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June 7, 2019

Johnathan H. Hayes  
Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Hayes,

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I toured the ORR facility that houses unaccompanied minors in Homestead, Florida. The staff was accommodating, and the tour was very informative. From the tour, I have several follow-up questions.

1. During my visit, staff confirmed that operating a temporary influx facility, such as Homestead, costs three times as much as operating a permanent facility. Unlike temporary influx facilities, permanent facilities are subject to federal, state, and local laws meant to protect the welfare of the children. Homestead is not. It also is being reported that the Homestead facility will significantly increase in population size. Please confirm whether ORR is in the process of finding less expensive alternatives to temporary influx facilities like Homestead for housing unaccompanied minors? And that these alternatives would be subject to all child welfare laws?
2. The Homestead facility staff informed me that the Department of Homeland Security, ORR, and Comprehensive Health Services (CHS) include the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and other housing and care standards in their contract provisions. Please provide me with copies of these contracts for the Homestead facility and copies of the subcontracts between CHS and other providers at the Homestead facility.
3. The staff informed me that when a serious incident involving an unaccompanied minor occurs at the Homestead facility, an incident report is filed, and the facility informs the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), local police, and the Florida Department of Children and Families. Please provide me with information on the process for resolving these serious incidents involving unaccompanied minors. When the incident is referred to the OIG, DOJ, and law enforcement, what follow-up is conducted on the referral to ensure that the resolution of the case contributes to the child's welfare?
4. The Homestead facility staff provided me with a briefing and demonstration of a database that keeps track of every allegation and serious incident that occurs at the Homestead facility and every facility housing unaccompanied minors. The database also tracks when a staff

person is fired due to a serious incident involving an unaccompanied minor. Please provide me with a report detailing how many cases resolved with termination, how many cases were resolved with disciplinary action, what disciplinary action was taken against the staff person, and how many cases are ongoing.

5. The Homestead facility staff stated that General Dynamics has contracted with the facility to provide sexual abuse training. Please provide me with a copy of the contract with General Dynamics and details regarding the training program curriculum. Also, please confirm how many staff members have completed the training and whether any did anyone did not complete the training? How often is training offered? Is training mandatory?

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical issue to ensure that ORR has the necessary resources and policies to protect the safety of unaccompanied children in its care and that private contractors do the same.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress