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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0926

July 5, 2019

The Honorable Jonathan Hayes
Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Director Hayes:

This letter serves as a follow up to numerous requests that I have made to your office, both in person and through official correspondence, seeking information relating to the operation of and living conditions at the Homestead Temporary Shelter. To date, my office has not received any official correspondence from you regarding my repeated requests to view the hurricane and natural disaster evacuation plan allegedly in effect for the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

In yet another effort to obtain information from your office about the Homestead Temporary Shelter, attached to this letter you will find a set of inquiries relating to the children being held in the facility, the living conditions at the facility, and the operation of and processes utilized by the facility. *See* **Exhibit A**. As with prior requests, I ask that you respond to these inquiries fully and promptly; a failure to do so will force my office to explore legal avenues to obtain this information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

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EXHIBIT "A"

Requests for Information
The Office of Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

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1) As of the date of your receipt of this letter, how many children are being held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

2) What is the maximum capacity of the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

3) When is the Homestead Temporary Shelter expected to reach maximum capacity?

4) As of the date of your receipt of this letter, what is the average length of care for children currently held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

5) Of the children currently held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, what is the longest length of care?

6) Since January 1, 2017, what is the overall longest length of time that a child has been held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

7) How many children currently held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter have sponsors that have been identified as living in the United States?

8) Once a sponsor for a child has been identified, what is average length of care for a child at the Homestead Temporary Shelter prior to release to the sponsor?

9) Please list all children who have been held or are currently being held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter since January 1, 2017 who were separated from their parents and/or legal guardians as a result of the Administration's "zero tolerance" policy. For each child, please provide the name of the child, the name of the separated parent and/or guardian, the date at which separation occurred, the length of separation, and the location of the parent and/or guardian.

10) Of the children currently held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, how many have siblings that are also being held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

11) Of the children currently held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, how many have siblings being held at a different temporary shelter, permanent living facility, or location in the United States?

12) Please describe the living arrangements for the children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, including the number of children assigned to a room, the ratio of bathrooms to children, and the personal privacy considerations afforded to each child.

13) Please describe the clothing and personal hygiene items issued to each child upon arrival, and the frequency at which these items are re-issued throughout a child's care at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

14) Does the Homestead Temporary Shelter adhere to minimum nutritional standards for the food served to the children held at the facility? If yes, please describe nutritional standards in detail and their relation to the U.S.D.A. National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs nutritional standards, if any.

15) Please produce all breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus, as well as any additional snack menus, for food served to children at the Homestead Temporary Shelter in 2019.

16) Please describe the educational services provided to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

17) Please describe the recreational opportunities provided to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, including the activities and associated equipment available and the time allotted each day for recreation.

18) Please describe the legal services available to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter and the frequency at which these services are administered.

19) Are legal services available in Spanish to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

20) Are children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter provided with a legal orientation regarding their rights and status upon their arrival to the facility? If yes, please describe in detail the substance of the orientation and the list of languages in which this orientation is provided. In addition, please produce any and all documents, pamphlets, or guides given to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter during the orientation.

21) Are free personal phone calls available to be made by children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter? If yes, please describe the frequency at which these personal phone calls are available, the length that calls are allowed to proceed, the location of each phone available to the children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter, and whether these calls are made in a private setting.

22) Are children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter able to send and/or receive mail? If yes, please describe the mailing services available to the children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

23) Please describe the medical services (physical and behavioral) available to children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

24) How often are medical examinations performed on the children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter?

25) What medical staff is physically present at the Homestead Temporary Shelter each day?

26) What is the average medical staff-to-child ratio at the Homestead Temporary Shelter for 2019?

27) Please the describe process under which a child held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter would request medical treatment.

28) What is the average response time at the Homestead Temporary Shelter between a request for health care services for a child and the time at which medical care is provided to the child?

29) What is the total per day operating cost of the Homestead Temporary Shelter? Please provide an itemized list of the expenses totaling this per day cost.

30) What is the per day operating cost per child held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter? Please provide an itemized list of the expenses totaling this per day cost.

31) How long is the Homestead Temporary Shelter anticipated to be in operation?

32) Please describe the daily schedule prescribed for a child held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

33) Please produce all daily, weekly, and monthly schedules, agendas, and calendars created for the children held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter in 2019.

34) Does a hurricane and natural disaster evacuation plan exist for the Homestead Temporary Shelter? If yes, please produce the hurricane and natural disaster evacuation plan in effect for the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

35) Has anyone at your office or the Department of Health and Human Services communicated with the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management relating to the creation and/or implementation of a hurricane evacuation plan for the Homestead Temporary Shelter for the 2019 hurricane season? If yes, please provide the date of the communications, names of the parties involved, and the contents of the communications.

36) What is the current Youth Care Worker-to-child ratio at Homestead Temporary Shelter?

37) What is the average Youth Care Worker-to-child ratio at Homestead Temporary Shelter for 2019?

38) What is the current total staff-to-child ratio at Homestead Temporary Shelter?

39) What is the average total staff-to-child ratio at Homestead Temporary Shelter for 2019?

40) How many staff members employed at the Homestead Temporary Shelter are fluent in Spanish?

41) Please describe the hiring process, including a detailed description of the background checks conducted, for a prospective staff member to be employed at the Homestead Temporary Shelter.

42) Since January 1, 2017, how many allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse occurring at the Homestead Temporary Shelter have been reported to your office, the Department of Health and Human Services, or state or local law enforcement? For each allegation, please describe in detail the date of the allegation, the nature and substance of the allegation, whether an investigation was conducted, and the remedial actions taken by your office, the Department of Health and Human Services, or state or local law enforcement.

43) Since January 1, 2017, how many allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse occurring at the Homestead Temporary Shelter have been substantiated by your office, the Department of Health and Human Services, or state or local law enforcement?

44) Please the describe process under which a child held at the Homestead Temporary Shelter would report an incident of staff-on-child sexual and/or physical abuse. Please include the name and title of each individual employed at the Homestead Temporary Shelter responsible for handling such reports.

45) Is the private operator of the Homestead Temporary Shelter required to report all allegations of sexual abuse to your office or the Department of Health and Human Services? If yes, please describe the process under which the private operator notifies your office of the Department of Health and Human Services. Please include the name and title of each individual employed at the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Department of Homeland Security responsible for handling such reports.

46) Please describe the process your office and the Department of Health and Human Services undertakes when an allegation of staff-on-child sexual abuse occurring at a temporary influx shelter is brought to the attention of your office or the operators of the facility.

47) Does your office or the Department of Health and Human Services report all allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse to local law enforcement?

48) Does your office or the Department of Health and Human Services report all allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse to state law enforcement?

49) How many allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse occurring at the Homestead Temporary Shelter has your office reported to state or local law enforcement?

50) How many staff members employed at the Homestead Temporary Shelter have been fired for allegations relating to staff-on-child sexual abuse? For each instance, please describe in detail the identity of the individual and the circumstances warranting the termination of the individual.

51) Has the Homestead Temporary Shelter made any attempts to procure a license to operate from the State of Florida? Please describe the decision to obtain or not obtain a license to operate from the State of Florida and the current status of each application.

In addition to these inquiries, please produce the following documents:

1) all contracts and accompanying documentation with Caliburn International Corp. concerning the operation of the Homestead Temporary Shelter since January 1, 2017;

2) all contracts and accompanying documentation with Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. concerning the operation of the Homestead Temporary Shelter since January 1, 2017; and

3) all documentation relating to investigations conducted into allegations of staff-on-child sexual abuse occurring at the Homestead Temporary Shelter since January 1, 2017.