

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services
September 27, 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, September 27, 2016 via teleconference at 12:00 P.M. EST.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for Teleconference:

- Margo Schlanger
- Karen Musalo
- Jennifer Nagda

Others Present:

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

Opening Remarks:

Subcommittee Chair Nagda began with roll call.

Special Assistant Ali provided an update on the process moving forward upon transmission of the consolidated draft recommendations to ACFRC Chair Kurt Schwarz on September 30, 2016. The recommendations will be uploaded online to be made available for public review. Committee members will spend the next few days individually reviewing the recommendations and sending any proposed changes or edits to Chair Schwarz. During the October 7, 2016, public meeting Chair Schwarz will ask each of the Subcommittee Chairs to provide a 10 minute overview of their work and will have time to discuss any changes/edits to the recommendations. There will be a 30 minute public comment period for each Subcommittee and time to discuss any issues coming from the public that need to be addressed as well.

The agenda is broken down by subcommittee. Any sections produced by a particular subcommittee will be covered during the time allotted for the subcommittee.

General Meeting:

Subcommittee Chair Nagda asked if it was possible to have more time for the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services since the group produced 3 distinct sections. Ms. Ali said Chair Schwarz would manage time in a flexible manner. If any agenda items were complete sooner the group could move right on to the next.

Margo Schlanger noted that the public meeting is a time for the Committee to resolve issues and the hope is that we have no issues to resolve. Most likely, the subcommittee will not use up all of the time allotted.

Karen Musalo added that the presentation, however, distilling the three separate areas for this subcommittee would take time. Ms. Schlanger noted that the group is only being asked to provide a 50,000 foot view and then resolve any issues. Ms. Musalo said the comments from the public should be respected and they may have insights and contributions.

Chair Nagda added that because there has been no opportunity for the Committee as a whole to discuss some difficult decisions that were made on recommendations, there may be some extra conversation. Limiting conversation may be a challenge.

Ms. Ali said it would be easier for ACFRC Chair Schwarz to manage time once he receives feedback from individual members on issues/edits they would like to discuss at the meeting. She also reminded members that the public comment period was a time to listen to remarks being made and then discuss as a Committee – this would not be a back and forth or question and answer session with the public.

Ms. Schlanger said she is working to conglomerate all of the recommendations. Outstanding issues that were still being resolved include:

- Expedited removal
- Reproductive health care
- Access to abortion services
- T and U visas
- Uniformity of credible fear v. reasonable fear references

Ms. Musalo added that she had not seen Vice Chair Dora Schriro's reworked draft. Ms. Musalo and Vice Chair Schriro were working together to avoid overlap and it would be important to review the new version.

Ms. Schlanger would send around another full draft before the end of the night.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 12:30 P.M. EST.