

## Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers  
Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health  
September 13, 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, September 13, 2016, via teleconference from 1:30 P.M. to approximately 2:40 P.M.

### **Attendance:**

#### *Subcommittee Members Present for the Teleconference:*

- Leslye Orloff
- Judith Dolins
- Dr. Andres Pumariega

\*Dr. William Arroyo did not join the meeting.

#### *Others Present:*

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

### **Opening Remarks:**

Chair Leslye Orloff did a quick roll call to confirm the subcommittee members on the line, and she recognized ICE staffers on the call. The Chair also thanked members for the hard work they put in over the weekend to provide feedback on the draft recommendations that were circulated for review.

### **General Meeting:**

Chair Orloff stated that she wanted the focus of the meeting to be on discussing the feedback the subcommittee received and figuring out how the group would move forward with incorporating edits and addressing comments.

Before getting to the main discussion though, the Chair gave a readout of the subcommittee Chairs call. She informed the group that Margo Schlanger, a member of the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services, offered to own the task of getting of formatting and compiling all of the subcommittees' draft recommendations into one document. Chair Orloff said the aim is for Ms. Schlanger to have a version of all of the groups' draft recommendations by the end of the week.

The Chair continued that Ms. Schlanger also volunteered to write an introduction that pulls from the separate introductory texts drafted by the subcommittees.

Moving the conversation to the comments the group received on its draft recommendations, Vice Chair Judith Dolins led members through a discussion about the following issues:

- Including language on the negative affect of detention generally on health and mental health.
- Considering release as the best option in the case of deteriorating health, physical or mental.
  - Subcommittee members spent a significant portion of time talking through how to ensure that if someone is released due to deteriorating health, they are able to receive the appropriate care once outside the facility.
  - The group also discussed how in some cases, release directly into the community is not best for someone who is experiencing deteriorating mental health.
- Providing access to abortion or termination of pregnancy and separating it out so it is not only for cases of sexual assault within a facility.
  - Members discussed whether or not ICE should be responsible for facilitating access, if a woman has her own funding to pay for the procedure.
  - Chair Orloff said she would review the Performance-Based National Detention Standards to see if there was any guidance and language to pull from on this matter.
- Limiting the use of isolation or segregation in cases of depression, illness, or suicidality.
- Recommending that parents be allowed to accompany and stay with a sick child at the hospital.
  - Dr. Pumariega informed the group that in the case of behavioral health facilities, parents cannot be in the room. However, he stated the argument could be made that parents should have ready access to be able to see their child and visit.
  - Vice Chair Dolins said she did not think the suggestion was intended for mental health facilities; she thought it was about parents being able to travel and stay with a child in a standard hospital.
- Adding a recommendation about not shackling detainees while they are being transported to a hospital or for other services.
- Including guidelines or at least a reference that standard practice guidelines should be developed to better handle hunger strikes.
  - There was general consensus that while the group could address the deteriorating health issues related to a hunger strike, the issue fell more under the umbrella of detention management.

Chair Orloff then brought up the subcommittee's ombudsman recommendation, telling members there was strong pushback on this idea during the subcommittee Chairs call. Vice Chair Dolins asked the Chair if she knew what the cause for disagreement was, noting that she believed there was similar language in other subcommittees' drafts. Chair Orloff responded that she was not sure why others feel strongly that the ombudsman is not the way to go. However, she said there was support for the recommendation regarding beefing up the inspections completed by the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

The subcommittee then shifted back to the feedback it received, addressing the following topics:

- Adding specific recommendations for mothers or teenagers who give birth while at a family residential center.
  - Subcommittee members concurred that it is ICE's policy to release pregnant women, so people should not be giving birth at the residential centers. However, it was suggested that a recommendation could still be made to ensure protocols are in place in the event that the situation ever came up.
- Including a recommendation about location having a negative impact on access to medical and mental health services.
  - Members agreed that location was not as big of an issue in the case of medical and mental health care resources.
  - The concern was whether or not ICE is fully utilizing the resources in the geographical area surrounding the residential centers.
- Contracting all sexual assault, gender violence, and trafficking screening to outside experts who have the capacity to conduct these screenings.
- Adding a recommendation to address dental health.

With the meeting running past the scheduled allotted time, Chair Orloff started winding down the call. She conducted a rundown of the do-outs for members. Vice Chair Dolins said there was still a list of items for the group to discuss, and the Chair said the subcommittee should make a list of the outstanding issues and plan to talk about them on the next call.

Chair Orloff then thanked everyone for joining the teleconference and adjourned the meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 2:40 P.M.