

March 31, 2021

TO:			
	Assistant Di	rector Custody	Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

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

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011/2016 Revisions (PBNDS 2011/2016) of the T. Don Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, TX during the period of March 29-31, 2021. This is a CDF.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of Lead Compliance Inspector. Lead Compliance Inspector Saunders and Medical SME Tamaray were on site for the inspection. The remaining team members worked remotely. Team members were:

Subject Matter Field	Team Member
Detainee Rights	
Security	
Medical Care	
Medical Care	
Safety	

Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2011/2016 Revisions for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility has not been inspected prior.

Inspection Summary

The T. Don Hutto Detention Center is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) No
- 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 PBNDS 2011/2016 Revisions annual compliance inspections:



2021 Annual Inspection		
Meets Standards	40	
Does Not Meet Standards	0	
Repeat Finding	0	
Not Applicable	3	

The inspection team identified two (2) deficient components in the following standard:

Visitation -2, both of which are priority components

Facility Snapshot/Description

The T. Don Hutto Detention Center is located in an industrial area in the southern outskirts of Taylor, TX, next to a railroad yard and industrial buildings. Owned and operated by CoreCivic, the facility is currently upgrading several features in a large-scale remodeling project, in anticipation of an increase in ICE detainees. The CDF facility houses low-level classification female ICE detainees.

There is an officer in every housing unit at all times; the housing units are under the visual supervision of a control center officer and cameras as well. The cells are two-person capacity rooms; however, all were single-celled during the inspection due to the low count. The special management unit is under construction; upon completion, it will consist of five double-bunked confinement cells. Sanitation levels were average throughout the facility, with the notable exception of the food service area, which was above average.

The cell doors remain unlocked at all times, mirroring the free-movement concept of civil detention. Nonetheless, the physical plant is unmistakably that of a prison, and the current remodeling projects will make it more so, as the facility is upgrading many security features to enhance its ability to securely house all classification levels of detainees.

The housing units have televisions, telephones, board games, and electronic tablets for detainees to use. Detainees are offered outdoor recreation seven days per week for at least four hours per session, achieving optimal compliance in this area. While in the housing unit, the detainees spend the majority of their time socializing, watching television, participating in arts and crafts, and other sedentary leisure activities. Four days per week, the facility offers structured arts and crafts or educational classes in each housing unit, again achieving optimal compliance with these extra programs. Due to cohorts/quarantines, the inspection team was only able to visit one housing unit during the inspection. The atmosphere in the unit was relaxed, and the unit was quiet; only eight detainees were housed there. Detainees did not seek inspectors to ask questions or complain. They interacted with facility staff without apparent hesitation, and those interactions were calm and appeared routine and professional. Detainee clothing was neat and clean. Staff were well-versed on the basic requirements of the standards as applicable to their areas and were professional in appearance and demeanor. Many of the staff are bilingual, and their communication with the detainees seemed relaxed and clear.

The inspection team interviewed every detainee that was not in a cohort or quarantined, and four detainees that were in a cohort. The four cohort detainees were seated in the intake area during the inspection, and the inspection team seized the opportunity to speak with them informally for a few minutes. Three of these detainees were from Cuba, and one was from Venezuela. Without exception, they stated that they were fine, and expressed no issues with staff, medical care, food service, communication, or their personal safety.



The eight detainees in the non-cohort unit were interviewed informally. Five of them were also interviewed formally; three declined the formal interviews. None expressed any issues with communication, safety, food, medical care, staff treatment, or access to services. Essentially, there were no complaints of any type.

ICE detainees are not charged co-pays for medical care. Food service is operated by Trinity Foods. STG International provides supplemental medical staff under contract with IHSC.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

This inspection was conducted as a hybrid inspection, wherein two inspectors were on-site and three worked remotely. The results and findings, while accurately reported herein, are therefore potentially less thorough than an inspection conducted with the full inspection team on site.

There were two Priority Components rated as Does Not Meet Standard during the inspection, as detailed below. Both of the ratings were associated with the suspension of in-person visits, issued by ICE Head-quarters in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 virus protocols.

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.

Component #9 – PRIORITY: The facility's written rules shall specify time limits for visits. Visits should be for the maximum period practicable but not less than one hour with special consideration given to family circumstances and individuals who have traveled long distances.

Finding: General visitation has been suspended due to COVID-19 concerns. There is a video visitation option available on the electronic tablets 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.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards. Providing that unobserved practices and conditions remain consistent with that which was reported to the inspection



team, the facility complies with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011/2016 Revisions (PBNDS 2011/2016 Revisions) for Over 72 hour facilities. No (0) Standards were rated as Does Not Meets and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to be 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, inasmuch as is possible considering the hybrid nature of the inspection. 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 -		
Facility Staff -		
Lead Compliance Inspector	March 31, 2021	
Printed Name of LCI	Date	