

**OPTN Board Policy Group  
Meeting Summary  
November 4, 2024**

**Nancy Metzler, Group Leader**

## **Introduction**

The Board Policy Group met via Webex on 11/04/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Continuous Distribution Update
3. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing (Lung Transplantation Committee)

### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

A subset of Board members met to discuss select items from the Summer 2024 Public Comment cycle to prepare for the December 2024 Board of Directors meeting. The following is a summary of the group's discussion.

Contractor staff explained next steps for the projects discussed during the meeting and other Summer 2024 public comment items ahead of the December 2024 Board meeting. Board Policy Group members were asked to vote on their recommendation for agenda placement (discussion or consent) for the action item for the Lung Transplantation Committee's proposal for the December Board meeting.

### **2. Continuous Distribution Update**

Contractor staff shared an overview of continuous distribution and shared a status report on each organ's continuous distribution efforts. Contractor staff presented organ-specific updates and public comment feedback on the continuous distribution items that were available during Winter 2024 Public Comment. Contractor staff also shared the projected time before each organ would be implemented within the continuous distribution framework. Contractor staff encouraged the group to share feedback on the updates ahead of the December Board meeting.

The Board Policy Group did not vote on agenda placement as the update is not an action item. The Board will receive an update on continuous distribution during the December Board meeting.

#### Summary of discussion:

A Board Policy Group member suggested that the presentation to the Board highlight the efficiency of technology in transplantation. The Board Policy Group discussed the planned order of organs implementing the continuous distribution framework, and it was noted that the Executive Committee decided liver would be the next organ the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) would create a modeling simulation for.

Board Policy Group members suggested the presentation to the Board include information on the expedited placement of organs. They suggested framing the conversation to emphasize the balance between efficiency and utility of an organ, and the potential impact of expedited placement on pediatric candidates. The group also discussed how the OPTN could improve the quality of metrics when analyzing kidneys.

A Board Policy Group member suggested that the OPTN consider updating the definition of medical urgency as an attribute and shared ideas on how the OPTN could better measure post-transplant survival.

A Board Policy Group member asked how continuous distribution interacts with other initiatives throughout the community, specifically noting the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model and the Organ Transplantation Affinity Group (OTAG). The Board member noted that it would be more efficient to coordinate continuous distribution with these initiatives to better frame conversations and decisions around continuous distribution. The Board member asked whether the attributes the committees are considering for continuous distribution were the best attributes to consider. They shared that while an initiative may increase equity, this does not necessarily mean efficiency will increase, nor does this mean it is cost effective. While discussing attributes of continuous distribution, a Board member shared that prior living donors should have priority no matter what organ they donated or may need. Contractor staff shared that the Living Donor Committee has provided recommendations on the attribute of prior living donation. A Board member noted that post-transplant survival isn't included in the attribute model. A Board member commented that hard-to-place kidneys should be a priority of the OPTN.

### **3. Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing**

Dennis Lyu, Vice Chair of the Lung Transplantation Committee, presented the proposal to Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing. Dr. Lyu shared the purpose of the proposal, post-public comment analysis, changes that have been made post-public comment, and implementation considerations.

#### Summary of discussion:

A Board member asked what new requirements this proposal includes for organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and asked how these standards measure against the other performance measures that are currently in place to analyze OPO performance.

#### Vote:

The Board Policy Group voted 9 consent and 0 discussion on agenda placement for the proposal during the December 2024 Board meeting.

## Attendance

- **Group Members**
  - Deb Adey
  - Dorrie Dils
  - Erika Demars
  - Jen Lau
  - Joe Brownless
  - Julie Spear
  - Kenneth McCurry
  - Laura Butler
  - Luis Hidalgo
  - Michael Kwan
  - Nancy Metzler
  - Osama Gaber
  - Robert Harland
  - Sandra Amaral
  - Silas Norman
- **HRSA Representatives**
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- **UNOS Staff**
  - Anna Messmer
  - Cole Fox
  - Emily Ward
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Leah Nunez
  - Maureen McBride
  - Morgan Jupe
- **Other Attendees**
  - Dennis Lyu