

August 2, 2018

TO:

Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** Annual Detention Inspection of the Polk County Jail

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) of the Polk County Jail in Des Moines, Iowa during the period of July 31 – August 2, 2018. This is an IGSA facility.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of tor. Team Members were:

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

## **Type of Inspection**

This is a scheduled annual inspection, which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility was not inspected in 2017.

## **Inspection Summary**

The Polk County Jail is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) No
- 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 2018 annual inspection.



2017 Inspection		
Acceptable	Not inspected	
Deficient	Not inspected	
At-Risk	Not inspected	
Repeat Finding	Not inspected	
Not Applicable	Not inspected	

2018 Inspection		
Acceptable	36	
Deficient	0	
At-Risk	0	
Repeat Finding	0	
Not Applicable	3	

The inspection team identified sixteen (16) deficient components in the following ten (10) standards:

Admission and Release - 2

Correspondence and Other Mail – 3

Detainee Handbook - 2

Access to Medical Care – 2

Contraband – 2

Emergency Plans – 1

Environmental Health and Safety – 1

Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities – 1

Key and Lock Control – 1

Population Counts - 1

# **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Polk County Jail is operated under the jurisdiction of the Polk County Sheriff's Office. The facility was built in 2008

The Polk County Jail is a 325,000 square foot single story, brick and concrete structure, north of Des Moines, Iowa. The jail is located on forty acres surrounded by fields and industrial buildings. The jail design includes a direct supervision dormitory setting model. Within each housing unit, detainees are permitted to watch television, use the exercise room, use the telephone, read, play board games and use the electronic tablets. The maximum capacity of the low security dormitories is 64 detainees. Polk County Jail is equipped with smaller high-security units (capacity 32) to house detainees with special management concerns. Additionally, there are 34 available bunks in the medical holding unit designed to house detainees requiring medical segregation.

Polk County Jail provides a variety of classes, services and programs including library services, release clothing, religious services, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Substance Abuse Education, Cage Your Rage, Financial Planning, Gamblers Education Program, GED and a Parenting Program. Detainees are encouraged to participate.

Detainees had no issues with access to legal materials, correspondence, telephone or religious services. Each detainee housed at the facility was afforded the opportunity to speak with the inspection team. Seventeen detainees volunteered to speak with the inspectors. Detainee interviews included LEP detainees. Ten detainees were interviewed in a confidential setting. Three detainees requested that a Spanish channel be made available to them on the housing unit televisions. The administrative sergeant stated that he would review the request. Seven detainees stated that the food served "smelled and tasted bad." The Safety SME observed the food servings on two occasions and found that food was presented within the standard guidelines. Two detainees complained about dental follow up. The HSA stated that the dental department was six weeks behind scheduling appointments due to shortage of staff. All detainees stated that they felt safe and that staff were professional and treated them well.



Three detainees in the minimum/medium unit stated that there are "county detainees" who "are aggressive". The administrative sergeant stated that he would follow up with the allegations. The detainees stated that they had not reported this issue to the ICE officer, filed a grievance or informed facility staff of their concern.

Housing areas provide adequate open space. Each unit has a television viewing area and a generous number of telephone banks. There is an adjacent recreation area available to detainees on a regular basis. The inspection team found the atmosphere to be calm and quiet, with no indicators of high stress levels present. Living areas had acceptable levels of light and ventilation. Video visitation, including pre-scheduled off-site video visitation is available for a fee. Electronic handheld tablets are available to detainees. The facility is extremely well maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.

The facility charges ICE detainees medical co-payments. Food Services is provided by Polk County employees. Medical services are provided by Correct Care Solutions.

## **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 Acceptable. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS). No (0) standards were found Deficient and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-six (36) standards were found to be Acceptable.

#### **LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of Acceptable and Deficient 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 –	
•	Facility Staff –	

August 2, 2018

, Lead Compliance Inspector

Printed Name of LCI Date