



Homeland
Security

MEMORANDUM FOR: Corey A. Price
Acting Executive Associate Director
Enforcement and Removal Operation
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FROM: Dana Salvano-Dunn (b) (6)
Director, Compliance Branch
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Zazy Ivonne López (b) (6)
Deputy Director, Compliance Branch
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

SUBJECT: Adams County Correctional Center
Expert Recommendations
Complaint Nos. 000377-21-ICE and 000667-21-ICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) conducted a virtual onsite investigation into conditions of detention for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees at the Adams County Correctional Center (ACCC) in Natchez, Mississippi on May 23-26, 2022.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by ICE and ACCC personnel before and during the review. As part of the review, CRCL engaged the assistance of four subject-matter experts in the following areas: medical care, mental health care, conditions of detention, and environmental health and safety. As a result of detainee and staff interviews, document reviews, and direct observation, the subject-matter experts identified concerns in these four areas.

On May 26, 2022, as part of the out-briefing for ACCC, CRCL and the subject-matter experts discussed our preliminary findings with ICE Enforcement and Removal Office (ERO) New Orleans Field Office management personnel, personnel from ICE ERO headquarters, and ACCC management and staff. During these discussions, the subject-matter experts provided preliminary recommendations to address some of the major concerns identified. Additionally, shortly following the out-briefing, CRCL sent an email to ICE on June 6, 2022, summarizing these initial findings, to ensure ICE had sufficient information to initiate the proposed changes.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the reports prepared by our subject-matter experts¹. They have been divided into priority and best practices recommendations. Priority recommendations are listed in the body of this memorandum, and CRCL requests that ICE formally concur or non-concur with these recommendations and provide an implementation plan for all accepted recommendations. The best practices recommendations are contained in a separate attachment to this memorandum. Although CRCL is not requesting formal responses to these, we encourage ICE to consider and implement these recommendations to the fullest extent possible.²

With this memorandum, and consistent with our standard practice, we request that ICE indicate whether it concurs with the expert recommendations, and that for those agreed to, ICE provide an action plan within 60 days.

CRCL's subject matter experts in medical care, mental health care, conditions of detention, and environmental health and safety made the following priority recommendations.

Medical Care

The medical recommendations relate to the 2011 Performance Based National Detention Standards (2011 PBNDS) (revised 2016) 4.3 Medical Care Standard, which requires access to appropriate and necessary health care; the ICE ERO COVID-19 Pandemic Response Requirement (ICE ERO PRR) (April 2022, version 8) and Centers for Disease Control Interim Guidance on the Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities (CDC Guidance) (recently updated on February 10, 2022).

COVID-19

1. (b) (5) 
2. (b) (5) 

¹ In general, CRCL's experts relied on the applicable Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) (revised 2016) which govern ACCC and related professional standards in conducting their work and preparing their reports and recommendations.

² CRCL's experts also provided best practice recommendations, which may be found in Appendix A as well as their respective reports.

3. (b) (5) [Redacted]

4. (b) (5) [Redacted]

5. (b) (5) [Redacted]

Release Medication Policy


6. (b) (5) [Redacted]

Mental Health Care

The mental health care recommendations all relate to the 2011 Performance Based National Detention Standards (2011 PBNDS) (revised 2016) 4.3 Medical Care Standard, which requires access to appropriate and necessary health care, including mental health care.


Mental Health Documentation:

7. (b) (5)




Access to Mental Health Services:

8. (b) (5)



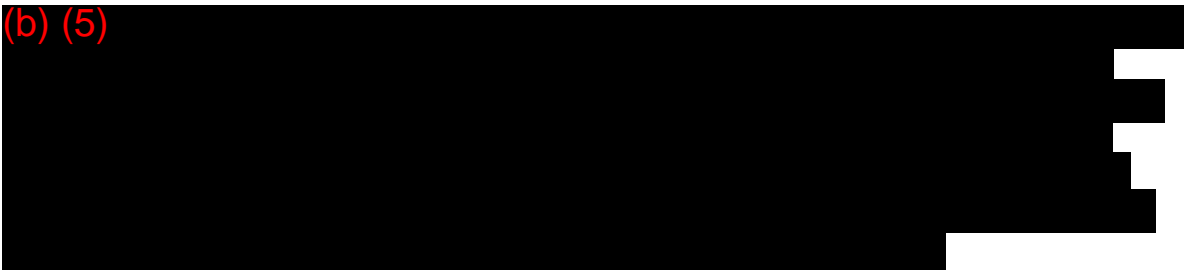
Suicide Prevention and Intervention:

9. (b) (5)



Suicide Prevention and Intervention Training Materials:

10. (b) (5)



Conditions of Detention

CRCL's conditions of detention expert made the following priority recommendations related to general conditions of detention at ACCC in accordance with 2011 PBNDS (revised 2016).

Admission and Release

11. (b) (5) [REDACTED] CRCL recommends that ACCC always provide detainees who are LEP with language assistance, including professional interpretation and translation services during the admission process and document the use of a professional interpreter. (2.1 Admission and Release II. Expected Outcomes)

12. (b) (5) [REDACTED]

Disciplinary System:

13. (b) (5) [REDACTED]

Environmental Health and Safety

CRCL's environmental health and safety expert made the following priority recommendation related to requirements in accordance with 2011 PBNDS (revised 2016).

Laundry

14. Detainees self-reported laundering personal clothing items and cloth face masks inside of the housing unit with bathing soap/shampoo. Washing laundry, especially personal clothing items with bathing soap/shampoo is an unsanitary and improper laundering practice. Bathing soap/shampoo is not designed for the purpose of washing fabrics or textiles, and it does not contain any sanitizing properties for fabrics. Improper laundering can be a mechanism for the spread of viruses, bacteria, and fungus. CRCL recommends that ACCC ensure detainees are educated on the importance of laundering clothing and personal items properly, and why

self-laundering is an unsanitary and unsafe practice and ensure the detained individuals discontinue this practice. (4.5. Personal Hygiene, V. Expected Practices)

Chemical Control

15. (b) (5)

[REDACTED] CRCL recommends that ACCC establishes a system to ensure accountability for all trigger spray bottles, including how many are to be stored in each janitorial closet, when trigger spray bottles are issued for use, how many are issued, a running total of how many are in use, and when the trigger spray bottles are returned. (1.2 Environmental Health and Safety; B. Hazardous Materials)

16. (b) (5)

[REDACTED] CRCL recommends that ACCC establish a system for storing, issuing, and maintaining inventories for all chemicals stored in the housing unit building janitorial closet as well as the janitorial closet in the individual housing units, ensuring that a perpetual inventory is maintained at all times. (1.2 Environmental Health and Safety; B. Hazardous Materials)

Chemical Usage Training

17. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

The complete expert reports and recommendations are contained in the enclosed expert reports.

It is CRCL’s statutory role to advise department leadership and personnel about civil rights and civil liberties issues, ensuring respect for civil rights and civil liberties in policy decisions and implementation of those decisions. We look forward to working with ICE to determine the best way to resolve these complaints. We request that ICE provide a response to CRCL 60 days whether it concur or non-concur with these recommendations. If you concur, please include an action plan. You can send your response by email to (b) (6). If you have any questions, please contact Senior Policy Advisor (b) (6) by telephone at (b) (6) or by email at (b) (6).

Copies to:



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Appendix A – Non-Priority Recommendations
Appendix B – Medical Expert Report
Appendix C – Mental Health Expert Report
Appendix D – Conditions of Detention Expert Report
Appendix E – Environmental Health and Safety Report

APPENDIX A

Best Practices Recommendations

Southern Louisiana ICE Processing Center

March 1-3, 2022

Complaint Nos. 001523-21-ICE and 002407-21-ICE

CRCL's subject matter experts for medical care, conditions of detention, and environmental health and safety had the following best practices recommendations.

Medical Care

1. SLIPC's COVID-19 response plan does not require retesting detainees after 14 days of intake quarantine who are known recent contacts of COVID-19 cases, as recommended by current ICE ERO PRR and CDC guidance. CRCL recommends SLIPC follow the best practice of repeating COVID-19 testing of detainees 3-7 days after intake before releasing them from intake quarantine, particularly if they were recently transferred directly from the Southwest Border.
2. CRCL recommends SLIPC follow the best practice of engaging with local public health authorities and other community partners to facilitate detainee access to the increasing array of monoclonal antibodies and antiviral medication that are available to treat COVID-19.
3. CRCL recommends SLIPC follow the best practice of assessing CDC recommendation to offer respirators to detainees, particularly in certain high-risk situations.
4. CRCL recommends SLIPC follow the best practice of strongly promoting COVID-19 vaccination and boosters for all correctional workers.

Conditions of Detention

5. CRCL observed that the required ICE signage and postings are in place. CRCL recommends that SLIPC bulletin boards include a table of contents identifying all the signage and postings. *(2.13 Staff-Detainee Communication, II)*
6. SLIPC and the SLIPC and the Pine Prairie Correctional Center share management positions potentially impacting SLIPC oversight and detainee programs and services. CRCL recommends that SLIPC, in conjunction with ICE ERO, conduct a management review to ensure the facility has essential management positions staffed with qualified personnel to provide oversight and ensure detainees receive necessary programs and services. *(2.4 Security and Control, I)*

7. ICE ERO does not provide detainees with a copy of the parole determination worksheet that is used to assist in making the parole decision, nor is a copy placed in the detainee file. CRCL recommends that ICE ERO review procedures to consider if a copy of the parole determination worksheet can be provided to the detainee and a copy can be placed in the detainee file. *(ICE ERO Detainee Parole and Bond Procedures)*
8. SLIPC does not provide replacement radio batteries to listen to the housing unit televisions. CRCL recommends SLIPC consider providing detainees replacement radio batteries at no cost to the detainees. *(SLIPC General Conditions)*
9. Detainees complained about the SLIPC commissary. CRCL recommends SLIPC and ICE ERO review the SLIPC Commissary item variety and prices, and also ensure expired items are not sold to detainees. *(SLIPC General Conditions)*
10. Detainees complained about pat frisks conducted by female detention officers. It is recommended that SLIPC and the responsible ICE ERO Detention Service Manager conduct random observations to ensure detainee pat frisk searches are being done in accordance with SLIPC search procedures and staff training. *(SLIPC General Conditions)*

Environmental Health and Safety

11. CRCL recommends that SLIPC continue to provide cleaning and disinfecting supplies to the housing areas, and should inspect the areas after cleaning and disinfecting have been completed, to ensure that cleaning/disinfecting practices have been completed effectively. SLIPC should also continue to provide adequate personal hygiene supplies and promote good hygiene practices by providing additional supplies as needed. *(1.2 Environmental Health and Safety)*
12. CRCL recommends that SLIPC review and update their Kitchen Worker Orientation package on at least an annual basis. The Food Services Administrator should update the current package to reflect information about Safety Data Sheets, since Material Safety Data Sheets is now an obsolete reference to chemical safety information. SLIPC should also review during orientation the proper functioning and use of the hood exhaust system, including the importance of it being turned on during any time cooking is in progress. SLIPC should also correct the training about the temperature for cooling food so it indicates food must be cooled to 41 °F or below. *(Food Service, FDA Food Code 2017)*
13. In general, the housing area viewed was clean but multiple lights in Unit Echo B were not illuminated. After attempting to turn on the lights, staff reported that the light switch was malfunctioning. It is recommended that staff should check the lighting in all housing units to ensure all lights are functional. SLIPC should also ensure light levels of at least 20 foot-candles is available in the housing units. *(1.2 Environmental Health and Safety; ACA Standard 4-ALDF-1A-14)*