

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Education
August 16, 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 16, 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

Opening Remarks:

Chair BethAnn Berliner confirmed that every subcommittee member was accounted for, and she recognized ICE staff on the call.

General Meeting:

Chair Berliner began with an update from the earlier subcommittee Chairs call, which focused on style and formatting. She noted that Dora Schriro, Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, was grateful for the feedback on the detention management issues that crosswalk the three subcommittees. Vice Chair Schriro may work with ICE to see if it is possible to organize a phone call to discuss detention management issues across the groups, but for now she is simply taking the information provided and detailing an outline.

Chair Berliner said the three big action items for the Subcommittee on Education are:

1. Reconciling comments and finalizing recommendations;
2. Importing the recommendations into the discussed format; and
3. Drafting introductory text for the recommendations and for each subsection of recommendations.

Chair Berliner said she has crafted an introductory piece, but noted that it would not be as lengthy as the other subcommittees. She said her goal is to draft out more complete sections, but she is unsure of what to add for certain sections with very straightforward recommendations. Michelle Brané added that less text would be adequate to address the topics in this subcommittee and the goal is to be clear. Vice Chair Anadora Moss agreed.

Chair Berliner said she would be responsible for reformatting, but the goal for the meeting is to comb through the document and reconcile comments.

As a lead, overarching recommendation, the subcommittee members discussed revising and expanding facility handbooks, which say very little about education. Ms. Brané noted that this could be worked into Vice Chair Schriro's detention management piece instead. Vice Chair Moss agreed, but said the members should confirm that this is highlighted for Vice Chair Schriro. She added that education is supposed to be a core piece of the approach for family detention as it is what separates it from being a correctional facility.

The members agreed that recommending expansion of the standards on education should stay in their purview, but the expansion of the handbooks could be moved to Vice Chair Schriro's detention management piece.

The members then went through comments and reconciled differences. Issues that were discussed included:

- Training teachers to use a protocol.
- Ensuring that monitoring is done by a representative of the contractor who has subject matter expertise.
- Specifying that the independent oversight authority respond directly to ICE in an effort to give ICE ownership to make it easier to FOIA reports.
- Quiet observer option for children should be expanded from just those inexperienced with out of home care to those who experienced trauma and are in a new disorienting, potentially traumatic environment.
- Implementing year-round, full-day education schedules.
- Continuation of self-paced curriculums adapted to student skill and knowledge levels.
- Setting clear boundaries by defining "one month or more" as the basis for particular recommendations.
- Use of English language audiobooks and the rationale behind it.
- Including recommendations about vocational programs as suggested by a member of the public during the full Committee public meeting in March in San Antonio, Texas.
- The strength of the educational programs across facilities and the use of icon-based communication—providing visual aids to help parents understand.
- The frequency of updates and check-ins being recommended
- Ensuring that all the facilities understand who is supposed to be on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.
- Closely defining exigent circumstances and ensuring there is the opportunity for a review board.
- Ensuring that mentions of identifying physical and sexual abuse reporting throughout the recommendations are consistent with employee training on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Subcommittee members were not finished discussing their changes during the hour; however, ACFRC DFO John Amaya was unable to extend the call due to another meeting on his schedule.

Chair Berliner said she would reformat the document in accordance with the agreed upon format and recirculate to the group.

Adjournment:

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