

OPTN Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET | Location of Event: Zoom

The following is a summary of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Executive Committee meeting, which took place on **March 13, 2026, 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET.**

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Meeting Summary – **VOTE**
- Updates from the OPTN President
 - Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup
 - Discontinuation of COVID-era Practice
 - Non-U.S. Citizen/Non-U.S. Resident Transplant Update
 - Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Patient Safety Officer Workgroup
- Updates from HRSA
- Other/New Business

Closed Session

- The Executive Committee 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 of Patient Donor Affairs), George Bayliss, Jen Benson, Nahel Elias, Samantha Endicott, Cathi Murphey, Annette Needham	OPTN Executive Committee
Brianna Doby, Raymond Lynch, 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, Mona Kilany, Anthony LaBarrie, Mary Lavelle, Markus Louis	OPTN Board Support Staff
Megan Bell, Michael Marvin	Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)

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 Executive Committee members that the meeting was being recorded, the session was open, and the raise-hand feature should be used to facilitate discussion. He encouraged Executive Committee members to keep cameras on, and microphones muted to support engagement and meeting efficiency.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The Executive Committee moved a motion to approve the February 13, 2026, meeting summary. Following the motion to approve, the Executive Committee voted on the following:

RESOLVED, that the meeting summary for the Executive Committee meeting held on February 13, 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: 9 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

Updates from the OPTN President

The Board President provided updates on current OPTN priorities and ongoing policy initiatives.

- **Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup.** The workgroup is finalizing recommendations for submission to HRSA, with anticipated progression through standard policy development, including public comment and Board approval.
- **Discontinuation of COVID-era Practice.** The Board is moving to rescind a COVID-era practice that allowed temporary inactivation of candidates through donor criteria manipulation, signaling a return to standard policy operations.
- **Non-U.S. Citizen/Non-U.S. Resident Transplant Update.** Ongoing review of transplant practices involving non-U.S. citizen and non-U.S. resident patients continues, with data analysis and potential policy revisions anticipated following contractor transition.

- **Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Patient Safety Officer Workgroup.** A new workgroup is being formed to establish patient safety officer roles within OPOs, reflecting a federal directive focused on strengthening patient safety infrastructure.

Updates from HRSA

Brianna Doby, Acting Chief of the Organ Transplant Branch at HRSA, provided updates on modernization efforts, with a focus on enhancing the rigor, transparency, and efficiency of the public comment process as part of broader policy development improvements. She emphasized a shift toward a more structured and analytically rigorous approach to public comment, aligning OPTN processes more closely with federal notice-and-comment best practices. The updated methodology prioritizes substantive feedback and actionable policy considerations over general sentiment, with the goal of improving both the quality and speed of policy refinement.

[Donation after Circulatory Death \(DCD\) Public Comment Analytic Framework](#)

Brianna presented a new analytic framework applied to public comments received on the Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) policy proposal.

Key updates included:

- A total of 91 unique comments were analyzed, with a notably high proportion of individual commenters, reflecting increased public engagement compared to typical OPTN comment periods.
- Comments were categorized by commenter type (individual, organizational, anonymous) and further analyzed across multiple stakeholder groups, including OPOs, transplant centers, and advocacy organizations.
- A structured thematic coding process identified seven primary issue areas, allowing comments to be associated with multiple themes rather than forcing singular categorization.
- The most prominent themes included reporting and transparency, use of normothermic regional perfusion (NRP), standardization of practices, and concerns related to implementation of DCD protocols.
- Duplicate comments were excluded to avoid overrepresentation, and the analysis focused specifically on substantive policy concerns and suggested changes rather than general support or opposition.
- The results will inform committee-level adjudication, where workgroups will determine whether policy revisions are warranted and provide documented justification for any decisions.

[Directive to Reduce the Risk of Donor Derived Rabies Transmission Public Comment Framework](#)

Brianna also presented a parallel analytic framework for public comments related to the HRSA Directive to Reduce the Risk of Donor Derived Rabies Transmission prevention policy proposal.

Key updates included:

- A total of 27 unique comments were reviewed using the same structured, theme-based methodology, ensuring consistency across policy areas.

- Comments were categorized by stakeholder type, with a higher proportion of organizational input compared to individual commenters.
- Eight thematic issue areas were identified through iterative review and validation, with comments allowed to map to multiple themes to capture nuance.
- Key areas of concern included potential unintended consequences such as increased organ non-use, operational challenges related to CDC consultation requirements, screening and risk definition clarity, and communication to transplant candidates regarding potential risks.
- Outlier comments were not excluded but instead underwent additional review to ensure accurate interpretation and contextual understanding.
- As with the DCD framework, the analysis will feed into committee and workgroup deliberations, guiding potential policy refinements and implementation strategies.

Brianna outlined how these analytic frameworks will be integrated into the broader policy development process moving forward.

- Committees and workgroups will review the analyzed public comments and determine whether policy language changes are warranted, with clear documentation required for both changes and decisions not to modify proposals.
- Revised policy language and supporting justifications will be presented to the Board for final consideration and vote, following standard OPTN governance processes.
- HRSA will continue to provide oversight and participate throughout the process to ensure alignment with statutory and regulatory requirements, while avoiding delays or late-stage issues.

This model is intended to support a faster, more transparent, and more community-informed policy development process, with early indications of strong stakeholder and committee support.

Other/New Business

No new business was introduced during the open session.

Closed Session

The Executive Committee met in a closed session.