

# Update on OPTN Regional Review Project

*OPTN Executive Committee*

# Purpose

- OPTN, donation and transplant community, and organ allocation policies have undergone significant change since OPTN Regions were created
- Purpose of the review is to evaluate the structure, processes, performance, and effectiveness of Regions
- Review considers current and future needs of the nation's donation and transplant community

# Regional review roadmap

2020	Request for community input	Summer
	Issued RFP for external vendor to conduct the project	Fall
2021	Selected external vendor (EY) to lead project	Winter
	EY reviewed community input, studied OPTN system, conducted interviews, and prepared recommendations for Board of Directors	Spring
	OPTN Board of Directors receives and reviews recommendations	Summer
	<b>Consultant recommendations issued for community feedback</b>	Summer
	Board of Directors considers community feedback and develops public comment proposal	December
2022	Proposal released for public comment	Winter
	Board of Directors considers public comment and approves OPTN structure	June
	Implementation begins of Board-approved OPTN structure	Summer

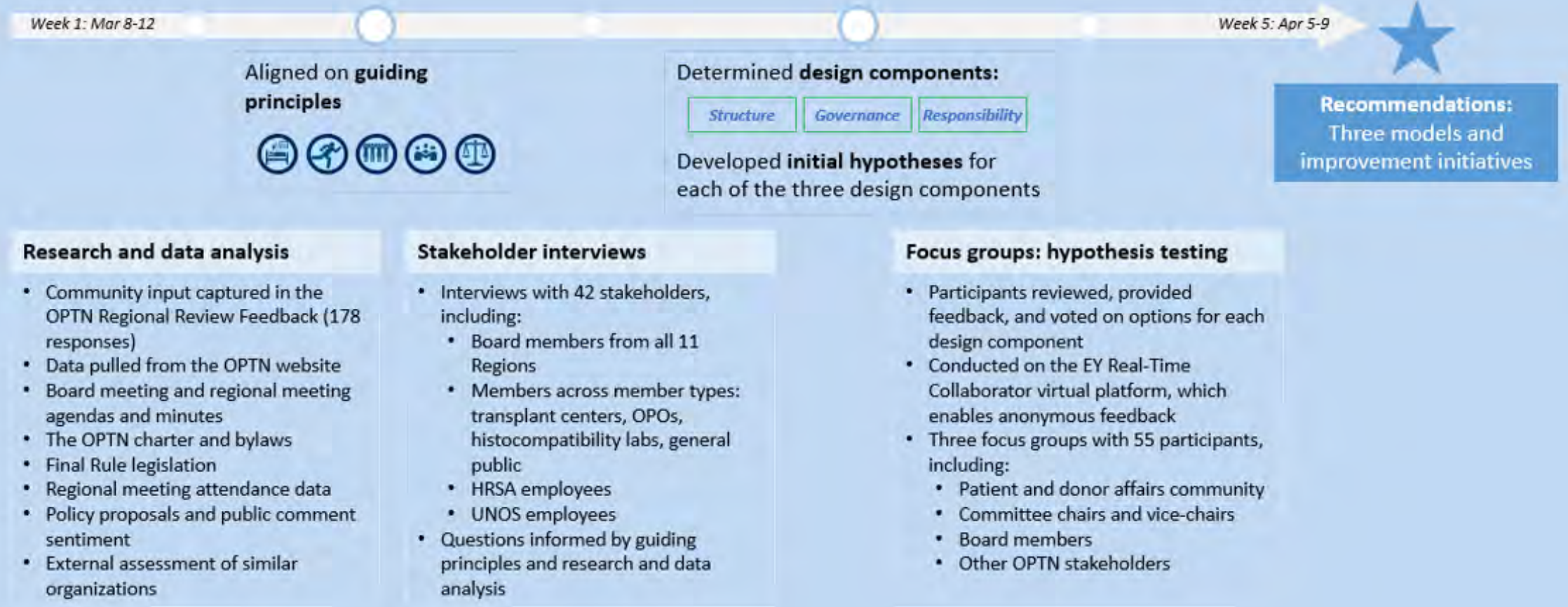
# Considerations

- OPTN launched the Regional Review project pursuant to OPTN Contract Task 3.3.3: *Plan to Review and Analyze the OPTN Regional Process*
- Selected EY as vendor as an impartial, national consulting firm with no previous affiliation with UNOS or other transplant stakeholders
- EY presents three models, but there are a myriad of potential options

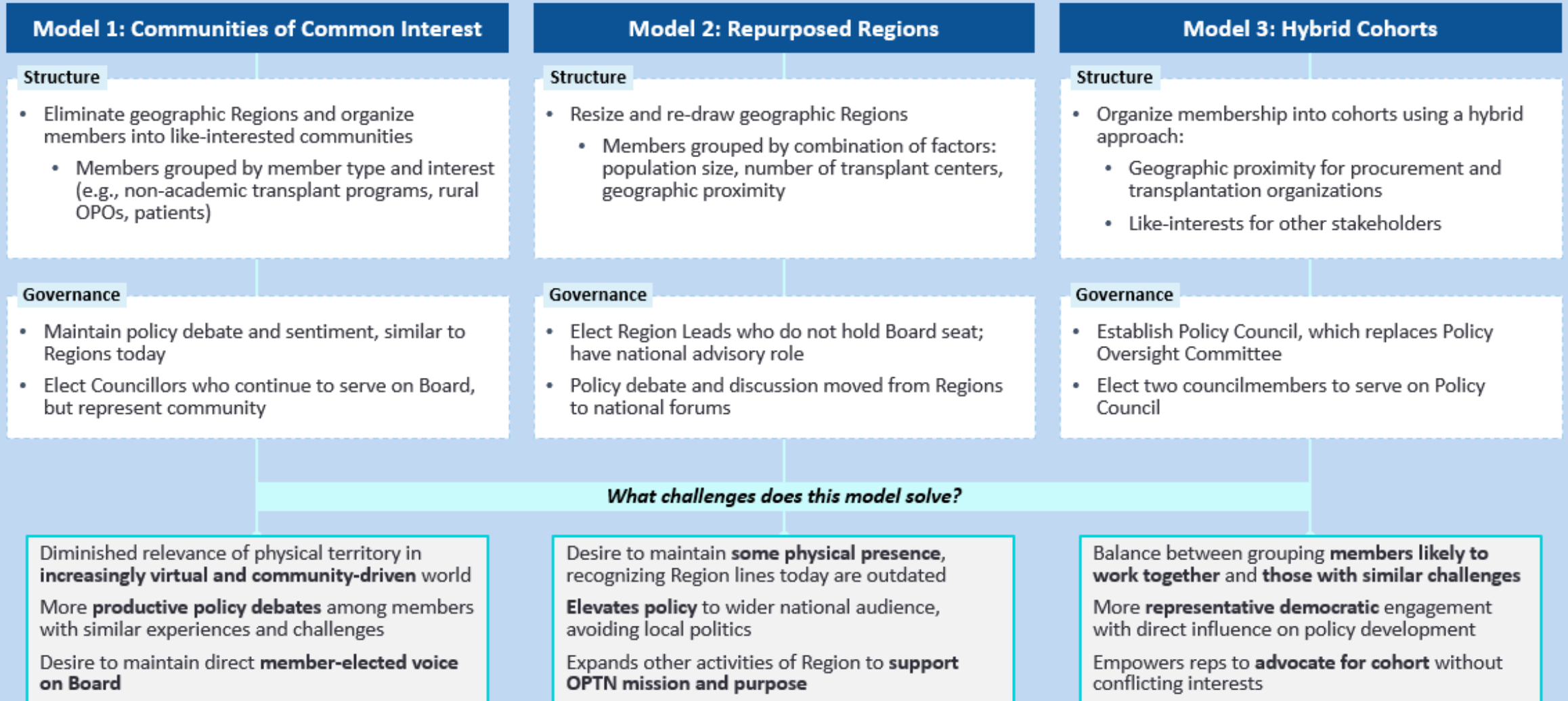
# In a five-week sprint, EY project team developed three potential models to replace Regions today, incorporating OPTN member input

## Scope

**Optimize OPTN governance and operational effectiveness by evaluating the roles of Regions:**  
Purpose and configuration of Regions, and approach to regional representation in broader governance



# EY project team created three options for the new structural model, each of which solves multiple challenges with today's regional system



# OPTN has an opportunity to improve governance and deliver better outcomes starting today

## Next steps for Regional Review Project



### Activities to start in conjunction with public comment period:

- Conduct analysis on effective organization of like-interest community structures
- Develop change management framework for transitioning to whichever model is selected (e.g., plan for re-sizing Board)

## Initiatives OPTN can consider outside of public comment

### Immediate actions to improve governance

- Raise awareness about the OPTN to increase national interest in participation
- Clarify and streamline the public comment process; ensure members understand that the casting of sentiment does not constitute a vote, and encourage members to participate fairly and constructively
- Encourage committees to share draft proposals with other committees to gather initial input/feedback
- Clarify committee nomination and appointment processes, removing barriers to entry for new volunteers to participate
- Ensure that all meetings conducted under the auspices of the OPTN dedicate time to best-practice sharing and collaboration in meetings

### Initiatives to implement with new structure

- Introduce monthly/quarterly communication cadence from Regions (or alternate construct) to members
- Enhance educational opportunities for physicians/surgeons and non-clinical members
- Introduce performance monitoring dashboards at the level of the Regions or alternate constructs to track performance against OPTN Strategic Goals and encourage dialogue around performance improvement

# Discussion - Overview

- Use models to think about the structure and function of the OPTN
- Structure – how do we organize members into smaller forums?
- Governance – how do we ensure members have a voice in policy?
- Responsibility – how can Regions (or alternate construct) serve members and enable OPTN’s strategic goals?
- Geography – what is the role of geography in each of these categories?



# Discussion - Structure

- Should the OPTN retain geographic Regions in some form?
- Should Regions be defined by historic boundaries or be redrawn to be the same “size” as defined by some measure?
  - Ex: Population, number of transplants performed per year, number of transplant centers
- Should the OPTN establish other Communities of Common Interest or Hybrid Cohorts?
  - If so – how should these groups be defined?
  - Should the way in which these groups are defined vary based on purpose (e.g. policy development vs. implementation or effective practices)?

# Discussion - Governance

- For recruiting quality and diverse candidates to the Board and committees, what role should Regions, Communities of Common Interest, or Hybrid Cohorts play?
- How should regional sentiment be collected and reported?

# Discussion - Responsibility

- For discussions about policy development, is it best to organize around:
  - A) members that interact together frequently
  - B) different member types (Ex: OPOs vs. kidney programs vs. histocompatibility labs)
  - C) something else (Ex: national discussions)
- For discussions about shared operations and effective practice, is it best to organize around:
  - A) members that interact together frequently
  - B) different member types (Ex: OPOs vs. kidney programs vs. histocompatibility labs)
  - C) something else
- Are there other functions that Regions, or an alternative construct, should fill?

# Discussion - Geography

- Are there other roles that Regions currently fill that have not been captured in this discussion?
- Are there other ways in which geography should influence OPTN structure, governance, or responsibility?