

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services
June 21, 2016

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC), Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services convened on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 via teleconference at 12:00 P.M. EST.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for Teleconference:

- Jennifer Nagda
- Dora Schriro
- Kurt Schwarz
- Karen Musalo
- Sonia Parras-Konrad
- Margo Schlanger

Others Present:

- Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, Senior Advisor, ICE: Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), ACFRC
- Maryam Ali, Special Assistant, ICE

Opening Remarks:

Vice Chair Schriro said the subcommittee chairs call was primarily focused on issues that were relevant across all three subcommittees dealing with transparency and accountability, such as the systems that might be in place to monitor this within residential centers.

Chair Nagda noted that Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health Chair Leslye Orloff planned to track down the issue of independent review of the facilities. Ms. Orloff would also track down the role of the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and ICE employee Andrew Lorenzen-Strait's office.

Special Assistant Maryam Ali said that materials were forthcoming in short order.

General Meeting:

Ms. Schlanger noted that she would like to be involved in detention conditions as well but would take on whatever tasks required. She also said she would circulate the Flores case materials.

Chair Nagda suggested waiting to see the volume of information received from ICE before deciding how to divide and manage review. She asked if there were any next steps agreed upon at the end of last week's call, which she had left early, and if there was anything members wanted to tackle before receiving the information.

Karen Musalo suggested looking through the list Ms. Schlanger emailed last week of non-governmental organization (NGO) reports addressing conditions in detention facilities. She said this might provide a foundation for developing possible recommendations upon receiving the information from ICE.

Chair Nagda said she and Vice Chair Dora had offered to clean up the original 13 page outline and divide it into issue areas to help manage the work moving forward. Potentially there could be individual documents for each issue area so the members did not all have to work on a single document. She added that it would be helpful to identify who will work on which issues.

Language Access: Margo Schlanger

Criteria for Detention and Release: Karen Musalo

Access to Counsel: Jennifer Nagda

Detention Management and Conditions: no volunteers

Members were concerned about the August 1 deadline for producing recommendations given the delay in receiving information from ICE. Chair Nagda said that her sense from the earlier subcommittee chairs call is that the Committee would be receiving quite a bit of information.

Ms. Ali said ICE will work with the Committee regarding the August 1 deadline.

Chair Nagda She continued that without adequate information by the end of the week from ICE, the subcommittee needs to begin drafting best practices. She does not believe this is the ideal way forward but this would be a good time to begin producing something more complete - just as the other subcommittees are doing.

Members agreed that there is no value in not responding to the specific situation and reiterated concerns about the August 1 deadline and whether this would leave sufficient time to review the information received. They agreed to revisit the discussion upon receipt of the information from ICE.

Chair Nagda said any information from ICE in terms of additional facilities or changes to the ones that exist would be helpful. Ms. Ali said this request has been passed on to ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations and ICE attorneys.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 1:00 P.M. EST.