



February 27, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Detention 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 25-27, 2020. This is a 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]
Safety	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[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 previous rating of Meets Standards during the February 2019 inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The South Texas ICE 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 2019 and 2020 annual inspections:



<i>2019 Annual Inspection</i>	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

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

The inspection team found two (2) component deficiencies in the following two (2) standards:

- Staff-Detainee Communication – 1, which is a repeat deficiency
- Grievance System – 1, which was a repeat deficiency.

**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. [REDACTED] The facility only houses adult male and female ICE detainees of all custody levels. [REDACTED]

The facility is a linear structured 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 twelve-foot chain link fence segments which are supplemented with razor ribbon and a microwave detection system centered between the fences. There is a paved perimeter road around the compound that is patrolled by an armed officer in a vehicle 24 hours a day. There are 242 surveillance cameras that monitor the entire perimeter, the critical movement corridors, and all common areas inside the facility.

The facility has 26 general population housing units configured into dormitory settings ranging in size from 64 to 100 beds. Five of the housing units were empty during the inspection. The day rooms are furnished with televisions, telephones, tables with fixed seats, and ample open space. 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] male unit at one end of the facility and an [REDACTED] female unit at the opposite end. All general population detainees receive at least four hours of outdoor recreation daily. SMU detainees in administrative segregation status receive at least two hours of outdoor recreation seven days a week; and SMU detainees in disciplinary segregation status receive at least one hour of outdoor recreation five days a week.

The Talton (telephone contractor) electronic tablets have the capability to process grievances, detainee requests, and many other services, but the menu options and/or ability of the system does not allow for medical grievances to be directly submitted to medical staff. They simply go into a general grievance bin and when identified as a medical grievance they are forwarded to medical by a non-medical staff member. Detainee requests can be submitted electronically but the electronic log is not user friendly when retrieving and/or tracking adherence to the response requirements dictated by the standard.

The atmosphere in the housing units was relaxed and kempt. Detainees were communicative when approached by staff and they chatted freely with the inspectors. The inspection team formally interviewed approximately 43 male and female detainees casually and privately in the housing units, in intake, on work assignments, in the medical unit, and in a private confidential setting. There were thirteen transgender detainees housed in the facility during the inspection; five were interviewed by the medical



SME. All interviews were conducted with the assistance of bilingual staff, the use of the language line, or in English. Throughout all detainee interviews no substantive complaints or concerns were registered when questioned about personal safety, treatment by staff and other detainees, medical care, ICE contact, handbook information, law library access, or food services. Out of all the interviews two medical concerns rose to the level of further investigation. Both were followed up by the medical SME and revealed both concerns had been recently treated by health care staff and follow-up appointments were already scheduled. No further action was necessary. One detainee alleged he had not been seen by ICE/ERO staff in three years. The detainee rights SME discussed the statement with the detainee's deportation officer and the COR. Both individuals immediately knew of the detainee and stated he had been seen many, many times. The detainee is just impatiently awaiting action on the next level of his case review.

All movement is escorted. Most staff are bilingual and manage the demands of their posts with a thorough sense of certitude and thorough knowledge of the daily schedule and required responses to emergency situations.

Medical services are provided by a combined effort from IHSC uniformed staff and SDG International contract personnel. There are no medical copayments. Food and maintenance services are provided by GEO personnel. The facility maintains a very good level of sanitation and cleanliness.

**Areas of Concern/Significant Observations**

There were no areas of concern or significant observations.

**Recommended Rating and Justification**

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards. The facility complies with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011. No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet Standards and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to be in compliance.

**LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of compliance and noncompliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324A 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]
- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector

February 27, 2020

Printed Name of LCI

Date

