

OPTN Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Thursday, January 15, 2026 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET | Location of Event: Zoom

The following is a meeting summary from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Board of Directors meeting, which took place on **January 15, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m. ET**.

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Prior Meeting Summary – **VOTE**
- Updates from the Allocation Out of Sequence (AOOS) Workgroup
- Updates on OPTN Modernization Activities
- Updates from the OPTN President

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 Cason, 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, Joseph Magliocca, Jerold Mande, Dan Meyer, Annette Needham, Peter Nicastro, Robert (Cody) Reynolds, Austin Schenk, John Sperzel, Mark Wakefield, Kymberly Watt	OPTN Board of Directors
Aite Aigbe, Adriana Alvarez, David Berick, Brianna Doby, Mesmin Germain, Amy Harbaugh, Frank Holloman, Sarah Laskey, Raymond Lynch, Patrick Mauro, 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, Camellia Bollino Doyle, Jady Dunning, Caroline Farrell, Becca Fritz, Sam Hoff, Tessa Kieffer, Mona Kilany, Anthony LaBarrie, Mary Lavelle, Andrew London, Markus Louis, Taylor Melanson, Christina Sledge, Lee Thompson, Sophie To	OPTN Board Support Staff
Cliff Miles	Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) Chair
Roslyn Mannon, Jon Snyder	Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR)

Meeting Summary

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 meeting was being held in open session and being recorded. He 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 Summary

The Board voted on a motion to approve the December 12, 2025, meeting summary:

RESOLVED, that the meeting summary for the Board of Directors meeting held on December 12, 2025, 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: 29 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

Allocation Out of Sequence (AOOS) Workgroup Updates

AOOS workgroup Leads, Justin Wilkerson and Kevin Lee provided a comprehensive update on the AOOS workgroup’s progress, including early conceptual proposals aimed at improving transparency, reducing organ non-use, and addressing system-wide deviations from allocation policy.

Key updates included:

- AOOS workgroup leads reiterated that all proposals remain conceptual and will undergo Board leadership review, HRSA program review and legal analysis, prior to starting with the formal policy development processes which will include public comment.

- Board members discussed ethical, logistical, and operational considerations, including physician discretion, center expertise, geographic constraints, and the need to preserve patient-centered decision-making.
- Compliance-related concepts included enhanced data reporting, routine auditing of allocation practices, structured mentorship for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), and dissemination of best practices to reduce inappropriate out-of-sequence placement.
- The Board discussed a concurrent acceptance concept that would allow multiple transplant centers to evaluate offers simultaneously once organs enter an expedited pathway, with final allocation still honoring match-run sequence.
- Lee briefed the Board on a proposed standardized expedited kidney placement pathway intended to reduce discards of difficult-to-place kidneys by establishing eligibility thresholds and structured, time-limited decision-making.
- On behalf of Offer team lead, Steven Potter, Wilkerson presented a draft, plain-language definition of an organ offer, proposing that valid offers be transmitted electronically through OPTN systems, tied to specific donors and candidates, fully auditable, and time-stamped.
- Workgroup leads emphasized that AOOS represents deviation from OPTN policy and underscored the need for transparent, auditable mechanisms that maintain fairness while reducing organ non-use.

OPTN Modernization Activities Update

Brianna Doby, Acting Chief of the Organ Transplant Branch at HRSA, provided an update on ongoing OPTN modernization efforts. She described the current period as one of transition and opportunity, emphasizing HRSA's commitment to preserving critical OPTN functions while improving transparency, accountability, and system performance.

Key themes and updates included:

- **Phased modernization approach.** HRSA is following a deliberate, phased strategy designed to protect core OPTN operations—particularly the match run and transplant execution—while transitioning to a multi-vendor environment.
- **Continuity of operations.** Despite the transition away from a single incumbent contractor and a federal funding lapse in late 2025, organ procurement, allocation, transplantation, and critical information technology (IT) systems continued without interruption.
- **Operational stewardship bridge.** HRSA has temporarily assumed stewardship for select functions, including committee support and patient safety activities, to ensure continuity until new task orders are fully implemented.
- **Patient safety and compliance.** Intake, triage, and response to patient safety reports—including disease transmission events—continue to use processes that are closely aligned with prior workflows.
- **OPTN411 launch.** HRSA introduced a centralized intake and inquiry system to improve transparency and consistency in handling questions, concerns, and general inquiries.

- **Data transparency and oversight.** Efforts are underway to improve data availability, dashboards, and analytic support to strengthen policy development and oversight.

Board members raised concerns regarding communication gaps during the transition, emphasizing the importance of proactive, timely messaging to OPTN members and the broader transplant community. HRSA acknowledged these concerns and committed to incorporating lessons learned into future transition planning and communications. HRSA addressed the recent contract transition period, affirming that matching, allocation, patient safety reporting, and oversight activities continued uninterrupted.

Updates from the OPTN President

The President shared updates on key policy initiatives and governance activities, highlighting ongoing workstreams that remain central to OPTN oversight, compliance, and system integrity.

Key updates included:

Implementation of Emergency Lung Continuous Distribution (CD) Policy

- The President provided an update on implementation of the emergency lung CD policy, including actions taken to address logistical complexity and ensure operational feasibility.

International Transplant Practices

- An update was provided on international transplant practices, including concerns raised in recent media reports regarding non-citizen, non-resident transplants.
- The President outlined plans to convene a targeted workgroup to review findings, evaluate policy for clarity, and present options to the Board for potential policy clarification, monitoring, or development.
- Coordinated review efforts involving HRSA, OPTN leadership, and the MPSC are underway to assess data trends, policy compliance, and potential gaps related to international transplantation.

Bylaws and Management and Membership Policies Workgroup

- The President announced the formation and early work of the Bylaws and Management and Membership Policies workgroup, tasked with ensuring alignment with statutory changes, the OPTN Final Rule, and the Securing the U.S. OPTN Act.

Policy Projects Moving to Development Phase

- The President informed the Board of several policy concepts that have advanced to the project development phase, noting that these initiatives remain pre-policy and subject to further review.

Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup

- NRP workgroup continues to advance policy development under HRSA and Board oversight following the transition to OPTN Board Support as the new workgroup contractor lead.

Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session.