



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

January 6, 2022

TO: [REDACTED]
Acting Assistant Director Custody Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Houston CDF (CCA)**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011 with 2016 revisions) of the Houston CDF in Houston, Texas during the period of January 4-6, 2022. This is CDF.

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 PBNDS 2011 for Over 72-hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the January 2021 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Houston CDF 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 2021 and 2022 compliance inspections:



<i>2021 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	41
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

<i>2022 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	41
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified one (1) deficient component in the following one (1) standard:

Admission and Release – 1

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Houston Contract Detention Facility is owned and operated by CoreCivic, a private detention management company. The facility is located north of downtown Houston near George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The facility, which has an operational capacity of [REDACTED] bed, houses adult male and female ICE detainees of all classification levels. The total population count on the first day of the inspection was [REDACTED] of which [REDACTED] were female. All detainees housed during the inspection were classified as Low custody. [REDACTED]

The facility was built in [REDACTED]. It is a stand-alone facility that is surrounded by one twelve-foot high chain link fence supplemented with razor ribbon on top; the fence line is built into an eighteen-inch buried rat wall extension that runs between the fence post pilings. The perimeter fence is equipped with a motion detection system that sounds alarms on contact; it is tested daily. There is a path around the entire perimeter that is intermittently foot patrolled by an unarmed officer. Surveillance cameras offer visibility around the entire perimeter, into the housing units, the common areas, and interior movement corridors. All exterior building doors are under constant camera surveillance and are controlled by central control staff. Additional office space is under construction and the current office space and visitation area is being renovated/converted to allow contact visitation.

There are [REDACTED] individual general population housing units which are all dormitory style ranging in size from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] beds. There are two special management units (SMU) for housing administrative and disciplinary segregation status detainees for a total of [REDACTED] single cells; [REDACTED] cells for males and [REDACTED] cells for females. Two of the SMU cells can also be used for medical observation status. There were no detainees housed in the SMU during the inspection. The facility has dedicated portions of its housing units to serve as COVID-19 wings. The majority of the detainees were on quarantine status during the inspection due to the number of new arrivals and active COVID-19 cases. There were 26 male and six female detainees who had tested positive for the virus during the inspection. It was noted that staff are following strict COVID-19 protocols and all areas are being constantly cleaned and sanitized. The medical unit has sixteen beds; four are located in a negative airflow environment, four are dedicated to respiratory isolation, and eight are for housing short-stay admissions.

Each general population living area has a common dayroom which is equipped with a television, fixed table/chair units for detainees to eat their meals, play games, and socialize. There are electronic tablets in each housing unit. Detainee can receive and send emails, conduct video visits, make telephone calls, check their commissary account balance, send requests directly to designated facility and ICE/ERO staff, file grievances, view LexisNexis, and access fee-based entertainment programs. The facility handbook and all announcements, schedules, and information bulletins are posted on the tablets. Detainees are pro-



vided daily indoor and outdoor recreation. The indoor areas, for both males and females, are equipped with stationary exercise bicycles and basketball courts.

The facility is currently being used as a transfer facility with high numbers of detainees being constantly moved in/out for scheduled transfers and arriving detainees are placed in quarantine. As a result, it was difficult for inspectors to schedule interviews. Eight detainees were formally interviewed in a private confidential setting. Four were interviewed informally in a group setting in a housing unit. Five detainees speaking Spanish were interviewed using a telephonic translation service. None of the detainees voiced any substantive concerns. One detainee voiced a medical concern. The medical SME followed up on the complaint and found that the detainee was receiving medical treatment for the issue. All of the detainees reported that they felt safe at the facility and only one detainee had filed a grievance. She stated that she had filed a grievance regarding an officer being rude toward the detainees. She stated that she had received an answer to her grievance and that the officer was treating the detainees well. None of the detainees had contacted the OIG. One detainee stated that she did not know how to contact the OIG. The inspector provided the detainee with the information. Two detainees reported that they were unable to make video calls on the electronic tablets. It was determined that video calls for both detainees had been blocked due to prohibited activity during video calls. Two detainees reported that they were unable to call Columbia from the housing unit telephones. Facility staff reported the issue to a TALTON representative who was performing weekly telephone checks in the facility. The result of his investigation was not reported to the inspector.

Detainee telephone services are provided via the ICE contract with TALTON Communications. Food service is provided by Trinity Services Group. IHSC provides medical services. Detainees are not charged co-pay fees for medical, dental, or mental health services. Sanitation throughout the facility was found to be above average.

During the inspection, optimal compliance was found while reviewing the following standards: Admission and Release, Special Management Unit, Use of Force, Medical Care, Medical Care –Women, Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention, Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death, and Telephone Access.

Due to COVID-19 this was a hybrid inspection two inspectors working remotely (safety SME and medical QMC). The facility provided the inspection team all requested documentation, photographs, and videos as evidence of practices and procedures within the facility. In addition to these materials, staff were interviewed by the inspection team. All staff interviewed were well versed in facility policy and the requirements of the standards and were responsive to all requests made by the inspection team.

The facility has developed a COVID-19 plan to address exposures/infections. During the inspection there were 32 active COVID cases.

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 Meets Standards. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty-one (41) standards were found to meet standards.

