

### **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

# Office of Detention Oversight Follow-Up Compliance Inspection 2024-002-374

## Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO El Paso Field Office

Otero County Processing Center Chaparral, New Mexico

May 21-23, 2024

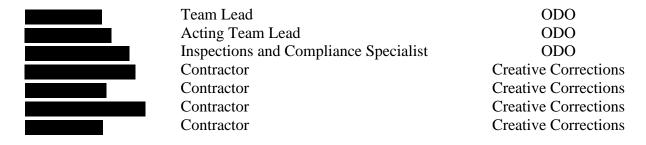
# FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the OTERO COUNTY PROCESSING CENTER

Chaparral, New Mexico

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### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



#### FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a follow-up compliance inspection of the Otero County Processing Center (OCPC) in Chaparral, New Mexico, from May 21 to 23, 2024. This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO's last inspection of OCPC from November 14 to 16, 2023. The facility opened in 2008 and is owned by Otero County and operated by Management and Training Corporation (MTC). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at OCPC in 2008 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in El Paso (ERO El Paso). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

A warden handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. MTC provides food services and medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in November 2021 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in February 2022. In February 2022, OCPC was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity <sup>2</sup>	
Average ICE Population <sup>3</sup>	
Adult Male Population (as of May 21, 2024)	
Adult Female Population (as of May 21, 2024)	

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 6 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (3); Facility Security and Control (2); and Food Service (1).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, and medium-high classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of May 20, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

#### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts biannual oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more detainees, and where detainees are housed for longer than 72-hours, to assess compliance with ICE National Detention Standards. In FY 2021, to meet congressional requirements, ODO began conducting follow-up inspections at all over-72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 10 or more detainees that ODO conducted a full inspection of earlier in the FY. Follow-up inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and other standards ODO found deficient during the previous rated inspection in order to assess the facility's corrective actions taken to address those previously cited deficiencies.<sup>4</sup>

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as "deficiencies." ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

While follow-up inspections are intended to focus on previously identified deficiencies, ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which include but are not limited to Medical Care, Hunger Strikes, Suicide Prevention, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Plans, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints, Admission and Release, Classification, and Funds and Personal Property. ODO may decide to conduct a second full inspection of a facility in the same FY based on additional information obtained prior to ODO's arrival on-site. Factors ODO will consider when deciding to conduct a second full inspection will include the total number of deficiencies cited during the first inspection, the number of deficient standards found during the first inspection, the completion status of the first inspection's uniform corrective action plan (UCAP), and other information ODO obtains from internal and external sources ahead of the follow-up compliance inspection. Conditions found during the inspection may also lead ODO to assess new areas and identify new deficiencies or areas of concern should facility practices run contrary to ICE standards. Any areas found non-compliant during both the full and follow-up inspection are annotated as "Repeat Deficiencies" in this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

# FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected <sup>5,6</sup>	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	•
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	•
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Personal Hygiene	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Recreation	0
Telephone Access	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	0

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the Follow-up Compliance Inspection Findings section of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

#### DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 27 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

#### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO found no deficiencies during this inspection.

#### **SAFETY**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS)

ODO observed 20 housing unit shower and toilet areas and found in 17 out of 20 areas, the facility maintained a high standard of sanitation and general cleanliness; however, ODO observed aged grout and caulk in the shower stalls and chipped paint on the walls and floors of the bathroom areas. OCPC's UCAP from ODO's previous inspection has a renovation deadline of August 31, 2024. ODO cites this observation as an **Area of Concern**.<sup>7</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

During this follow-up compliance inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 18 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with all 18 standards. Since OCPC's last full inspection in November 2023, the facility has trended upward. OCPC went from 3 deficient standards and 6 deficiencies in November 2023 to no deficient standards during this most recent inspection. ODO received a completed UCAP for the facility's last ODO inspection in February 2024, which likely resolved the previously cited deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO El Paso continue to work with the facility in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2024 Follow-Up Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	29	18
Deficient Standards	3	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	6	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	1
Corrective Actions	1	0
Facility Rating	Superior	N/A

Data Source: ERO Custody Management ICE Uniform Corrective Action Plan approved February 15, 2024.