

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services
September 13, 2016

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC), Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services convened on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 via teleconference at 12:00 P.M. EST.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for Teleconference:

- Jennifer Nagda
- Dora Schriro
- Kurt Schwarz
- Margo Schlanger
- Sonia Parras-Konrad
- Karen Musalo

Others Present:

- Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, Senior Advisor, ICE; Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), ACFRC
- Maryam Ali, Special Assistant, ICE

Opening Remarks:

Subcommittee Chair Jennifer Nagda took roll call and provided an update from the subcommittee chairs call.

She said the focus is on identifying issues that needed to be discussed cross-Committee and provided a description of what the October ACFRC meeting would look like. She reiterated that after turning in the reports to ACFRC Chair Kurt Schwarz on September 30, members would be done drafting and making changes. Members would review and come prepared for the October meeting. Sections will be introduced one at a time followed by a public comment period for each and voting at the end of the day. She said it is not clear if the vote is taken on section individually or on the report as a whole but it is clear that Robert's Rules of Order will be used and ACFRC Chair Kurt Schwarz will be managing all of this.

Special Assistant Maryam Ali confirmed that there would be a public comment period for each subcommittee report and there would be time following this for continued deliberation to address any concerns coming from the public.

General Meeting:

Vice Chair Dora Schriro asked ACFRC Chair Schwarz if there was anything he would be unwilling to support of anything he disagrees with. She understands that voting is done in a

public venue but she believes it would be best to the Committee to come in with a unified posture.

ACFRC Chair Schwarz said he does not anticipate any issues but this could be further discussed at next week's call.

On drafting an introduction, Margo Schlanger said there was a lot of introductory materials throughout the drafts and she would be willing to pull some of that together to draft and circulate an introduction for review.

Subcommittee Chair Nagda noted that Leslye Orloff, Chair of the Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health was going to identify any instance where the Committee recommended that something be monitored or checked for compliance. This would be shared with all the subcommittees.

Chair Nagda asked if there were issues that anyone wanted to discuss. Members discussed the following issues:

- Recommending an ombudsman may transgress the scope of the tasking.
- The idea of unannounced visits by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties – unannounced visits are seen as bad practice.
- Placement of T and U visas in the medical and mental health section versus the legal section.
- Overall cross-references and placement of issues.
- More recommendations on providing information to parents on their responsibilities for their child's education.
- Clarifying that the recommendations are not location-specific but rather apply to family residential centers (FRC) now and any FRCs in the future wherever they may exist.
- Further discussing Section 504 issues for education via email.
- Agreeing to take a tone throughout the recommendations of surfacing uncertainty – do not state with certainty if you are not certain for the sake of credibility.
- Including an appendix of information requests that were not provided for the sake of context v. including some of the text from the letter sent to the Secretary in the introductory language.
- Ensuring certain sections are not too esoteric for non-experts.
- Eliminating repetition.
- Listing recommendations in order of most important to least important.

Ms. Schlanger asked ICE to clarify whether legal orientation programs and know your rights presentations were provided as a part of a government requirement to meet a need or just services provided by non-governmental organizations that are allowed access to potential clients. Ms. Ali noted this as a getback.

Chair Nagda asked everyone to complete reviewing the feedback they received and consolidate edits and comments. Clean versions should be sent to Ms. Schlanger by Friday to manage overall consolidating.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 1:00 P.M. EST.