



July 18, 2019

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Detention Inspection of the Etowah County Jail**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) of the Etowah County Jail in Gadsden, Alabama, during the period of July 16-18, 2019. This is an IGSA facility.

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

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

Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection, which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Acceptable during the July 2018 annual inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Etowah County Jail 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 2018 and 2019 annual inspections:



2018 Annual Inspection	
Acceptable	37
Deficient	0
Repeat Deficiency	0
Not Applicable	2

2019 Annual Inspection	
Acceptable	37
Deficient	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified six (6) deficient components in the following four (4) standards:

- Food Service – 2, one of which is a repeat deficiency
- Environmental Health and Safety – 2, one of which is a repeat deficiency
- Security Inspections – 1, which is a repeat deficiency
- Staff/Detainee Communication – 1

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Etowah County Jail is an [REDACTED] direct-supervision facility located in Gadsden, Alabama. The facility, operated by the Etowah County Sheriff's Department, houses male and female detainees for Etowah County and the State of Alabama Department of Corrections and male ICE detainees. [REDACTED]

The facility currently houses ICE detainees of all custody levels. ICE detainees are housed separately from detainees from other jurisdictions in cell housing units ranging in configuration of two, four, and six-person cells. Detainees are permitted to be out of their cells the majority of the day socializing in the dayroom or enjoying other indoor recreational activities. The dayrooms are equipped with televisions, cards, board games, telephones, and visitation kiosks. Each ICE detainee housing unit has a room designated as a law library that is equipped with computers that provide access to the LexisNexis electronic law library. An outdoor recreation area is also available which provides detainees with exercise opportunities outside their housing units.

The inspection team visited the ICE detainee housing units numerous times during the inspection observing detainees interacting with each other and with facility staff. Detainees were relaxed and spoke to the inspectors without hesitation. Detainees were interviewed in groups and in a private, confidential setting. LEP detainees speaking Mandarin, Indian-Punjabi, Indian-Hindi, and Vietnamese were interviewed via a telephonic translation service. Detainees speaking Arabic and Spanish were interviewed by bilingual inspectors. The detainees voiced no concerns regarding their safety and stated they are treated with respect by facility staff. English speaking detainees were interviewed in groups or in a private, confidential setting. Two vegetarian detainees complained that there was not enough variety in the menu. The Safety SME addressed the issue with the dietary manager. Several detainees complained that the food portions were too small. The menus were reviewed and the plates observed were found to be in accordance with the menus approved by the dietician. Numerous detainees complained about the cost of telephone calls. Facility staff reported that the cost was set by the provider and was in accordance with FCC rules.

During confidential interviews with Spanish speaking detainees, two medical complaints were voiced. Each detainee was discussed with medical personnel and each detainee's health record was reviewed. Fol-



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lowing the review, it was determined each detainee's complaints had been initially addressed with follow-up care continuing to be provided.

During an interview with a detainee who speaks only Arabic it was determined that he was having problems communicating and did not understand the orientation nor had he been provided with an Arabic translation for the handbook. The Captain was advised and he stated that he would arrange for the detainee to receive an Arabic version of the handbook. The detainee also complained that he had been told by medical staff in another facility that he needed to see a specialist. A check of his medical file revealed that he was recently seen by a specialist and further testing is scheduled. Medical staff advised that they will ensure that he receives an explanation of the planned care via the translation line.

The facility is currently undergoing a complete renovation to correct problems with the roof, renovate showers and the kitchen, and replace the locks. Roof leaks and malfunctioning locks were observed during the inspection. Sanitation was minimal and there is a lot of construction debris. Housing units have access to a power washer that is used weekly to clean the showers and some painting has occurred. However, there was still noticeable build-up of some soap scum and mildew on the ceilings in the showers. The sanitation in the housing units overall needs improvement. Compliance staff indicated that post orders will be modified from cleaning the showers once daily at 3:00 p.m. to cleaning them twice daily and officers will be encouraged to enhance sanitation levels in the units.

During the inspection, a fire drill was conducted and sixty detainees were evacuated from their housing unit. The detainees were moved to the gymnasium, counted, and returned after conclusion of the drill. Staff responded and ensured all detainees had been removed from the unit and that a set of emergency keys were drawn and used to unlock the door.

The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. Health care and food service operations are provided by county employees and local contractors.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations during this inspection.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Acceptable. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) for Over 72 hour facilities. No (0) standards were found Deficient and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-seven (37) standards were found to be in compliance.

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 at the facility and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following were present:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]



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- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and several other staff members

[REDACTED]

, Lead Compliance Inspector

Printed Name of LCI

July 18, 2019

Date

[REDACTED]