

OPTN Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Friday, January 9, 2026 | 1:00–2:00 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 **January 9, 2026, 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET.**

Agenda

Open Session

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Approval of Meeting Summary – **VOTE**
- Approval to Move December 5, 2025, Project Proposals to Development Phase – **VOTES**
 - “Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates”
 - “Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination”
 - “Optimizing Liver Allocation”
- Updates on OPTN Modernization Activities
- Other/New Business
- Adjourn

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	HRSA Representatives
Doug Fesler	OPTN Executive Director
Christine Jones, Rachel Shapiro, Vanessa Amankwaa, Melanie Bartlett, Jadyn Dunning, Becca Fritz, Samuel Hoff, Anthony LaBarrie, Mary Lavelle, Markus Louis, Christina Sledge	OPTN Board Support Staff

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 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 Summaries

The Executive Committee moved a motion to approve the December 5, 2025, 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 December 5, 2025, 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: 10 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

Approval to Move December 5, 2025, Project Proposals to Development Phase

The Executive Committee formally voted on three project proposals they had previously reviewed and supported during the December 5, 2025, meeting. These votes authorized the proposals to move into the project development phase; the Executive Committee did not approve any policy changes at this stage. Executive Committee members emphasized that these projects represent early exploratory work, carry modest financial impact, and are intended to inform potential future policy proposals.

“Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates” – Sponsored by the Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Following the motion to approve, the Executive Committee voted on the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Policy Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee hereby approves the projects entitled “Increase Priority for Multivisceral Transplant Candidates” and directs the sponsoring committee to begin the development phase.

Final Vote: 11 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

“Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination” – Sponsored by the Histocompatibility Committee

Following the motion to approve, the Executive Committee voted on the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Policy Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee hereby approves the project entitled “Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination” and directs the sponsoring committee to begin the development phase.

Final Vote: 11 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

“Optimizing Liver Allocation” – Sponsored by the Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Following the motion to approve, the Executive Committee voted on the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Policy Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee hereby approves the project entitled “Optimizing Liver Allocation” and directs the sponsoring committee to begin the development phase.

Final Vote: 11 approve, 0 reject, 0 abstain.

Updates on OPTN Modernization Activities

Brianna Doby, Acting Chief of the Organ Transplant Branch at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provided a comprehensive 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.

Executive Committee members acknowledged that the transition has been challenging and, at times, disruptive. However, they expressed confidence that modernization will ultimately result in a more resilient, transparent, and effective national transplant system.

Other/New Business

Executive Committee members and HRSA raised several discussion points related to communication, committee operations, and public engagement.

- **Committee meetings and governance.** HRSA clarified that committee work must continue through formal, documented processes; meeting support can be reactivated during the transition based on urgency and Board priorities.
- **Public comment transparency.** Members discussed changes in how public comments are posted and reviewed. HRSA confirmed that all comments remain public and unmoderated, aside from necessary federal safety reviews.
- **Communication strategy.** Members emphasized the need for clearer, proactive communication to reduce confusion and anxiety among transplant professionals, patients, and donor families during the transition. Members highlighted the importance of addressing misinformation and providing clear, accessible messaging to reassure patients that transplantation activities continue safely and without interruption.

Closing Remarks

In closing, Executive Committee leadership acknowledged the complexity and emotional impact of the current transition, while reaffirming a shared commitment to patient safety, transparency, and continuous improvement. Executive Committee members emphasized that this change presents an opportunity to reimagine OPTN processes, address longstanding challenges, and strengthen governance for the future.

HRSA and Executive Committee leadership reiterated their mission-driven focus on ensuring uninterrupted organ donation and transplantation, improving communication with stakeholders, and building a stronger, more responsive system for patients, families, and providers.

The Board President thanked the Executive Committee for their engagement and adjourned the meeting.