

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Education
September 20, 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 20, 2016, via teleconference from 12:00 P.M. to approximately 12:45 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 conducted a roll call of the subcommittee, and she took note of the ICE staff on the line. She stated that Michelle Brané would not be joining the call because she planned to participate in the weekly call for the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, which is scheduled for the same time.

General Meeting:

Before getting into the main focus of the meeting, Chair Berliner asked ICE staff if they could clarify what the expectation is for the discussion portion of the full Committee public meeting on October 7. Special Assistant Andrea Washington answered that Committee Chair Kurt Schwarz will be managing the structure of the discussion. She said the general idea is that after Chair Schwarz introduces each subcommittee report, subcommittee Chairs will then give an overview of the group's work. Chair Berliner asked if presentations needed to be prepared for the meeting or if subcommittee members would just talk through their report. Ms. Washington responded that she did not believe there was a set format that needed to be followed. Chair Berliner expressed concern, stating that she would like a more definitive answer on what was expected so she could plan accordingly.

Ms. Brané then joined the meeting after being informed that she was not allowed to participate in another subcommittee call, per the rules of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Chair Berliner moved into giving a readout of the subcommittee Chairs call. She discussed the compiled draft document that was being maintained by Margo Schlanger, a member of the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, noting that a few decisions on word

choice and writing conventions had been made for consistency and accuracy. The Chair stated that most of the choices were in line with what the subcommittee produced, so their group will not have a lot of language to clean up. Work on the consolidated draft will carry on, Chair Berliner said, and everyone has until Friday (September 23) to send in any additional edits and comments.

The Chair continued that members should expect to see email chains on recommendations on big issues that remain unresolved, including:

- CRCL investigations;
- The potential role of an ombudsman; and
- Siting of current and/or future family residential centers (FRCs) in relation to access to quality staffing and health and legal resources.

Chair Berliner added that there could also be an email chain on the question of who should be in detention.

The Chair said there was a conversation regarding the letter that was sent to Department of Homeland Security and ICE leadership to express members' frustration with little or lack of information on certain topics. The conversation revolved around whether or not it should be included in the full report. Vice Chair Anadora Moss asked what would be the goal of having the letter in the report and questioned if it would add value, stating that she believed the subcommittee has handled information gaps subtly by pointing them out within their recommendations as necessary. She added though that the letter could put an exclamation point on the need for transparency. Ms. Brané said she would mull the idea over some, but stated she thought there was validity to the point that some readers of the report are only going to view a few parts of it and might miss the larger issue of lack of information. Chair Berliner said she did not feel strongly about the issue; however, she expressed concern that if the letter was decontextualized outside of the report, it could lead to some people discrediting the recommendations. Vice Chair Moss followed up that she was convinced by Chair Berliner's comments, and she worried about the letter clouding all of the hard work that has been done by the Committee.

Chair Berliner said there was also a discussion about appendices to the report, most notably that there should be a standalone list of just the recommendations without the narrative text. Vice Chair Moss and Ms. Brané said that made sense to them.

Shifting the conversation to content, Chair Berliner said there were a few outstanding issues she wanted to be sure the group addressed. Members then discussed:

- Tweaking the language on access to ensure that both short- and long-term disabilities are covered and accommodated;
- Curriculum content based on length of stay for children in the FRC schools; and
- Allowing students to leave the classroom to be with family.

Chair Berliner said she felt the group had been responsive to all of the comments received from the broader Committee. She said she thought the subcommittee was in a place now where they just need to re-read and polish their work. Vice Chair Moss and Ms. Brané agreed, both commenting that they were pleased with where the group has landed. The Vice Chair and Ms. Brané also thanked the Chair for her leadership of the subcommittee.

Chair Berliner asked if there were any further comments. Vice Chair Moss said her biggest goal was to read through the detention management recommendations and give the full document a read one more time. Ms. Brané said she continues to be nervous about parent-child separation; she does not think the issue has been fully addressed in the recommendations. She stated that she had mentioned it previously to Dora Schriro, Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, and she was hopeful that it was addressed in the detention management recommendations.

With no further matters to discuss, Chair Berliner adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 12:45 P.M.