

Summary of Conference Call

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers
Subcommittee on Education
August 23, 2016

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers (ACFRC), Subcommittee on Education convened for its weekly meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, via teleconference from 12:00 P.M. to approximately 1:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members Present for the Teleconference:

- BethAnn Berliner
- Anadora Moss
- Michelle Brané

Others Present:

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

Opening Remarks:

Chair BethAnn Berliner conducted the roll call, confirming all subcommittee members were present. She also noted ICE staff on the line.

General Meeting:

Chair Berliner gave a readout of the subcommittee Chairs call, beginning with an update on the next full Committee public meeting. She informed members that ICE staff requested that everyone block off October 6 and October 7 because those are the likely dates for the meeting. She said the exact location and length of the meeting is still being worked out by ICE.

The Chair also noted that there was a lot of discussion regarding the structure of the public meeting. Special Assistant Andrea Washington, outlining comments made on the Chairs call, explained that the public meeting will be an opportunity for members to ask questions and talk through any final edits before voting on the recommendations takes place.

Chair Berliner continued that the Chairs also spoke briefly about the need for framing language at the front of the full report, though it was not decided which Committee member would own the responsibility of drafting that language.

Finally, the Chair noted that the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services put in a request to ICE to hold extended and additional meetings throughout the month of September. The Chair said she thought their group was close to an agreed upon set of draft recommendations, so she did not believe the subcommittee needed more time to hash them out. However, she did think the subcommittee would need more time to thoughtfully review and talk

through any comments provided after draft recommendations are shared with the other subcommittees. Chair Berliner asked members for their thoughts, and Michelle Brané responded that it might be smart to have additional time set aside in case substantial edits and comments are received.

Ms. Brané followed up by asking if there was a plan in place for the detention management recommendations. Chair Berliner answered that the Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services Vice Chair Dora Schriro was looking into setting up time for a deep dive on the topic.

Chair Berliner transitioned the conversation to the group's recommendations, asking members if they were feeling more comfortable with what has been drafted and the structure of the recommendations. Both Ms. Brané and Vice Chair Anadora Moss said they were good with the structure and the progress the group has made.

Members then went through comments and resolved differences on recommendations regarding the following issues:

- Extending childcare programs to children under the age of 13;
- How stress and trauma affect how infants and toddlers deal with coping in the detention environment;
- Transitioning to U.S. schools in post-release communities;
- Ensuring schools at the family residential centers (FRCs) do not exclude children on the basis of unexplained health challenges (in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act);
- Understanding how trauma and language barriers affect students with disabilities;
- Ensuring the checklist provided to exiting students includes information on rights, how to ask for help, and issues that may arise for newcomer populations;
- Adopting best practice classroom behavior management strategies;
- Protocols for collaboration between educators and mental health practitioners;
- Prevention and reporting;
- Informing parents about general things they should know about their child's school; and
- Notifying parents immediately about behavioral issues or disciplinary actions.

After going through the recommendations, Chair Berliner said she felt like the group has come a long way, and Vice Chair Moss said she thought the group worked to create some good ideas. The Chair stated that she believed this was the only opportunity to get into the weeds and say what the educational program should look like at the FRCs.

On the matter of citing, Ms. Brané said if there is a way to cite major works that list best practices, it would be really good to cite in the document. Chair Berliner stated that instead of citing each one of the sub-bullets, she was thinking that there would be one citation for the full recommendation that included all or most of the sub-bulleted items. The Chair said she would find time to go through each of the recommendations where Ms. Brané suggested citing. She asked Ms. Brané if she could find the best citation for the IDEA-related recommendations.

As the meeting neared a close, Chair Berliner said she would clean up the draft based on the conversation during the call and send a new version out to the group. She said the subcommittee still had a big push ahead to write one or two paragraphs of framing text for each of the subheadings as well as the introductory text to their batch of recommendations. The Chair stated that she started drafting introductory language and hoped to have something to share by Friday (August 26).

On the subheading text, Vice Chair Moss volunteered to take on drafting framing text for the sections on Educator Professional Development and Caring Classrooms and Trauma-Informed School Practices. Ms. Brané said she would draft framing text for the sections on K-12 Student Orientation to Transition to U.S. Schools, K-12 School Performance, and Education Records.

With no additional items to discuss, Chair Berliner thanked members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment:

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