

OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Thursday, February 19, 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 **February 19, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET.**

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Prior Meeting Summary – **VOTE**
- 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, Vincent Casingal, James Cason, Kenneth Chavin, Ari Cohen, Andrew Courtwright, Ryan Davies, Samantha Endicott, Gitthaline (Candie) Gagne, Joshua Gossett, John Hodges, Mary Homan, Darren Lahrman, Kevin Lee, Joseph Magliocca, Jerold Mande, Cathi Murphey, Annette Needham, Peter Nicastro, Robert (Cody) Reynolds, Austin Schenk, John Sperzel, Mark Wakefield, Kymberly Watt	OPTN Board of Directors
Aite Aigbe, Brianna Doby, Frank Holloman, Sarah Laskey, Nolan Simon	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Representatives
Doug Fesler	OPTN Executive Director
Christine Jones, Rachel Shapiro, Vanessa Amankwaa, Shayonna Cato, Tennille Daniels, Camellia Bollino Doyle, Jady Dunning, Becca Fritz, Sam Hoff, Tessa Kieffer, Mona Kilany, Anthony LaBarrie, Andrew London, Markus Louis, Taylor Melanson, Christina Sledge, Lee Thompson	OPTN Board Support Staff

Attendee Name(s)	Affiliation
Allyson Hart, Ryutaro Hirose, Roslyn Mannon, Jon Snyder	Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Representatives

Meeting Summary

Open Session

Call to Order

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, 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 January 15, 2026, meeting summary:

RESOLVED, that the meeting summary for the Board of Directors meeting held on January 15, 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: 27 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

Updates from the OPTN President

The Board President provided a comprehensive update on current OPTN priorities and operational considerations during the transition period. He acknowledged the challenges associated with modernization and contractor transitions, emphasizing that governance, patient safety, and operational continuity remain paramount.

Key updates included:

- **Appointment of Board Compliance Officers.** Andrew Courtright and Samantha Endicott were confirmed by the Executive Committee and will serve through June 2027.
- **Implementation of Emergency Lung Continuous Distribution (CD) Policy.** Implementation of the policy change is underway following approval by the Board via emergency action; policy will undergo public comment within six months as required.
- **Implementation of West Nile Policy.** Implementation of the policy change is ongoing following Board approval.

- **Allocation Out of Sequence (AOOS) Workgroup.** The workgroup submitted draft proposals to HRSA; feedback received; workgroup leads are reviewing HRSA feedback and will devise next steps for Board consideration.
- **Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup.** The workgroup has completed the development of draft policy concepts. They are currently under review by Board leadership and HRSA; formal policy process to follow.
- **Update on Report Regarding Transplantation of Non-citizen Non-residents.** The Board discussed ongoing review related to media reports concerning transplantation of non-citizen, non-resident individuals. Leadership emphasized that oversight and investigation must proceed through established governance and regulatory processes.

Current actions include:

- Coordination with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and federal partners for interagency review.
- Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) review and data requests to transplant centers, including historical case review.
- Drafting of a clarifying communication to programs regarding OPTN Policy 17 requirements.
- Future consideration of a targeted workgroup to evaluate potential policy gaps or clarity issues.

Board members emphasized urgency, public trust, and clarity in communication. The Board discussed differing perspectives regarding the tone and timing of program communications. Board leadership committed to broader Board engagement in development of the forthcoming letter.

- **Call for Committee Nominations.** The Committee Nomination period opened on February 17 and will remain open through March 16. Committee appointments will begin July 1.
- **OPTN Modernization Updates.** HRSA representatives provided updates on procurement and operational stewardship responsibilities during the transition period.
 - The transition to OPTN360 platform is underway to enhance security and structure.
 - Request for Information (RFIs) have closed; onboarding of new contractors anticipated.

HRSA representatives shared that lessons learned during the bridge period are being documented to strengthen transparency and future governance structures. Board members were reminded that committee meetings require coordination across OPTN volunteers, HRSA, and contractors to ensure compliance with governance requirements. Ad hoc meetings outside established processes are not permissible under the current structure.

The Board President reiterated that during the bridge period, essential functions—including candidate listing, donor matching, MPSC oversight, and Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC) work—continue uninterrupted. Committees are being convened as needed for urgent patient safety and operational matters.

Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.