

## Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers  
Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health  
April 12, 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 inaugural meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, via teleconference from 1:30 P.M. to 2:25 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to get more information from ICE on how subcommittees work and to discuss the path forward as they begin researching and drafting recommendations.

### **Attendance:**

*Subcommittee Members Present for the Teleconference:*

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

*Others Present:*

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

### **Opening Remarks:**

Subcommittee Chair Leslye Orloff started the meeting with a roll call of subcommittee members and ICE staff participating in the call. She then outlined that the goals of the conference call were for members to get more details on subcommittee rules, converse about structure, confirm the frequency of meetings, and begin the process of identifying the topics individuals want to focus on.

### **General Meeting:**

Chair Orloff gave the floor to ACFRC DFO John Amaya to describe how subcommittee meetings are expected to be conducted, outline the rules regarding communication between members, and provide an update on questions previously asked by members.

DFO Amaya thanked everyone for the initiative they have taken to begin setting up the subcommittee meeting schedule, adding that ICE staff intended to reach out to the group sooner with further guidance and instruction after some internal discussions and a meeting with the DHS Advisory Committee Working Group.

DFO Amaya then reminded the subcommittee that the preliminary report is due at the end of June. The report will be submitted to ACFRC Committee Chair Kurt Schwarz. He noted that

ICE Director Sarah R. Saldaña is interested in meeting with the full Committee in Washington, D.C., before the final report is submitted in September. He asked subcommittee members to send in their availability for the last week of June and the month of July minus the week of July 4th.

DFO Amaya continued that the subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair are responsible for calling meetings and putting together meeting agendas. He confirmed that meeting minutes will be drafted and shared by ICE staff and that he and Special Assistant Andrea Washington are the main staffers for the subcommittee. He also explained that any communication between two or more subcommittee members about substantive subcommittee work requires ICE staff engagement and asked that Ms. Washington be included on these types of emails and calls.

Chair Orloff followed by informing members that she and Vice Chair Judith Dolins had a preliminary conversation regarding the meeting schedule, and they agreed that members should meet weekly at least through the beginning of May. Chair Orloff said the first few meetings should cover how members can create a robust list of issues they want to work on and recommendations they want to provide.

She then explained that questions previously asked by members were answered in different formats, including during tours of the family residential centers (FRCs) and throughout the ACFRC public meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on March 16, 2016. Chair Orloff said meeting minutes and briefing materials would also give members a bit more information to work with as they progress through the process.

Dr. Andres Pumariega disagreed that previously asked questions had been addressed, stating that he believes members have received a 30,000 foot view of the issues, but still need specific information about policies and procedures. Chair Orloff asked DFO Amaya to provide feedback on what is possible for subcommittee members to receive in terms of additional information or responses to questions that members believe are still unanswered.

DFO Amaya responded that there was a three-step approach to providing answers to questions posed by Committee members after the inaugural meeting on December 14, 2015, and it included an intensive vetting process that involved review and clearance from ICE attorneys. Cleared responses were shared with Committee members in various ways: during the briefing at the March 16 public meeting, in conversations during the FRC tours, and in briefing documents given to the Committee electronically and in hard copy. DFO Amaya said it was ICE's intention to be as thorough and responsive as possible, adding that in light of ongoing litigation, ICE attorneys ultimately make the decision on whether or not certain documents are shared.

The DFO continued that between the conversations at the FRCs, the briefing and briefing materials, and the forthcoming meeting minutes, members should find answers to earlier questions. Where there are remaining gaps, he asked subcommittee members to again raise their questions through Chair Orloff and said ICE staff would follow up.

Chair Orloff informed the subcommittee that she already started the process of reorganizing members' list of questions by topic. Dr. Pumariega said he thinks the list should be indexed, and

the Chair said she would be happy to take on the task of indexing and see how far she could get in the next week.

Chair Orloff further stated that she does not want the subcommittee to get hamstrung by lack of access to documents. She said the subcommittee will have to figure out a strategy for how to craft recommendations when they do not have information or materials.

Vice Chair Dolins asked DFO Amaya for more detail on how much background research and literature subcommittee members are expected to provide to support their recommendations. DFO Amaya answered that the expectation is for members to provide ICE with the recommendations they believe are most helpful. He said there is no standard format, and it is up to members to make the determination as to what kind of report they want to create. Chair Orloff mentioned that BethAnn Berliner, Chair of the Subcommittee on Education, suggested on the subcommittee Chairs call that a recommendation template could be created and then shared as a guide for everyone to follow.

As the meeting neared its close, subcommittee members agreed to meet weekly on Tuesdays at 1:30 P.M. EST (12:30 P.M. CST and 10:30 A.M. PST). The meetings will be no longer than an hour. Chair Orloff said she would reach out to Vice Chair Dolins to further discuss organizing and indexing the compiled list, and she reiterated that everyone needs to be thinking about the topics and issues they want to address.

**Adjournment:**

The subcommittee adjourned at 2:25 P.M.