

October 7, 2020

TO:

Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT:

**Annual Detention Inspection of the Hudson County Corrections and** 

**Rehabilitation Center** 

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed a remote annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2008/SAAPI 2011) of the Hudson County Corrections and Rehabilitation Center in Kearny, New Jersey during the period of October 5-7, 2020. This is an IGSA facility.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of Inspector. Team members were:

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

## **Type of Inspection**

This is a scheduled annual inspection, which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2008/SAAPI 2011 for Over 72-hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the May 2019 annual inspection.

#### **Inspection Summary**

The Hudson County Corrections and Rehabilitation Center 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) No

### **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 2019 and 2020 annual inspections:



2019 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

2020 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

There were no deficient components identified by the inspection team.

# **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Hudson County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Center is situated on five acres in the city of Kearney, New Jersey. The inspection point of contact reported the facility operates under the jurisdiction of the County of Hudson. The facility houses male and female detainees for the U.S. Marshal Service, ICE (from the New Jersey AOR and New York AOR), Hudson County, and the State of New Jersey. The facility does not house juveniles.

The accreditation manager confirmed that ICE officials from the New Jersey AOR and the New York AOR maintain an office in the facility. There is a daily presence of ICE officers in the housing units.

Photo images profile a brick building with a perimeter patrol and secure entry. The physical plant includes five housing units. Detainees were housed in Echo Pod, a dormitory-style housing unit until COVID-19 protocols were initiated. Detainees are currently housed in Delta Pod and Alpha Pod. Photo images revealed dayrooms furnished with tables, chairs, a television viewing area, telephone banks, and the required number of showers and washbasins. Board games and other sedentary activities are available in the dayrooms of the general population housing units. Currently, outside recreation is conducted in small groups of four to provide for social distancing.

Interviews were conducted with detainees remotely. A sign-up sheet was made available in each detainee housing unit requesting volunteers to speak with inspectors over the telephone. A language line interpretive service was used for LEP detainees. A summary of the approximately 25 interviews follows.

There were no concerns reported regarding mail, visitation, access to the law library, access to telephones, or recreation. Two detainees complained that commissary prices were too high. The concern was shared with the accreditation manager. Detainees expressed no issues with medical care and were able to describe intake screenings, physical examination, TB testing, and how to access health care. Four detainees stated they did not receive a handbook. Follow-up confirmed that each detainee signed the personal property form acknowledging receipt of the handbook.

Four detainees stated that pasta is served during "more than half of the meals". A calculation of the 42-day menu cycle indicated that pasta is served 18% of the time in a six-day menu cycle. A detainee who was just released from a precautionary COVID-19 quarantine described in detail how, upon entering the facility, he was given a mask, immediately examined, and interviewed by a "medical person". He stated that he was held in isolation for fourteen days before he was released to the general population. He stated, "that his care was very good."



Two detainees stated that they did not feel safe at the facility. The concern was reported to the accreditation manager. The follow-up report confirmed that the concerns for their safety were due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The ICE liaison spoke to the two detainees about the facility's response and precautions in place to keep the detainees and employees safe. The ICE liaison advised that their concerns are valid, as are everyone's concerns dealing with this pandemic. According to the accreditation manager, there has not been a positive COVID-19 result for a detainee since May 13, 2020. Three detainees stated that officers and social workers are professional and are available to answer questions or concerns. LEP detainees stated that they have no problem communicating with staff.

Medical care is provided by Wellpath. ICE detainees are not charged a medical co-pay fee. Food service is provided by GD Correctional Services.

## **Areas of Concern/Significant Observations**

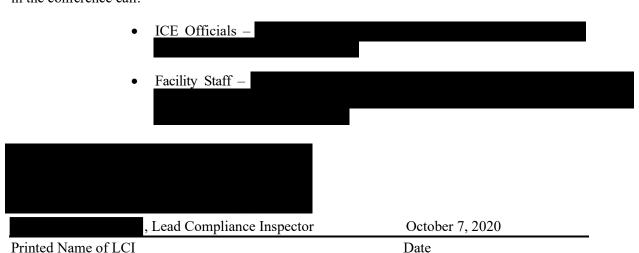
There were no areas of concern or significant observations from this remote inspection. Photo and video images were used to facilitate observations during the inspection.

### **Recommended Rating and Justification**

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standard unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. The facility complies with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2008/SAAPI 2011. No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet Standard and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to Meet Standard.

#### **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. An out brief was conducted remotely and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following participated in the conference call:



Page 3 of 3