

October 9, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Detention Inspection of the East Hidalgo Detention Center**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) of the East Hidalgo Detention Center in La Villa, Texas during the period of October 7-9, 2020. This is an IGSA.

The annual 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 Acceptable during the September 2019 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The East Hidalgo Detention Center is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) – Yes
- The Nation 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 2019 and 2020 NDS annual compliance inspections:

<i>2019 Annual Inspection</i>	
Acceptable	36
Deficient	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	3

<i>2020 Annual Inspection</i>	
Acceptable	36
Deficient	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	3

The inspection team identified four (4) deficient components in the following three (3) standards:

Classification System – 1
Detainee Handbook – 1
Access to Medical Care – 2

Facility Snapshot/Description

The East Hidalgo Detention Center owned and operated by the Geo Group, Inc. is in La Villa, Texas, approximately nineteen miles northwest of Harlingen, Texas. The facility houses male and female detainees of all custody levels, for the U.S. Marshals Service and ICE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All were non-ICE detainees. No ICE detainees were housed at the facility during this inspection period. The facility uses cots for the U.S. Marshals Service detainees when the number of detainees exceeds the number of available “hard beds”.

The facility is a single-story structure consisting of over 207,000 square feet on a 37-acre tract of land. A twelve-foot double fence surrounds the compound and is enhanced with razor ribbon, an interior electric “stun” fence, and video cameras. The compound is patrolled around the clock by an armed officer. There are twelve housing units containing 96 housing pods.

When housed at the facility, all ICE detainees are housed in general population; all male ICE detainees in one pod and all female ICE detainees in one pod in a different housing unit. The facility coordinates with ICE staff to ensure that all ICE detainees brought to the facility have compatible classification designations. Any ICE detainee requiring special housing is transferred to a nearby ICE facility.

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, the staff was interviewed by the inspection team. All personnel interviewed were well versed in facility policy and the requirements of the standards and were responsive to all requests made by the inspection team. The facility had an outbreak of COVID-19 in June 2020; however, stringent guidelines were quickly put in place, requiring all new arrivals to be tested and quarantined for fourteen days. All staff is required to wear masks and their temperature is taken and logged when they enter the facility. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete and sign a questionnaire and their temperature is taken. High touch areas are sanitized several times a day. Only legal visitation is permitted at this time. During the inspection, there was one staff member and two detainees that had tested positive for COVID-19.

Medical Care and Food Service are provided by The Geo Group, Inc. Detainees are not charged co-pay fees for medical, dental, or mental health services.

Detainee telephone services are provided by GTL.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations during the inspection.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Acceptable unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. 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 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]

[REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector

October 9, 2020

Printed Name of LCI

Date