



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

July 15, 2021

TO: [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director Custody Management

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Lead Compliance Inspector  
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Phelps County Jail**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) 2000 of the Phelps County Jail in Holdrege, Nebraska during the period of July 13-15, 2021. This is an IGSA.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED] Lead Compliance Inspector. Team members were:

Subject Matter Field	Team Member
Safety	[REDACTED]
Security	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]
Detainee Rights	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]

**Type of Inspection**

This is a scheduled annual inspection that is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS 2000 for Over 72-hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the July 2019 annual inspection.

**Inspection Summary**

The Phelps County Jail is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) - No
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) - No
- 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 2019 and 2021 NDS annual inspections:



<b>2019 Annual Inspection</b>	
Meets Standards	36
Does Not Meet Standards	2
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	1

<b>2021 Annual Inspection</b>	
Meets Standards	37
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified fourteen (14) deficient components in the following eight (8) standards:

- Correspondence and Other Mail – 2
- Detainee Handbook – 1
- Food Service – 2
- Funds and Personal Property – 1
- Hunger Strikes – 1
- Environmental Health and Safety – 3
- Staff/Detainee Communication – 3
- Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention – 1

### Facility Snapshot/Description

The Phelps County Jail is located in Holdrege, Nebraska approximately 200 miles west of Omaha, Nebraska. The facility is owned by Phelps County and operated under the jurisdiction of the Phelps County Sheriff’s Office. The jail houses adult male and female ICE detainees, Phelps and surrounding county detainees, and State of Nebraska Department of Corrections and U.S. Marshal Service inmates. The facility houses all classification custody levels of these populations.

[REDACTED] The facility is a single multi-story structure that houses the Phelps Sheriff’s Office, Phelps County government offices, a Nebraska State Patrol regional office, and the Phelps County Jail. The facility is located in a residential and business neighborhood in the center of downtown Holdrege. There is no perimeter fence but the outside of the building is patrolled by an unarmed officer on an irregular schedule. The exterior walls of the building comprise the secure perimeter. A network of surveillance cameras offer visibility around the entire perimeter, into the housing units, the common areas, the outdoor recreation yard, and the interior movement corridors. All exterior jail building doors are alarmed, under constant camera surveillance, and controlled by main control officers. The facility surveillance camera network is monitored 24 hours a day.

The facility has nine individual housing units. They are managed by a roving officer assigned to multiple housing units and monitored on camera by main control officers. The housing units are designed into dormitory and one/two-bed cell units. The housing units range in size from one to nine beds. Seven units are for general population and two units can serve as the special management unit (SMU) and observation status rooms/areas. There were no ICE detainees in the SMU during the inspection and there were no active COVID-19 cases in the facility.

This facility relies on the Guard One Tour Patrol System (electronic sensor device) as the method to document, witness, and monitor most staff and detainee functions. The system logs detainee activities/movements, is the recording device used when taking count, records tool issuance and return, logs staff/medical housing unit rounds, notes laundry pick-up/delivery, and documents meal deliveries, med passes, legal mail delivery, commissary receipts and a host of other services and activities.



Each housing unit has a common dayroom equipped with a television, telephone stations, a bank of electronic tablets, and fixed table/chair units for detainees to eat their meals, play games, and gather for conversation. Announcements, account balances, the detainee handbook, detainee requests, grievance submission, bulletins, schedules, and required postings are included in the kiosk information and menu options. Consulate and legal services contact information is posted in the housing units. Kiosks are accessible 24 hours a day. General dayroom access for gatherings is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

On-site general and legal visits were reinstated February 2021 due to an easing of COVID-19 restrictions, but with strong safety protocols remaining in place. On-site general visits are non-contact; there are five visiting stations. Remote video-visits are available for connection to the housing units' kiosk during open dayroom hours. Legal visits are permitted in contact or non-contact settings. Detainees are provided indoor and outdoor recreation.

Inspectors spoke with all four detainees in a private setting. There were no substantive concerns expressed. Detainees stated they had no issues with getting answers from ICE/ERO personnel. None of the detainees had used the law library. All stated they were unaware of the OIG hotline; all were informed of its service. Recreation time was satisfactory. Overall, the detainees were very content with their living conditions, the cleanliness of the facility, and their treatment by staff and other detainees.

There were no deaths, escapes, hunger strikes, sexual assault/abuse allegations, or immediate uses of force reported during this inspection period.

Medical care is provided by Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.; Food Service is provided by Summit Food Service; and maintenance services are provided by Phelps County employees. Detainee telephone services, housing unit kiosks and Cellcast (closed circuit televisions) are provided by Encartele, Inc. ICE detainees are not charged a medical co-payment.

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

This was a hybrid inspection in which 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. There were no areas of concern or significant observations.

### **Recommended Rating and Justification**

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS 2000) for Over 72-hour facilities. No (0) standard were rated as Does Not Meet Standard and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-seven (37) standards were found to Meet Standards.

### **LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of compliance and non-compliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324A Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief was conducted at the facility and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team (one SME via conference call) the following were present:



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]
- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lead Compliance Inspector  
Printed Name of LCI

July 15, 2021  
Date