



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

June 24, 2021

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director Custody Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Mesa Verde Detention Facility**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) of the Mesa Verde Detention Facility in Bakersfield, California during the period of June 22-24, 2021. This is a DIGSA.

The annual 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 that 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 October 2020 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Mesa Verde Detention Facility 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 PBNDS 2011 annual compliance inspections:



<i>2020 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

<i>2021 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	3

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

Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention – 1
Visitation – 2, both of which are Priority components

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Mesa Verde Detention Facility is located in Bakersfield, California in a small business and residential neighborhood. It is owned and operated by the GEO Group, Inc. (GEO), a private corporation based in Boca Raton, Florida. [REDACTED] It houses adult male and female ICE detainees of all classification levels. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The facility is not accepting any new detainees due to a court order as a result of COVID-19.

The perimeter security of the facility is comprised of exterior walls of the building and sections of a thirteen-foot concrete wall supplemented with razor ribbon and microwave sensors. There is a 112-camera surveillance network that monitors the entire perimeter and critical movement and common areas inside the facility. The perimeter of the facility is foot-patrolled by an unarmed officer once each shift. Due to recent demonstrations/protests, temporary fencing has been placed in front of the facility to restrict access to the entrance of the facility and the parking areas.

The building was converted to a detention facility and opened in 2015. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are two housing units on each floor. Three housing units are dedicated to male detainees and one to female detainees. All housing units are managed by direct supervision. The facility also has a restricted housing unit which contains three single-bed cells. The health care unit has two negative air pressure rooms. All movement is escorted.

Each general population housing unit has a dayroom that provides space and seating for detainees to socialize and tables for board games. Board games, televisions, microwaves, tablets, and an optimal number of telephones are available for detainees. Detainees may use the tablets for video visits, messaging with family and friends, playing music and games, filing grievances, ordering commissary, and submitting requests to facility and ICE staff. Four law library computers are available in a separate area. Detainees may currently visit with family and friends through video visitation only, as all general visits have been discontinued due to COVID-19. There are two outdoor recreation yards containing exercise equipment. Meals are normally served in the dining hall but are currently being served in the housing units due to COVID-19.

The atmosphere in the housing units was relaxed. An onsite inspector visited all occupied housing units during the inspection. A total of eight detainees agreed to be interviewed. All detainees stated that they felt safe in the facility and that they were treated well by staff. One detainee complained that he had missed a medical appointment because he was unable to stand and the officer refused to take him. The



detainee's medical record was reviewed and it was determined that the detainee did miss an appointment as he refused to stand to be pat searched before he was transported. Medical staff reported that the detainee can stand without assistance. Other detainees reported that medical staff is responsive to their requests, and they felt they were getting good care. Detainees reported that the telephones are in good working order and they have access to the law library computers in the housing units and the law library. Detainees reported they are offered outdoor recreation daily. Detainees who reported they had filed a grievance stated that they received a response to each grievance. None of the detainees had contacted the OIG but were aware that the number and instructions for making the call were posted. All facility 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.

Medical care is provided by WellPath. All other services are provided by The GEO Group, Inc. Detainees are not charged co-pay fees for medical, dental, or mental health services.

During the inspection, optimal compliance was found while reviewing the following standards: Telephone Access, Recreation, and Law Libraries, and Legal Materials. Details of these achievements are noted in the component and/or overall remarks of each standard.

Due to COVID-19, the facility has enacted its Pandemic Plan. No new detainees are being accepted. All staff and detainees are tested for COVID-19 weekly and anyone entering the facility must wear a mask, have their temperature taken and recorded, and must complete a questionnaire. Only legal visitation is permitted. Detainees are provided thirteen ten-minute telephone calls each week, free of charge, in lieu of onsite general visits. Sanitation was noted to be above average with areas frequently touched being constantly cleaned. During this inspection, no detainees or staff had tested positive for COVID-19.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

This inspection was conducted as a hybrid. Some inspectors were onsite while others worked remotely. Remote inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility and relied upon photographs, videos, and onsite inspector observation to validate the observation of many standards.

Two Priority Components were rated Does Not Meet Standard.

Standard 5.7 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.

Finding: General visitation has been suspended due to COVID-19 concerns. There is a video visitation option available on the electronic tablets available to detainees in the housing units; however, video visits are not free. Indigent detainees do not have access to general visitation. The facility has continued to provide legal visitation.

Recommendation: The facility should provide an equal opportunity for detainees to participate in general visitation without paying a fee.

