



October 23, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Etowah County Jail**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) of the Etowah County Jail in Gadsden, Alabama during the period of October 21-23, 2020. This is an IGSA.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED] Lead Compliance Inspector. 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 NDS for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the July 2019 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Etowah County Jail 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) - No

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 2019 and 2020 NDS compliance annual inspections:

| <i>2019 Annual Inspection</i> | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Meets Standards | 37 |
| Does Not Meet Standards | 0 |
| Repeat Finding | 0 |
| Not Applicable | 2 |

| <i>2020 Annual Inspection</i> | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Meets Standards | 37 |
| Does Not Meet Standards | 0 |
| Repeat Finding | 0 |
| Not Applicable | 2 |

The inspection team identified eleven (11) deficient components in the following nine (9) standards:

- Access to Telephones – 1
- Environmental Health and Safety – 2, one of which is a repeat deficiency
- Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities – 1
- Key and Lock Control – 1
- Security Inspections – 1, which is a repeat deficiency
- Special Management Units (Administrative) – 1
- Special Management Units (Disciplinary) – 1
- Transportation (Land) – 2
- Staff/Detainee Communications – 1, which is a repeat deficiency

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Etowah County Jail is an [REDACTED] direct-supervision facility located in downtown Gadsden, Alabama. The facility, operated by the Etowah County Sheriff's Department, houses male and female detainees for Etowah County and adult male ICE detainees of all classification designations. [REDACTED]

ICE detainees are housed separately from local jurisdictions in cell housing units ranging in configuration of two, four, and six-person cells. Detainees are permitted to be out of their cells the majority of the day socializing in the dayroom or participating in other indoor recreational activities. The dayrooms are equipped with televisions, cards, board games, telephones, and visitation kiosks. Each detainee is provided with a tablet that enables them to watch movies, read books, and make telephone calls. General visitation has been suspended due to COVID-19 so detainees are provided with free video visitation and 500 minutes of free telephone time. Each ICE detainee housing unit has a room designated as a law library that is equipped with computers that provide access to the LexisNexis electronic law library. An outdoor recreation area is also available which provides detainees with exercise opportunities outside their housing units. During the inspection, all ICE detainees were being housed in one 128-bed unit due to the low number of ICE detainees and the operational needs of the facility due to COVID-19. The unit has an upper and lower tier allowing the detainees to be separated according to compatible classification designations.

Due to COVID-19 this inspection was conducted remotely. The facility provided the inspection team all requested documentation, photographs, and videos as evidence of practices and procedures within the facility. In addition to these materials, staff were interviewed by the inspection team. All staff interviewed were well versed in facility policy and the requirements of the standards and were responsive to all requests made by the inspection team.



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During the reporting period, 25 detainees were symptomatic and tested positive for COVID 19. The infections occurred in April, June, July, and August. The facility developed a plan to limit additional exposures/infections. All newly admitted detainees are placed in a quarantine unit for fourteen days. If they remain symptom free, they are moved to general population. If they become symptomatic and test positive, they are moved from the quarantine unit to an isolation unit where they remain until symptom free. During the inspection there were no detainees that had tested positive for the virus.

Medical Care is provided by Doctor's Care Physicians. Food Service is provided by Etowah County. Detainees are not charged co-pay fees for medical, dental, or mental health services.

Detainee telephone services and tablets are provided by Securus.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations noted during the inspection. The inspection was conducted remotely and inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility. The inspection team relied upon photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. No (0) standards were found Deficient (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-seven (37) standards were found to be in compliance.

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. A telephone, call-in out brief was conducted with the facility. In addition to the entire Nakamoto Group Inspection Team, the following participated in the conference call:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]
- Facility staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector

October 23, 2020

Printed Name of LCI

Date