

May 13, 2021

TO:

Director of Custody Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: Annual Inspection of the Bristol County Jail and House of Correction

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2008) of the Bristol County Jail and House of Correction in North Dartmouth, MA during the period of May 11-13, 2021. This is an IGSA.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of Lead Compliance Inspector.

Subject Matter Field	Team Member	
Detainee Rights		
Security		
Medical Care		
Medical Care		
Safety		

Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection that is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2008 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the November 2020 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Bristol County Jail and House of Correction is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Yes
- The Joint Commission (TJC) No
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Yes

Standards Compliance

The following information is a summary of the standards that were reviewed and overall compliance that was determined as a result of the 2020 and 2021 annual compliance inspections:



2020 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	39
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

2021 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	39
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified three (3) deficient components in the following two (2) standards:

Hunger Strikes -1 Visitation – 2, one of which is a Priority Component

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Bristol County Jail and House of Correction is located in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, which is approximately fifty miles south of Boston. The facility is owned by Bristol County and operated under the jurisdiction of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office.

The facility also houses detainees for the U.S. Marshal Service and Bristol County and surrounding jurisdictions. The facility houses adult male ICE detainees of all classification levels, but only high and medium classification levels of female ICE detainees.

The facility was built in 2007. It is surrounded by two sixteen-foot-high chain-link fences supplemented with razor ribbon on top and bottom; there are no detection devices that enhance the fence security. There is a perimeter road that encircles the complex; it is patrolled by vehicle/foot patrol by an armed canine officer at least once each shift. Surveillance cameras offer visibility around the entire perimeter, into the housing units and common areas, and interior movement corridors. All exterior doors are under constant camera surveillance and are controlled by central control staff. The surveillance camera network is monitored 24 hours a day.

ICE detainees are currently housed in two 66-bed dormitories. There were no ICE detainees housed in the special management unit during this inspection. ICE detainees are not housed with non-ICE detainees.

Each dormitory has a common dayroom equipped with a television and fixed table/chair units for detainees to eat their meals, play games, and gather for conversation. There are no electronic tablets or kiosks currently in use in the housing units. Hot water dispensers and microwaves are provided in the units. All announcements and schedules are posted on the dayroom and common area bulletin boards. Detainees are provided indoor and outdoor recreation.

Onsite inspectors visited the housing units several times during the inspection, observing detainees in the outdoor recreation area and the housing units. Each dormitory has a separate room used as a law library. The area is equipped with tables and chairs providing workspace for detainees and one computer which is equipped with LexisNexis and has word processing capabilities. There is also a medical exam room in each unit. An adequate number of showers, toilets, and basins are available.



Inspectors interviewed all seven detainees. The common complaint voiced was regarding the food. Detainees complained of small portions and the lack of variety. A review of the menus revealed that the menus have been approved by a registered dietitian and that detainees are provided 1,800 calories per day. The 1,800 daily calorie count is less than other facilities but is considered adequate intake as suggested by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine.

Two detainees complained of dental issues that were not being addressed. The Medical SME followed up on the complaints and found that both detainees had been seen and had received treatment. One detainee had refused follow-up treatment.

A detainee stated that there was a problem with arachnids in the housing units. The Safety SME discussed this issue with the environmental safety officer (ESO). The facility contracts with a licensed pest control contractor who is responsible for preventive spraying of indigenous insects/vermin monthly, and for providing on-call services when infestation outbreaks occur. The ESO has requested the vendor give concentrated attention to the area for relief of the reported problem during their next visit.

One detainee stated that he uses the law library quite often and has no issues. He stated that he would prefer law books in place of the computers. Several of the detainees have filed grievances regarding various issues and all reported receiving an answer. One detainee reported having contacted the OIG three times and stated that they were unresponsive. Another detainee stated that he did not know how to contact the OIG and the process was explained to him by the inspectors.

Detainees stated that medical personnel were responsive to their concerns and that the older officers treat them with respect, but the younger officers often did not. The detainees stated they felt safe in the facility but were concerned about COVID-19. Detainees stated that the ICE DO who is assigned to the facility visits the housing units often and is responsive to their requests and concerns.

Medical services are provided by Certified Psychiatric Services (CPS). Food service is managed by Trinity Services Group. Maintenance operations are provided by Bristol County employees. Detainee telephone services are provided by Securus. ICE detainees are not charged with medical co-pays.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

Some inspectors worked remotely. Remote inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility and relied upon photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards. One priority component was rated Does Not Meet Standards.

Standard 5.32 Visitation

Component # 5 – PRIORITY: General visitation is permitted during set hours on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and, to the extent practicable, the facility also establishes visiting hours on weekdays and during evening hours. The facility accommodates the scheduling needs of visitors for whom scheduled visiting hours pose a hardship. The number of visitors a detainee receives, and the length of visits are limited only by reasonable constraints of space, scheduling, staff availability, safety, security, and good order. The minimum duration for a visit is 30 minutes.

Finding: General visitation has been suspended since March 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. There is no video visitation option available. The facility has continued to provide legal visitation.

Recommendation: Offer visitation on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.



Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards. The facility complies with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2008) unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team during this hybrid inspection. No standards were found Does Not Meet Standard, two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-nine (39) standards were found to Meet Standards.

LCI Assurance Statement

The findings of compliance and non-compliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324 Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. A telephone call-in out brief was conducted with the facility. In addition to the entire Nakamoto Group Inspection Team, the following participated in the conference call:

• ICE Officials –		
• Facility staff –		
Lead Compliance Inspector	May 13, 2021	

Printed Name of LCI

Date