

September 27, 2018

TO:

Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM:

Lead Compliance Inspector The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** Annual Detention Inspection of the Essex County Correctional Facility

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 of the Essex County Correctional Facility in Newark, NJ during the period of September 25-27, 2018. This is an IGSA facility.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of ance Inspector. 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 PBNDS 2011 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a previous rating of Meets Standards during the September 2017 annual inspection.

#### **Inspection Summary**

The Essex County Correctional Facility 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 2017 and 2018 PBNDS annual compliance inspections:



2017 Annual Inspection		
Meets Standards	40	
Does Not Meet Standards	0	
Repeat Finding	0	
Not Applicable	2	

2018 Annual Inspection		
Meets Standards	40	
Does Not Meet Standards	0	
Repeat Finding	0	
Not Applicable	2	

The inspection team identified one (1) deficient component in the following standard: Correspondence and Other Mail- 1, which is a repeat deficiency

# **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Essex County Correctional Facility is under the jurisdiction of the Essex Department of Corrections and is located in the port district of Newark, NJ.

The facility houses all classification

levels of ICE detainees in cells and dormitories, using a direct supervision model of management. The overall facility count has increased during the past year, and the ICE population count has substantially increased. ICE detainees are not comingled with non-ICE detainees.

There is adequate open space in the housing units for indoor recreation, and every housing unit has an adjacent outdoor recreation area. Each housing area offers both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities for the majority of waking hours. During the inspection, detainees were observed socializing in the dayrooms, watching television, using the telephones or tablets, and engaging in activities in the outdoor recreation areas. Board games are also available in the dayrooms. Detainees have access to electronic tablets which may be used to read institutional rules and procedures, communicate with family, download games, send requests to staff, and access LexisNexis, among other things. In addition to the dayroom activities and outdoor recreation areas, there is a gym that detainees have access to five days a week.

Detainees freely approached the inspectors and interaction between detainees and facility staff was observed to be appropriate. The atmosphere throughout the facility was relaxed and free from obvious tension. Facility staff were professional in appearance, and, with one exception, were professional in their conduct. Approximately twenty percent of the staff are bilingual.

No less than 47 detainees were interviewed by the inspection team. The inspection team conducted 29 formal, confidential interviews and no standards issues were indicated. Without exception, LEP detainees stated that they had no problems accessing services or getting assistance when needed. All detainees located in segregated housing during the inspection were interviewed as well.

During interviews, one detainee complained of some medical issues. The Medical SME reviewed the medical record and determined that all of his issues were being addressed appropriately. One detainee stated that he had not been offered to go to the gymnasium several times over the past three months. The recreation schedule includes opportunities for the gymnasium five days per week, and there was no staff or detainee corroboration that any housing unit or in-



dividual had been denied recreation calls over the past three months. A detainee complained that the water coolers in the housing units were not always kept full on the weekends. Upon investigation, it was determined that detainees have drinking water available to them in every sink in the housing units. The water coolers are supplemented as a convenience to the detainees. One detainee complained about a specific officer making him go to his cell. The officer stated that she had sent the detainee to his cell due to his disruptive behavior. The detainee was not locked in his cell.

ICE detainees are not charged medical co-payments. Food services are contracted to GD Correctional Services and medical services are contracted to CFG Health Systems, LLC. CFG employs an Assistant HSA for the sole purpose of managing the health care of ICE detainees. All other services are provided by Essex County employees.

## **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 Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011. No (0) standards were found Deficient and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to be in compliance.

## **LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of compliance and noncompliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324A Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An outbrief was conducted at the facility and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following were present:

