

February 3, 2022

TO:

Acting Assistant Director Custody Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: Annual Inspection of the Webb County Detention Center

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual hybrid inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 with 2016 revisions of the Webb County Detention Center in Laredo, Texas during the period of February 1-3, 2022. This is an IGSA facility.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of Lead Compliance members were:

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

## Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection that 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 2021 annual inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The Webb County 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:



2021 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standard	41
Does Not Meet Standard	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

2022 Annual Inspection		
Meets Standard	41	
Does Not Meet Standard	0	
Repeat Finding	0	
Not Applicable	2	

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

Correspondence and Other Mail - 1 Key and Lock Control – 1 Special Management Units - 1 Hunger Strikes - 1

# Facility Snapshot/Description

The Webb County Detention Center was constructed in renovated in and is owned and operated by CoreCivic. The facility is located in Laredo, Texas on the border of Mexico separated by the Rio Grande River. This IGSA has an operational capacity of beds and employs the indirect model of supervision to all classification levels of male and female ICE detainees and U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) detainees.

The facility is a single-story structure with separate general population housing units that are a mix of and coccupancy cells and dormitory-style housing that range in size from to beds. ICE detainees are housed separate from non-ICE detainees and only with same or similar classification levels. There are two special management units (SMUs) at this facility under direct staff supervision, each containing ten single-bed cells. The medical unit does not contain infirmary care beds. During the inspection, approximately detainees were in quarantine or under medical observation status for COVID-19 related symptoms. On-site inspectors toured only housing units and common areas of the facility that were occupied by ICE detainees that were clear of COVID-19 symptoms.

The living units inspected were found to be well lit with both natural and artificial light and were observed to have 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. Detainees have access to a kiosk and computer tablets for video visitation, facility programs, ordering commissary, and viewing the local handbook. The computer tablets are programmed to communicate with ICE via electronic detainee request. Group religious services and general visitation have been suspended due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. Remote video visitation is available to detainees for a fee as a general visitation option. Other COVID-19 response operational changes include all newly received detainees being quarantined upon admission to the facility. Detainees complaining of symptoms will be COVID-19 tested immediately. There are three outdoor recreation yards available to detainees one hour per day, seven days per week, which aligns with the minimum requirement of the standard. Recreation yards have toilet facilities and drinking water available for detainees having recreation. ICE detainees participate in the voluntary work program, but work only inside their housing unit or in food service.

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 staff were professional during interviews and detainees interviewed spoke willingly and respectfully. The facility employs several bilingual staff to assist detainees that speak English and/or Spanish,



the two primary languages spoken by detainees at this facility. Translation services are also available to detainees. 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 or offered interviews to fifty detainees housed at the facility during the inspection, including 25 formal interviews. Several limited English proficient (LEP) 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, law library access or treatment by staff. Inspectors verified that memoranda, posters, and other types of key information are posted in English and Spanish throughout the facility. While conducting formal interviews, five detainees complained of recreation being offered at the same time each day or offered too early in the morning. This concern was brought to the attention of the OIC who had the recreation supervisor and chief of security review and revise the daily recreation schedule to include a greater rotation of morning and afternoon sessions. Two female detainees complained to the medical SME that they were not being seen by medical for three or four days after forwarding a medical request. The medical SME conducted a review of both detainees' medical record and found the allegations to be unsubstantiated. Some detainees complained that food items occasionally spill over into other compartments of the food receptacle when being delivered to the housing units. The OIC was made aware of the issue during the inspection and corrective actions were implemented by the food service director to monitor the plating of the meals. During interpreter assisted LEP interviews, two detainees had questions about asylum hearings and the release process. The names of the detainees were provided to the deportation officer assigned to the facility, who conducted an interview with each detainee immediately. Detainees were reminded of the proper procedures for filing grievances and the availability of the OIG hotline for submitting complaints.

Healthcare services are provided by CoreCivic employees and food service is contracted with Trinity Service Group. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. The detainee telephone, computer tablets, and kiosk systems are provided by Talton Communications Inc.

### 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.

During the inspection, 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; retention of use of force audio visual records is for one year after conclusion of investigation or litigation, and the prevention, treatment, and therapeutic aftercare for suicidal detainees is within NCCHC Standards.

### 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 rated as Does Not Meet Standard and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty-one (41) 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



participating telephonically, was conducted and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following participated:

• ICE Officials –

• Facility Staff –

Lead Compliance Inspector February 3, 2022

Printed Name of LCI Date