



February 17, 2022

TO: [Redacted]  
Acting Assistant Director Custody Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the South Texas ICE Processing Center**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) of the South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall, Texas during the period of February 15-17, 2022. This is a CDF.

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 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 February 2021 inspection.

**Inspection Summary**

The South Texas Processing Center 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 annual compliance inspections:



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

<i>2022 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	3

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

Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention – 1

**Facility Snapshot/Description**

The South Texas ICE Processing Center is owned and operated by The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The facility is located sixty miles south of San Antonio in Pearsall, Texas. It has a rated capacity of [REDACTED] beds and an operational capacity of [REDACTED] beds. The facility houses adult male and female ICE detainees of all custody levels. However, the facility has not housed any female detainees since April 2020. [REDACTED]

The facility is a linear design building with all support services, administrative offices, and housing units accessible off one long central corridor. The facility is enclosed by either one or two ten-foot chain link fence segments which are supplemented with razor ribbon and a microwave detection system centered between the fences. A large soccer field was added in 2012 which is enclosed by a twelve-foot chain link fence. There is a paved perimeter road around the compound that is patrolled around the clock by an armed officer in a vehicle. There are 242 surveillance cameras that monitor the entire perimeter, the critical movement corridors, and all common areas inside the facility. Officers and staff were professional and appeared to be knowledgeable of standard requirements.

The facility has [REDACTED] general population housing units configured into dormitory settings ranging in size from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] beds. The day rooms are furnished with televisions, telephones, electronic tablets, tables with fixed seats, and ample open space. All housing units are under direct supervision from an officer(s) stationed inside the housing unit. Each detainee has a personal property storage locker and is provided a combination lock at no charge. The special management unit (SMU) is divided into two separate units: a [REDACTED]-bed male unit at one end of the facility and a [REDACTED]-bed female unit at the opposite end.

All general population detainees receive at least four hours of outdoor recreation daily. Each general population housing unit has an adjoining recreation yard to which detainees have access between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., except during counts. Special management unit (SMU) detainees in administrative segregation status receive at least two hours of outdoor recre-



ation seven days per week and SMU detainees in disciplinary segregation status receive at least one hour of outdoor recreation seven days a week.

The electronic tablets, provided by Talton Communications, have the functionality to process non-medical grievances, detainee requests, and other services. Communications with facility and ICE staff via the tablets are free. Most detainee requests to ICE are processed via the electronic tablets. Although non-medical grievances may be processed via the tablets, to file a grievance regarding medical issues, detainees are instructed to complete a paper grievance and deposit it in a locked box found in each housing unit. Detainees may video chat with friends and family using the electronic tablets in each housing unit.

All detainees arriving at the facility are placed in a fourteen-day cohort (quarantine status) due to COVID-19 protocols. Upon arrival, detainees are offered a COVID-19 test. Detainees are classified prior to placement in the cohort status.

ICE suspended on-site general/social visitation for ICE detainees in March 2020. However, the facility continues to offer virtual visitation to detainees and visitors via the electronic tablets. All detainees are provided with thirteen, ten-minute free telephone calls and 130 minutes of visitation per week. Legal and professional visits are exempt from the on-site visitation suspension.

There were 32 formal and thirteen informal detainee interviews completed during this inspection. Twenty-two of the formal interviews were with detainees with limited English proficiency (LEP); a telephonic translation service was used to interview LEP detainees. Two of the 32 formal interviews were with detainees housed in restricted housing and eight informal interviews were in medical housing. None of the detainees expressed any concerns regarding life/safety issues. The detainees interviewed were aware of the grievance process and the availability of the OIG hotline.

Detainee telephone services are provided via the national ICE contract with Talton Communications. Medical services are provided by Immigration Health Services Corps (IHSC). All other services are provided by The GEO Group, Inc.

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

Several standards were noted as achieving optimum compliance. Detainees have access to the law library at least fifteen hours per week; there is at least one telephone for every ten detainees; outdoor recreation is provided four hours a day, seven days a week; recreation is provided to detainees in administrative control for two hours per day, seven days a week; recreation is provided to detainees in disciplinary control for one hour per day, seven days per week; the facility provides at least one telephone for every ten detainees, and detainees have access to the law library for more than fifteen hours per week.

This inspection was conducted as a hybrid with two inspectors working remotely. Remote inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility. The remote inspectors relied on photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.



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There were no areas of concern.

### **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 Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011). No (0) standard was found Does Not Meet Standard and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to Meet Standards.

### **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, with some participating telephonically, was conducted. In addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following participated:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]

- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lead Compliance Inspector

February 17, 2022

Printed Name of LCI

Date