

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Education
September 13, 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, September 13, 2016, via teleconference from 12:00 P.M. to approximately 1:10 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
- Andrea Washington, Special Assistant, ICE

Opening Remarks:

Chair BethAnn Berliner did a quick roll call of the subcommittee, and she recognized the ICE staff participating in the teleconference.

General Meeting:

Chair Berliner began with a few updates from the subcommittee Chairs call. The Chair informed the group that Margo Schlanger, a member of the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, offered to take the lead on putting together a whole cloth document of the draft recommendations. She stated that Ms. Schlanger also volunteered to take on drafting a frontend piece for the Committee's report, pulling from the subcommittees' work to create a cohesive introduction.

The Chair noted that there was a discussion about the upcoming October 7 full Committee public meeting, with a particular focus on how the meeting would flow and how voting would be handled. ACFRC DFO John Amaya explained that after all the subcommittees finalize their recommendations on September 30, they will submit them to Committee Chair Kurt Schwartz, who will compile the separate documents into one report. Everyone will have an opportunity to review the compiled document between September 30 and October 7. If members read through the full document and have concerns and/or want to suggest edits, they will bring those issues up during the public meeting on October 7. Following discussion, DFO Amaya said, the Committee will then vote on adopting any changes; approved changes will be made by Chair Schwartz.

Chair Berliner asked who would be responsible for leading the discussion on the different subcommittee recommendations and what would be the structure of the conversation section.

DFO Amaya said he would get confirmation from the Department of Homeland Security Committee Management Office (DHS CMO) on whether the Committee Chair leads the discussion or if the subcommittee Chairs would lead the conversation as their individual group recommendations come up. The DFO also reminded the subcommittee that there would be public comment sessions after each of the presentations. Chair Berliner asked for more detail on what exactly the presentations entailed, and DFO Amaya answered that this is the information he is going to get more direction on from the DHS CMO.

Michelle Brané, expressing concern about the timeframe, said she was worried that the Committee would not have enough time to fully address comments from members and the public in one meeting. Ms. Brané said she felt that the process was being rushed, and it made her nervous.

Chair Berliner asked DFO Amaya to take a few minutes to think about Ms. Brané's remarks, but added that she wanted to use the rest of the allotted time discussing the feedback the group received on its draft recommendations. The Chair said she thought most of the commentary and suggested edits were helpful, though there were some issues she wanted to push back on and others she wanted the group's help with responding to.

Chair Berliner said she felt strongly that the subcommittee should not require the adoption of one particular curricular or instruction best practices approach over another. At family residential center (FRC) schools, the curriculum is developed by drawing upon multiple sources. The subcommittee is recommending best practice sources to pull from, depending on grade and content area. This is in contrast to the health care recommendations in some places in which a specific best practice should be required. Chair Berliner asked members for their thoughts. Vice Chair Anadora Moss and Ms. Brané told the Chair they trust her analysis and defer to her on the matter.

The Chair continued that she also disagreed with footnoting every curricula referenced in the recommendations, commenting that over footnoting in a policy document is a mistake both stylistically and for ease of content delivery.

The subcommittee then talked through the following issues, based on the commentary received from the broader Committee:

- Clarifying the recommendation on expanding childcare and when parents have access to it;
- Reworking the language on curriculum to make the language stronger about drawing from best practices in the field;
- Going further on recommendations related to addressing the needs of the hearing impaired and individuals with low vision;
- Clarifying language about the transparency of monitoring reports;
- The impact of languages other than Spanish in the classroom;
- Adding more language on parent education and being a newcomer to America;
- Transference of credits from FRC schools to public schools in the post-release community; and

- Refining the text around cultural family strengths and parental skills

The subcommittee also discussed the need to keep in mind editing for audience and ensuring that the final document is digestible to a wide range of policymakers. Members also briefly touched on the issue of “must” versus “should,” with there being general agreement that “should” is the better word in the context of the subcommittee’s framework.

Additionally, Vice Chair Moss and Ms. Brané both said they were looking forward to seeing the draft recommendations on detention management, which Dora Schriro, Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, has been working on.

With the meeting running long and Vice Chair Moss needing to leave to teach a class, Chair Berliner began to wrap up the call. The Chair ran through the list of individual do-outs, noting that she would like to have all revisions within 24 hours to ensure she could provide Ms. Schlanger with as much of an updated document to work with as possible.

Vice Chair Moss then left the call, and with no additional issues to discuss, Chair Berliner adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 1:10 P.M.