

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Education
August 9, 2016

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC), Subcommittee on Education convened for its weekly meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, via teleconference from 12:00 P.M. to approximately 1:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for the Teleconference:

- BethAnn Berliner
- Anadora Moss
- Michelle Brané

Others Present:

- John Amaya, Deputy Chief of Staff, ICE; Designated Federal Officer (DFO), ACFRC
- Maryam Ali, Special Assistant, ICE
- Doretha McCallum, Chief of Staff, ICE Office of Community Engagement

Opening Remarks:

Chair BethAnn Berliner confirmed that all subcommittee members were on the line, and she acknowledged ICE staff on the call.

Special Assistant Maryam Ali asked members to provide blackout dates for the full Committee public meeting planned for October. Chair Berliner confirmed with the members and reported that there are no blackout dates.

General Meeting:

Chair Berliner began with an update from the subcommittee Chairs call, which focused on style and formatting. She stated that Dora Schriro, Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, stepped up to take a lead role in the detention management activities. She said her understanding is that Vice Chair Schriro will be in contact with all members to gather ideas and suggestions, and she expressed how great it is to have a centralized person for the detention management recommendations.

Chair Berliner informed the group that there is still no standardized template for recommendations. She indicated that the subcommittee needs to put together a table with more explicit information. She noted some of the other committees are asking for more language. Chair Berliner stated that there needs to be a centralized, common document that has subheads and paragraphs with content for each of the subheads. She said content will be imported to the template from other documents, commenting that the education group's recommendations are more granular and different from the other subcommittees.

Ms. Brane asked if the group had what the other subcommittees have done. Chair Berliner replied that information from Margo Schlanger, a member of the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, was available. The feedback was that a table is too restricting and needs more content. There will be one template that will be used by all of the subcommittees.

Vice Chair Moss said she thought that what the group has completed thus far is good and on the right track. However, she added that based on the information members have, they are still unable to address some of the even more granular issues, for example, the process for subject matter monitoring at the family residential centers (FRCs). Chair Berliner indicated that what the subcommittee is doing is helpful, noting that education is tricky and that the group was tackling both short-term and long-term education issues. She said it was good to put the information into this structure, and it is helpful in organizing information and recommendations.

Chair Berliner then said Prison Rape Elimination Act audits have not started yet and mentioned that a request for proposal was recently put out for bids.

Moving to the subcommittee's current draft recommendations, the group discussed issues related to cultural competency, prevention and reporting, and detention management. There was some question about whether or not the topics of cultural competency and detention management should still be included in the education space or handed off to Vice Chair Schriro.

On the matter of crosswalking material, Chair Berliner said the goal is to try to get through the crosswalk between new information and what is already available. She stated that members needed to push forward with all of the content they wanted in the draft recommendations document by next Monday (August 15). She said on Tuesday (August 16), the group could extract and add to the new format. By Labor Day (September 5), the subcommittee should have recommendations wrapped up.

Chair Berliner said there might be a few nuances to some of the recommendations such as issues pertaining to parenting, abuse, understanding families' pathways, and behavior in the classroom. There was discussion about rethinking parenting classes; members decided they needed more information about management and support.

The subcommittee also talked about the need for more staffing at the FRCs and the need to become more familiar with agencies that do resettlement work. Members also further discussed the importance of performance measures and quality standards.

In closing, Chair Berliner reiterated the need for everyone to dig deep to complete their drafting this week. It is expected that everyone will hear from Vice Chair Schriro next week. She said the plan is to consolidate the information. She added that if she hears anything about the template format, she will forward that information to the subcommittee.

Adjournment:

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