

RESOLVED, that the meeting summaries for the Board of Directors meetings held on April 3, 2026, and April 16, 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: 25 approve, 0 reject, 1 abstain.

OPTN System Snapshot

Data and Analytics lead of HRSA’s Division of Transplantation Dr. Sarah Laskey provided a high-level overview of the OPTN Metrics Dashboard and national transplant system trends. The presentation was designed both as a data update and as an effort to increase awareness among Board members regarding the growing suite of publicly available OPTN analytic tools.

Dr. Laskey emphasized that the dashboard:

- Access to the public via the OPTN website
- Updates weekly
- Allows downloadable datasets
- Supports analysis by organ type, donor type, and geographic region
- Serves as a starting point for broader policy and operational discussions

The Board reviewed several national transplant system trends. Overall transplant activity continues to rise nationally, following a steady upward trajectory that resumed after temporary COVID-era disruptions. Donor activity largely mirrors transplant trends, although Dr. Laskey noted a modest decline in donor activity during 2025 that may warrant additional analysis.

The dashboard also highlighted predictable operational patterns throughout the year, including noticeable decreases during Thanksgiving weeks, particularly for living donor procedures. Waitlist registrations continue to rise year-over-year.

Following the presentation, the Board discussed future data modernization opportunities. Several Board members asked about:

- Expansion of dashboard capabilities
- Integration with other transplant-related data systems
- Development of more advanced visualizations and reporting tools
- Improved access to actionable operational data

Dr. Laskey acknowledged that OPTN data currently exists across multiple systems and that improving accessibility, integration, and usability remains an ongoing priority for HRSA and OPTN modernization efforts.

Updates from the OPTN President

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

- **National Town Hall Engagement.** Dr. Magee provided updates on the recent OPTN National Town Hall meetings held on April 28 and May 13, 2026. Combined participation exceeded 1,500 registrants, generating substantial stakeholder engagement and a large number of community questions.

Mr. Fesler acknowledged that many questions could not be addressed during the live sessions and announced plans to publish a formal FAQ document in the coming weeks. The Board also discussed continuing efforts to refine the structure of future town halls to better serve the diverse transplant community while maintaining transparency during ongoing modernization activities.

- **Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Policy Development.** Dr. Magee highlighted the communication to the community he sent out last week on the current state of NRP policy development. He clarified that current guidance documents are not formal policy but rather interim safety communications intended to support ongoing clinical discussions while the formal policy development process continues.

Several members stressed the importance of balancing urgency with careful policy development. Participants emphasized that while safety concerns should be addressed promptly, operational requirements must remain practical and clinically meaningful for organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and transplant programs.

- **Lung Continuous Distribution Public Comment.** Dr. Magee announced the launch of the lung continuous distribution public comment period on May 20. He noted that the comment window extends through July 3, slightly longer than the standard comment period to account for holidays and maximize stakeholder participation. Board members were encouraged to engage in the public comment process and share materials broadly within the transplant community to ensure robust feedback and transparency.
- **National Elections and Governance.** Dr. Magee briefly updated the Board on the OPTN national election process. Voting was underway at the time of the meeting, and a special Board meeting is scheduled for June 5 to ratify election results. Leadership emphasized the importance of continued member engagement during the modernization transition period.
- **Transplant Tourism Concerns.** A Board member requested additional discussion regarding transplant tourism investigations and ongoing legal review. Leadership confirmed that multiple investigative efforts remain active and that an update to the Board would be provided in June.

Other/New Business

No additional items were raised.

Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.