

## **OPTN Executive Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**March 24, 2022**

**Conference Call**

**Dr. Matthew Cooper, Chair**  
**Dr. Jerry McCauley, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Executive Committee (EC) met via teleconference on 03/24/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project from the Policy Oversight Committee
2. Update from Executive Committee Work Groups
3. Post-Public Comment Review: Redesign Map of OPTN Regions
4. Post-Public Comment Review: Proposal to Revise the OPTN Charter
5. Post-Public Comment Review and Monitoring Report: Policy 1.4.F Reinstatement

The following is a summary of the (Sub)Committee's discussions.

#### **1. New Project from the Policy Oversight Committee**

The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) presented three projects to the Executive Committee.

The first was from Kidney Committee to provide an administrative update to the OPTN Kidney Paired Donation Policy that will increase efficiency of listing and transplanting patients. These modifications would include histocompatibility related policies; informed consent related policies and administrative policies.

The second project was enhancements to DonorNet Clinical Data Collection to better capture information used by transplant hospitals during donor and organ evaluation. This data includes echocardiograms, medications/fluids, donation after circulatory death.

Lastly they presented an Ethics Committee White Paper to conduct ethical analysis of the need for transparent, accessible, patient centered data to inform patient decision making when evaluating which transplant program to pursue listing.

#### Summary of discussion:

The three projects did not meet any resistance or questioning from the Executive Committee.

The committee voted 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.

#### **2. Update from Executive Committee Work Groups**

As part of the Regional Review Project under the Executive Committee two work groups were formed to review the Regional Nomination process and Patient Engagement.

The Regional Nominations Workgroup recommended consistency in the composition of the regional nominating committees; selection of nominees for associate councilor elections and the selection of nominees for committee appointments.

The patient engagement workgroup focused on building the volunteer pipeline, enhancing the experience, developing ways to engage patients not already connected to the OPTN and incorporating the patient voice more fully in policy development.

Summary of discussion:

The Executive Committee was in support of the work of the two workgroups. The only comments were that the volunteer pipeline should be widened to consider more candidates and regions need additional guidance on the composition of the nominating committee.

These two workgroups will meet again to work towards recommendations.

**3. Post Public Comment Review: Redesign Map of OPTN Regions**

The chair of the Executive Committee began the review of the Public Comment response to the concept paper of the Redesign of the OPTN Regions. In the public comment responses the majority were in favor of 11 regions, either the way they are currently mapped or 11 new equal regions. The other public comments in favor of the current structure noted the relationships already formed, that they didn't see how changes would improve representation or strategic goals.

Those that were supportive of changing the maps noted that the current regions were outdated and regions have unequal representation on the board and committees. That updating regions could align with allocation changes. Other comments for how to redraw boundaries mentioned being mindful of time zones, group states with similar patient populations, and consider where patients receive transplants and group those states/locals together.

Summary of discussion:

The committee's discussion began around are we doing this for the right reason, for cost, equity and efficiency? Another member stated the need to balance maps and representation so people feel heard. There was some concern that this is too soon with the allocation changes and there isn't much patient impact on changing regions.

The UNOS President, Brian Shepard, commented that this conversation needs to become more focused so that we know what will be put forward to the Board in June.

Committee chair, Matt Cooper, asked for an informal poll on how the committee felt towards leaving the maps the same vs. changing. The majority of the committee supported keeping the current regions.

**4. Post Public Comment Review: Proposal to Revise the OPTN Charter**

UNOS General Counsel Liz Robbins presented the revised OPTN Charter. The OPTN contract requires the contractor to ensure that the charter is specific to the OPTN. The executive committee had identified some revisions to eliminate redundancy and enhance consistency with NOTA and the Final Rule. Public feedback supported the changes to the charter.

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion from the committee. The adoption of the changes were moved and seconded. A vote was taken and it was 100% yes; 0 no; 0 abstained.

## **5. Post Public Comment Review: Review and Monitoring Report: Policy 1.4.F Reinstatement**

The chair of the Executive Committee presented the post public comment review of the reinstatement of updates to candidate data during the COVID-19 Emergency that was instated on January 11, 2022 and is set to expire on April 11, 2022. The number of candidates utilizing the carrying of labs forward to maintain waitlist status is small.

### Summary of discussion:

The committee did not have discussion or questions about the policy. The emergency policy is expected to expire on April 11, 2022.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- April 25, 2022

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Matthew Cooper
  - Jerry McCauley
  - David Mulligan
  - Irene Kim
  - Lisa Stocks
  - Mindy Dison
  - Patrick Healey
  - Richard Formica
  - Valinda Jones
  - William Hildebrand
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Chris McLaughlin
  - Frank Holloman
  - Shannon Dunne
  - Shannon Taitt
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Ajay Israni
  - Jon Snyder
  - Ryo Hirose
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alex Tulchinsky
  - Bobby Holliday
  - Brian Shepard
  - Carrie Caumont
  - Cole Fox
  - Courtney Jett
  - David Klassen
  - Elizabeth Miller
  - Isaac Hager
  - Jacqui O'Keefe
  - James Alcorn
  - Jason Livingston
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Kelley Poff
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Krissy Laurie
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Liz Robbins Callahan
  - Mary Beth Murphy
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Maureen McBride
  - Rebecca Murdock
  - Robert Hunter

- Roger Brown
- Ross Walton
- Sara Rose Wells
- Steve Harms
- Susan Tlusty
- Susie Sprinson
- Tina Rhoades
- **Other Attendees**
  - Alden Doyle
  - Brad Kornfeld