Meeting Summary

OPTN
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

OPTN Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Date: 7/16/2026
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Host: OPTN Board Support Staff
Purpose: To conduct official OPTN business.

Meeting Attendees

Organization	*Name(s)*
OPTN Board of Directors	John Magee (President), Shelley Hall (Vice President), Alan Reed (Treasurer), Kymberly Watt (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, Meelie DebRoy, Samantha Endicott, Nahel Elias, Gitthaline (Candie) Gagne, Joshua Gossett, John Hodges, Mary Homan, Darren Lahrman, Kevin Lee, Joseph Magliocca, Jerold Mande, Dan Meyer, Cathi Murphey, Annette Needham, Austin Schenk, John Sperzel, Mark Wakefield, Steve Weitzen, Justin Wilkerson
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Aite Aigbe, Adriana Alvarez, Brianna Doby, Kelly Edwards, Kristen Hansen, Sarah Laskey, Raymond Lynch, Patrick Mauro, Joni Mills, Zachary Palmer, Nolan Simon, Bob Walsh
OPTN Executive Director	Doug Fesler
OPTN Board Support Staff	Christine Jones, Rachel Shapiro, Vanessa Amankwaa, Melanie Bartlett, Ivanna Bihun, Tennille Daniels, Jadyn Dunning, Brianna Heslin, Mona Kilany, Mary Lavelle, Markus Louis, Taylor Melanson, Zulma Solis
Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee	PJ Geraghty
Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)	Cliff Miles
Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Representatives	Allyson Hart, Ryutaro Hirose

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 June 5, 2026 meeting summary:

> RESOLVED, that the meeting summary for the Board of Directors meeting held on June 5, 2026, be and hereby is 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, 5 abstain.

The Board voted on a motion to approve the June 18, 2026 meeting summary:

> RESOLVED, that the meeting summary for the Board of Directors meeting held on June 18, 2026, be and hereby is approved, as presented, with authority granted to the Secretary to make any non-substantive corrections as may be necessary.

Final Vote: 26 approve, 0 reject, 4 abstain.

HRSA Directive for DCD Policy

OPO Committee Immediate Past-Chair PJ Geraghty presented the final donation after circulatory death (DCD) policy recommendations developed by the OPO Committee and the DCD Workgroup in response to HRSA's directive requesting revisions to OPTN DCD policy. Mr. Geraghty emphasized that the proposed policy had previously undergone public comment and subsequent review. The recommended policy is being presented today to answer any questions the Board may have. The policy recommendation will come before the Board at the August 20, 2026 Board meeting for vote. He summarized the committee's work following public comment and highlighted several substantive policy refinements intended to improve consistency, clarify responsibilities, and strengthen patient safety throughout the DCD process.

The proposed policy refinements include:

- Establishment of a formal definition for an unplanned DCD pause, clarifying that it applies only when there is an unresolved disagreement regarding whether a patient meets criteria for withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies, and does not apply to authorization-related issues.
- Clarification of OPO responsibilities for educating stakeholders regarding the process for requesting an unplanned DCD pause.
- Revision of neurologic assessment documentation requirements to clarify that patient care teams—not OPO personnel—perform neurologic assessments, while OPOs document findings and escalate significant discrepancies.

- Requirement that OPOs educate stakeholders regarding the DCD pause process at two defined points during each case: within two hours of case initiation and immediately prior to withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies.
- Requirement that all OPTN members educate applicable staff and contracted personnel regarding DCD pause policies, with documented verification of completed education.
- Standardization of a minimum five-minute observation period following circulatory cessation before organ recovery, except in limited circumstances involving brain-dead donors recovered under DCD protocols.
- Clarification of reporting timelines requiring notification of an unplanned DCD pause within 72 hours of initiation or within 24 hours following resolution, whichever occurs first.

Discussion highlights:

- Auditability of documentation requirements and mechanisms for compliance monitoring.
- Clarification of OPO accountability when hospitals utilize varying approaches to withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy criteria.
- The need for implementation guidance addressing situations where formal hospital policies do not exist.
- Preservation of transplant surgeons' ability to request an unplanned pause or decline participation if concerns regarding patient safety remain unresolved.
- Documentation expectations surrounding pause resolution and communication with transplant centers.
- Opportunities to educate hospital partners, professional societies, patients, and the broader public regarding DCD practices.
- Continued coordination with the ongoing Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup to ensure future policy alignment.

Several Board members emphasized that the proposed policy represents an important foundational step toward greater national standardization while recognizing that additional refinement and implementation guidance will continue following adoption. The President encouraged Board members to submit additional feedback regarding implementation of the policy prior to the August vote and emphasized the importance of comprehensive educational resources to support successful implementation. He also noted that a policy proposal specifically addressing NRP will be forthcoming and this will further consolidate practices.

Other/New Business

No additional items were raised.

Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.