

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health
August 16, 2016

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC), Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health convened for its weekly meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, via teleconference from 1:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for the Teleconference:

- Leslye Orloff
- Judith Dolins
- Dr. Andres J. Pumariega
- Dr. William Arroyo

Others Present:

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

Opening Remarks:

Chair Leslye Orloff conducted a roll call of the subcommittee members and acknowledged ICE staff on the line.

General Meeting:

Chair Orloff led a discussion on the style, tone, and format of the draft template circulated by the subcommittee Chairs. She said the structure provided for introductory text, which could be up to a couple pages in length and include citations or footnotes as needed. Chair Orloff added that the goal is to frame the recommendations with this introductory text and then provide similar, shorter introductory text for subsections of the recommendations. The recommendations themselves would remain as direct as possible (one or two sentences).

The group then discussed who would tackle each bucket, with the understanding that some recommendations would overlap. Dr. William Arroyo suggested putting all the medical recommendations under one section, excluding mental health. Chair Orloff asked if the medical section would then require separate subsections on adults and children. Dr. Arroyo said it would depend on how many suggestions there were in each category.

Vice Chair Judith Dolins said she preferred that the background writing is brief, and she asked how much others thought was already drafted. Chair Orloff added that the other subcommittees intended on being brief as well. The goal is to direct the readers to certain standards.

Subcommittee members discussed overlapping sections, and Dr. Andres Pumariega noted that mental health screening should be called screening and assessment and be its own section. Mental health intervention would be another section. Chair Orloff added that she thought post-release care, access to medical records, and inspections should also be separate sections.

To avoid repetition, Chair Orloff recommended that the group agree first on the larger buckets, and then draft from there to see where the individual pieces fit. Vice Chair Dolins recommended the following breakdown:

- Medical screening and care
- Mental health assessment and care
- Trauma-informed care
- Inspections

Chair Orloff added:

- Access to medical and mental health records
- Post-release case management

Dr. Arroyo highlighted for the group that when he previously raised issues related to post-release, he was reminded that this is not ICE's responsibility and may be beyond the scope. Chair Orloff said perhaps it should be framed as release preparation or management—the goal is to ensure that individuals who leave are not just given a phone number to call, but are set up with an appointment.

Vice Chair Dolins also pointed out that legal rights might belong more in the scope of the work being done by the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services.

Chair Orloff said she would take each members newest drafts and create an outline that regrouped in accordance with the agreed upon buckets. Individual members could then add their introductory text and recommendations into this template, and she would consolidate everyone's work at the end. She said she suspected that there will be repetitions and many other potential migrations of specific recommendations, but this would make it easier to identify.

Chair Orloff continued that the length of introductory text may differ from the education and legal subcommittees based off of the needs, but everyone should aim for what fits best. In some instances, there may not be a need for explanatory paragraphs, but the goal is to create context so the reader understands why a certain recommendation is being made.

Once on paper, it would be easier to see which needed more explanation or context. Chair Orloff said she would email a template the next day, and everyone should work to complete their sections by next Tuesday (August 23). She said she would be responsible for reformatting and consolidating the work.

At end, she reminded the members that the final draft should be complete in two weeks in order to leave time to get any necessary input from the expertise of members in the two other subcommittees.

Vice Chair Dolins noted that she recently visited Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities on the border and provided a short readout of her experience. Subcommittee members then briefly discussed if there were any takeaways that would be applicable to the work being done in this group before concluding the call.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at 2:00 P.M.