

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 14, 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 14, 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:

Alternate Designated Federal Officer Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira said ICE is still on schedule to return the documents to the Committee by Friday, June 17, 2016. She said the Berks tour has been finalized and Special Assistant Maryam Ali would reach out with additional details regarding travel. Ms. Ali confirmed the list of members who would be travelling:

ACFRC

Chair Kurt Schwarz

Subcommittee on Access to Counsel and Language Services

Vice Chair Dora Schriro

Subcommittee on Education

Vice Chair Anadora Moss

Subcommittee on Medical and Mental Health

Dr. William Arroyo

ICE ACFRC Staff

ADFO Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira,

Special Assistant Andrea Washington
Special Assistant Maryam Ali

She said possible dates for a summer meeting are still forthcoming.

Vice Chair Schriro reported that the subcommittee chairs call was mostly each subcommittee providing an update and everyone seems to be in a comparable place in regards to the work thus far.

General Meeting:

Chair Nagda suggested that the group identify priorities and specific questions for Vice Chair Schriro's upcoming visit to Berks on behalf of the subcommittee. She also proposed discussing what the subcommittee could do in advance of receiving the information from ICE as well as what should be done if the information received is not sufficient.

Chair Nagda said it would be helpful to know who would be on the tour to best shape the questions the group wants to ask.

ADFO Cedillo-Pereira clarified that Deputy Field Office Director (DFOD) and the Assistant Field Office Director (AFOD) would lead the tour and ICE anticipates that the individuals who run the divisions within the facility will be available to answer questions as was done on the tours in March. The expectation is that contract staff will be available.

The following issues were highlighted for the tour:

- Length of stay issues – how it is communicated to residents
- Daily schedule, freedom of movement
- Youngest age of children accepted at the facility
- Criteria used to revoke licensing
- Whether fathers are still held at Berks
- Which groups provide legal services
- Timely correspondence between counsel and residents
- Challenges of working with outside counsel
- Which languages staff speaks well
- Understanding when the language line is used
- Telephone policy
- Commissary
- Laundry services
- Child care

Subcommittee Chair Nagda asked if it would be possible for ICE to address the sexual assault and abuse case from earlier this year at Berks. She said the issue is relevant to access to counsel

and any information ICE can share about changes that were a direct result of this situation would be helpful. ADFO Cedillo-Pereira noted this but added that this is a matter of ongoing litigation.

Vice Chair Schriro said she took note of the questions and issues brought up on this call and asked if it would be a good idea to circulate this to the other subcommittees for feedback before the Berks trip.

In regards to the materials from ICE, ADFO Cedillo-Pereira said the goal was to provide the materials by the end of the week.

Ms. Schlanger said she would share the filings from the Flores litigation and a link to the oral argument.

Vice Chair Schriro asked if ICE had any information on current requests for proposal for new and smaller facilities. ADFO Cedillo-Pereira made note of this and added that there was no current status update.

In regards to the differences between facilities, Vice Chair Schriro added that it might be interesting for the three subcommittees to compare and contrast the different physical plans and the ways in which activities are carried out across all three. Much like the Family Residential Standards in aggregate with the other sets of ICE standards result in a strong document, looking across the three facilities may help identify what is missing from one to another.

In regards to proceeding if information the information received is not sufficient, Vice Chair Schriro said to continue formulating preliminary recommendations even though these will be better shaped by the information that is forthcoming.

Ms. Schlanger suggested spending the weekend reviewing the information ICE plans to provide on Friday. This would help determine if the subcommittee has sufficient information before next Tuesday's call. In order to split up the work, Ms. Musalo suggested individual members tackle their focus areas to prepare for next week's call.

Adjournment:

The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 12:50 P.M. EST.