



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

March 31, 2022

TO: [REDACTED]  
Acting Assistant Director Custody Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the T. Don Hutto Detention Center**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual hybrid inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011 of the T. Don Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, Texas during the period of March 29-31, 2022. This is a CDF.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED]. 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 previous rating of Meets Standards during the March 2021 annual inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The T. Don Hutto Detention 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:



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

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

The inspection team identified five (5) deficient components in the following five (5) standards:

- Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities – 1
- Staff-Detainee Communication – 1
- Medical Care – 1
- Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention – 1
- Detainee Transfers – 1

**Facility Snapshot/Description**

The T. Don Hutto Detention Center is located in Taylor, Texas and is owned and operated by CoreCivic. The facility is situated in a rural area approximately 35 miles northeast of Austin, Texas. With a capacity of [REDACTED] beds, this CDF houses [REDACTED].

The facility is a single-story structure with eleven two-tiered cellblocks ranging in capacity from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] beds managed under the direct supervision model. During the inspection, [REDACTED] housing units were under quarantine status, [REDACTED] housing units were vacant due to the low number of detainees housed at the facility and [REDACTED] housing units were occupied by ICE detainees. There is one special management unit (SMU) at this facility containing [REDACTED] [REDACTED]-person cells and a multipurpose [REDACTED] cell that is being renovated to include suicide resistant features. The facility does not maintain infirmary care beds in their medical unit.

The living units were found to be well lit with both natural and artificial light and adequate open space for detainees. The dayrooms are furnished with tables and chairs for detainees to participate in leisure time activities, socializing, playing board games, and playing cards. Televisions are available for detainees to view and detainees have access to a kiosk for ordering commissary and computer tablets for video visitation and communication with ICE and facility staff via electronic requests. The LexisNexis electronic law library is also programmed in the computer tablets allowing detainees to conduct legal research during waking hours. Group religious services have been suspended due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. General visitation has also been temporarily suspended due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. Remote video visitation is available to detainees through the telephone provider as a general visitation option; however, this service is not free. As a COVID-19 precaution, all newly received detainees are quarantined upon admission to the facility for fourteen days. Detainees complaining of symptoms will be COVID-19 tested immediately. There are two outdoor recreation yards and an indoor gymnasium available to detainees. Recreation yards have drinking water available and restrooms are located just inside the gymnasium which may be openly accessed by detainees during recreation hours. Detainees participate in the voluntary work program but assignments are currently limited to cleaning tasks in their living quarters.

The facility is climate controlled, and the physical plant was found to be in good repair. All staff interviewed was well-versed in facility guidelines and operating procedures as well as the National Detention Standards. Officers and other staff were professional during interviews and detainees interviewed spoke willingly and respectfully. The facility employs a large number bilingual staff to assist in communicating with limited English proficient (LEP) detainees. A translation service is also available. A review of sanitation inspection reports, interviews with staff and detainees, and observation by on-site subject matter experts (SMEs) concluded that the sanitation level of the facility was above average.



The inspection team interviewed forty detainees housed at the facility during the inspection including 25 formal interviews. Limited English proficient detainees were interviewed with the assistance of an interpreter and bilingual inspection team members. There were no substantive concerns voiced when asked about personal safety, access to mail, treatment by staff, or the quality of food served. Inspectors verified that memoranda, posters, and other types of key information are posted in English and Spanish throughout the facility. While conducting formal interviews, all detainees commented positively on how respectful and professional staff treated them during their stay at the facility. Though recreation is only being offered one hour daily seven days per week, which is the minimum requirement of the standard, detainees spoke well of the recreation program and the variety of activities to participate in. Some detainees complained of not seeing ICE representatives as often as they would like; however, a review of housing unit logs and interview with facility staff found that ICE staff is visiting housing units at least weekly. An additional complaint from detainees regarding untimely response from ICE to written and/or electronic detainee requests was validated when several gaps in return of responses was noticed by the Detainee Rights SME while reviewing detainee request logs. During interpreter assisted LEP interviews, one detainee shared medical concerns regarding a head injury that he allegedly received while living in his home country. This information was provided to the chief of unit management who had the detainee medically assessed. One detainee of Uzbek descent expressed anxiety of being distanced from his family who originates from Tajikistan. The interview with this detainee ended soon after it started as he became very emotional and was referred to the mental health provider for assessment. Finally, one detainee complained of not being successful in making telephone contact with his family stating that the telephone often disconnects before the call is answered. The unit management chief conducted a review of the detainee's electronic telephone log and found that the detainee was calling his family so frequent that his free-minutes were exhausted early in the month therefore disconnecting his calls because of insufficient free-call funds. Detainees were reminded of the proper procedures for filing grievances and the availability of the OIG hotline for submitting complaints.

Food service is provided by Trinity Foods and STG International provides supplemental medical staff under contract with IHSC. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. Talton Communications provides detainee telephone and computer tablet services, while Keefe Group LLC provides kiosks for detainees to order commissary.

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

The inspection was conducted as a hybrid. Four inspectors were on site and one inspector worked remotely. The remote inspector was unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility and relied on on-site inspector's observations, photographs, and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.

Optimal compliance was confirmed in the following standards: Use of Force; Medical Care; Medical Care (Women); Admission and Release; Telephone Access; and Law Libraries and Legal Material.

#### **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 National Detention Standards. No (0) standard was rated as 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-324A Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief, with some

