

May 16, 2019

TO:

Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** Annual Detention Inspection of the Northwest Detention Center

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington during the period of May 14-16, 2019. This is a CDF.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of 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 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a previous rating of Meets Standards during the April 2018 inspection.

#### **Inspection Summary**

The Northwest 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 2018 and 2019 PBNDS 2011 compliance annual inspections:



2018 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	41
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	1

2019 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	41
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Deficiency	0
Not Applicable	1

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

Funds and Personal Property - 1, which is a repeat deficiency Staff-Detainee Communication - 1

# **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), a CDF, is owned and operated by GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The facility is located in Tacoma, Washington in an industrial area approximately 25 miles south of Sea-Tac International Airport. The facility houses all custody levels of male and female detainees.

The Northwest Detention Center was constructed in 2004. In 2010, additional capacity was added to the facility. There are currently no plans for future construction or renovation. The administration building and the additional housing units constructed in 2010 are two levels; all other areas of the facility are single level. There are six general population housing units; four of the housing units contain three housing pods and two of the housing units contain four housing pods. Capacities of the housing units range from 205-278 beds. Both dormitory and cell housing is available. Dormitory capacities range from 64-80 beds. Additionally, there are forty cells, each containing two beds, in the segregation management unit designated for males. Housing units are provided direct supervision around-the-clock. Detainees are provided both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities and were observed participating in both areas. Each housing unit has a large dayroom area equipped with tables, chairs, televisions, board games, ping pong tables, exercise equipment, and microwaves. The entire facility is climate controlled.

The inspection team found the atmosphere to be calm with no obvious indicators of high stress levels. The sanitation levels were observed to be above average. Noise levels were minimal. Facility and ICE staff exhibited professional demeanor. Interactions between staff and detainees were observed to be respectful and professional. The NWDC staff were well versed and knowledgeable when asked about detention standards and language line services.

The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. Medical and mental health services are provided by ICE Health Service Corp. All other services are provided by GEO employees.

No less than 75 detainees were interviewed. Detainee statements indicated overall satisfaction with living conditions, access to the law library, telephones, medical care, and translation services. Without exception, detainees stated that "they feel safe". Non-English speaking male and female detainees, selected at random from all three classifications levels, were interviewed in a confidential setting. There were no issues or concerns expressed by any of the male detainees interviewed. Three female detainees stated that the medical care they were receiving was inadequate. Each of them had requested medical care on more than one occasion and medical care was provided each time it was requested. However, all three complained that they were



not receiving the medications they required and that they were enduring pain every day because the medical department would not provide them with the appropriate pain medication. One detainee stated that she was suffering from headaches and dizziness. She stated that she had been examined by medical staff but was not being adequately treated. The medical SME reviewed the complaints with the IHSC staff and found that medical care was provided to each detainee appropriately and timely.

Three female detainees stated that one of the unit officers is "racist and disrespectful". When asked to provide the name of the employee they were complaining about, no detainee would provide a name or shift. When the detainees were asked if they had filed a grievance or talked to the ICE officer or supervisory personnel they said "no, because ICE does not care and they do not know who supervises the unit". The warden was advised and planned to follow up with the detainees.

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

There were no areas of concern or significant observations.

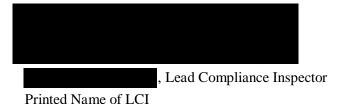
# **Recommended Rating and Justification**

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 one (1) standard was Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty-one (41) standards were found to Meet Standards.

#### **LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of Meets Standards and Does Not Meet Standards are accurately and completely documented on the G-324 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 (GEO) Staff –
Monitors –



May 16, 2019 Date