

700 North 4th Street, Richmond, VA 23219 tel: 804-782-4800 fax: 804-782-4816

Maureen McBride, Ph.D. Executive Director & Interim CEO

Jan. 4, 2023

Ms. Mina K. Hsiang
Administrator and Deputy Chief Federal Information Officer
United States Digital Service
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Ms. Hsiang,

On behalf of United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), we are writing to seek the engagement of your team in a review of the IT system that supports the lifesaving work of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). UNOS is proud to serve as the OPTN under contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It is incumbent upon us to ensure we are utilizing all available resources to continually improve the strength and security of the system.

Last year, UNOS was provided with what was purported to be a draft report from the United States Digital Service (USDS), which drew a wide variety of conclusions about our IT systems. As noted in an Aug. 2, 2022, letter to the HRSA Administrator, we would have welcomed a USDS review of our system, but did not receive notice of this review before, during or after its development, nor are we aware of a final version of the document.

A safe, reliable, and secure technology infrastructure for the national donation and transplantation network is of critical importance to the public and the patients we all serve, and UNOS would be pleased to support the USDS' work in updating and finalizing the report. As such, we are requesting a meeting with your team to mutually review and discuss the draft report. In addition, we also invite you and any members of your team for an in-person review of the technologies that power and secure the OPTN. UNOS' technology framework and modernization journey already leverage the USDS Digital Services Playbook, and we would welcome the opportunity to apply additional insights from USDS.

We believe both UNOS and the USDS want the same thing: to get as many donor organs as possible to the patients who need them, both equitably and efficiently. We both want to improve organ donation and transplantation in a way that's based on facts and without service interruptions in a system upon which so many patients, professionals and clinicians depend.

We are committed to continuously improving and advancing the security and technology of UNOS infrastructure. That commitment is regularly validated through annual audits and other more frequent measures that test, review, and strengthen the OPTN system. We believe a collaboration with the USDS will contribute to this ongoing cycle of continuous improvement.

We look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCauley, MD, MPH Chief, Division of Nephrology

Vice Chairman, Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University

President, United Network for Organ Sharing

Williams Styre god enmoid

Jun ME Cauley

Dianne LaPointe Rudow, ANP-BC, DNP, FAAN

Professor, Department of Population Health Science and Policy

Director, Zweig Family Center for Living Donation Recanati/Miller Transplant Institute

The Mount Sinai Medical Center

Vice President, United Network for Organ Sharing

Mathin Cooper

Matthew Cooper, MD, FACS

Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital Director, Solid Organ Transplantation Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Immediate Past President, United Network for Organ Sharing

Malina d. Jones

Valinda L. Jones, MSN, RN

President and Consultant, Transplant Education Connection

Vice President of Patient and Donor Affairs, United Network for Organ Sharing

Maureen MBride Maureen McBride, Ph.D.

Interim Chief Executive Officer, United Network for Organ Sharing

CC: Shalanda D. Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Carole Johnson, Administrator, HRSA

The Honorable Clare Martorana, U.S. Chief Information Officer

Dr. Suma Nair, Ph.D., Acting Associate Administrator, HRSA

Ms. Adriane Burton, Chief Information Officer, HRSA