



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

March 17, 2021

TO: [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director Custody Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the River Correctional Center**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS 2019) of the River Correctional Center in Ferriday, Louisiana, during the period of March 15-17, 2021. 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 2019 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a previous rating of Meet Standards during the March 2020 (NDS 2000) annual inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The River Correctional Center 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) - 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 2020 annual inspection and 2021 annual inspection:



<i>2020 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standard	38
Does Not Meet Standard	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	1

<i>2021 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standard	32
Does Not Meet Standard	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	1

The inspection team identified thirteen (13) deficient components in the following four (4) standards:

- Admission and Release – 1
- Special Management Units – 1
- Food Service - 7
- Visitation – 4

### **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The River Correctional Center was built in 2001 and is located in rural Ferriday, Louisiana, approximately 100 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The facility is owned and operated by LaSalle Corrections. This IGSA facility [REDACTED] employs the indirect model of supervision to all custody levels of adult male detainees for ICE. [REDACTED]

Detainees are housed in eight dormitory style living units ranging from 72 to 75 beds each. Housing assignments are based on same or similar custody levels. The facility does not maintain a dedicated special management housing unit but has nine double occupancy cells that are used when a detainee is placed in special management housing status or medical observation. Onsite inspectors found the living units to be well lit with both natural and artificial light and observed adequate open space for detainees. The dayrooms in each of the housing units are furnished with tables and chairs for detainees to participate in leisure time activities and socializing. Board games, leisure reading material, playing cards, and televisions are among the amenities available to detainees. Computer tablets and kiosks were recently installed in the housing units, but the tablets were not activated at the time of inspection. Detainees complete written request as a primary means of communicating with ICE; however, housing unit logs show that ICE officials are visiting on Tuesdays and Thursdays and conducting and documenting formal interviews with detainees. Locked ICE mailboxes were observed in all of the living areas by the onsite inspection team members. The facility has an outdoor recreation area for detainees to play basketball, volleyball, soccer, and jog or walk. Indoor recreation areas include the dayroom portions of each housing unit. General visitation and group religious services have been temporarily suspended due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. Video visitation for a fee is available to detainees via the kiosks in the housing units. Visits from legal representatives have not been suspended. Other COVID-19 response operational changes include all newly received detainees have been quarantined and COVID-19 tested upon admission to the River Correctional Center. The facility has arranged with the telephone provider to allow 500 free minutes of monthly call time for detainees to maintain positive family ties in the absence of family visits. There were no detainees in administrative or disciplinary segregation at the time of inspection.

The facility is climate controlled, and the physical plant was found to be in good repair. All staff interviewed were well-versed in facility guidelines and operating procedures as well as the National Detention Standards. Officers and staff were professional during interviews and detainees spoke willingly and respectfully. A review



of sanitation inspection reports, interviews with staff and detainees, and observation by onsite inspectors concluded that the sanitation level of the facility was average.

The inspection team interviewed 45 LEP and English-speaking detainees housed at the facility. Interviews were held telephonically, in person, and with the assistance of an interpreter when needed. There were no substantive concerns voiced when asked about personal safety, mail services, access to ICE or access to recreation. Some detainees complained of repetitive food items being served and bland tasting food. The safety SME sampled a lunch meal during the inspection and found the food to be palatable. A review of the menu found a variety of foods being served with portion sizes approved by a dietician, who also certified the menu as nutritionally adequate. While no detainee complained of having access to medical services, two detainees complained of inadequate medical treatment. One detainee stated that he recently had a tooth extracted that left a large hole in his gum tissue and was not given anything for pain or suspected infection. The medical SME conducted a review of the detainee's medical file and found that the detainee had a tooth extracted on 03/04/2021 by a contracted dentist and returned to the facility on the same day. He was evaluated by medical personnel with no bleeding noted and voiced no complaints of pain. The detainee has not requested sick call since the date of the extraction. Another detainee alleged that when he signs up for sick call, he is not seen by medical services until three days later. The medical SME found that the detainee requested sick call once in January 2021 and twice in February 2021. Medical documentation revealed that the detainee was seen by medical each time the following day and followed up with by a nurse practitioner shortly thereafter. Several LEP detainees complained of international calls being dropped when calling family who live in countries such as Cuba, Canada, Nicaragua, and Honduras. This concern was brought to the attention of the OIC who contacted the telephone provider for assistance. Preliminary review by the telephone provider revealed that once some of the smaller countries reach their call capacity, failures, rejections, and drop calls happen more frequently. The telephone provider informed the OIC that the company will continue to look for ways to make the international calling process more efficient for detainees.

All detainees interviewed verified that they received a local and National Detainee Handbook during the admission process and confirmed that facility memorandum, posters, and other types of key information are posted in English and Spanish throughout the facility, which are the languages primarily spoken by detainees. No detainee that raised substantive complaints or concerns mentioned in this report voiced their concerns beyond facility staff.

Medical services are provided by facility staff with the assistance of contract medical providers when necessary. The facility medical doctor and dentist are contracted services and virtual mental health services are provided by Cure Global. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. Food service at this facility is provided by facility staff.

The detainee telephone provider is Correct Solutions, and the kiosks and computer tablet services are provided by Tech Friend via contract with the facility.

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

There were no areas of concern or significant observations from this hybrid inspection. Onsite inspection team members were provided all requested documentation and observed the practice and procedures of the facility. The remote inspector relied upon photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.

### **Recommended Rating and Justification**

