



Sofia Mejías-Pascoe <sofiamejias@inewssource.org>

Interview request - inewssource reporters

Gustin, Ryan <Ryan.Gustin@corecivic.com>
To: Sofia Mejías-Pascoe <sofiamejias@inewssource.org>
Cc: Jake Kincaid <jakekincaid@inewssource.org>

Fri, May 15, 2026 at 5:27 PM

Sofia,

Good afternoon and thanks for reaching out to us. While we are unable to accommodate your interview request, you're free to use the following statement, attributable to me, for your reporting. Your requests of our ICE-contracted facilities have to be sent to our partners at [ICE Public Affairs](#).

The safety, health and well-being of the individuals entrusted to our care is our top priority. We take seriously our responsibility to adhere to all applicable federal detention standards in our ICE-contracted facilities, including our Otay Mesa Detention Center (OMDC). Our immigration facilities are monitored very closely by our government partners at ICE, and they are required to undergo regular review and audit processes to ensure an appropriate standard of living and care for all detainees.

CoreCivic is committed to providing access to high-quality medical and mental health care for all residents, including those with diabetes, whether as a direct provider of health services or in coordination with ICE's Health Services Corp (IHSC) in facilities where they provide medical care. In facilities like OMDC where CoreCivic is responsible for providing health care, onsite medical clinics are staffed by licensed (to be able to practice within the State of California) health care professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors and dentists who contractually meet the highest standards of care, as verified by multiple audits and inspections. All detainees have daily access to sign up for medical care, including mental health services. Medication that is prescribed to detainees is either managed by our health services team or by the detainees themselves, depending on the type of medication. Our pharmacy nurses review the medication orders and promptly inform the ordering physician when renewals are required.

CoreCivic also ensures access to offsite care for residents by coordinating with staff, government partners, community physicians, hospitals and ambulatory care providers. In 2024 alone, there were over 800,000 onsite medical and mental health care encounters in CoreCivic facilities. All CoreCivic staff are trained in CPR and first aid. Additional insight on how we provide appropriate medical and mental health care, from the perspective of our facility warden at OMDC, can be found in a recent op-ed published in the San Diego Union Tribune, found [here](#).

On February 17, 2026, OMDC received reaccreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC's Standards for Health Services in Jails, which are some of the most rigorous in correctional health care.

At OMDC, we provide three nutritious meals a day for those in our care. We take great care to offer meals that support specialized diets, including religious diets and more than a dozen therapeutic diets, as well as cultural preferences. **Menus are reviewed and approved on a regular basis by a registered dietitian to**

ensure appropriate nutrition is provided. This menu review includes the common fare diet and religious diets, including food portions and nutritional content. Water is available to individuals at all times.

CoreCivic plays a limited but important role in America's immigration system. We have a long-standing, zero-tolerance policy not to advocate for or against any legislation that serves as the basis for – or determines the duration of – an individual's detention. **CoreCivic does not enforce immigration laws, arrest anyone who may be in violation of immigration laws, or have any say whatsoever in an individual's deportation or release. CoreCivic also does not know the circumstances of individuals when they are placed in our facilities.** Those matters are at the sole discretion of the federal government. Our responsibility is to care for each person respectfully and humanely while they receive the legal due process that they are entitled to.

We have a robust grievance process available to all detainees that **provides multiple safe and discrete avenues for concerns to be raised**, including toll-free telephone numbers. All detainees also have access to management staff. Most detainee complaints are processed through ICE's ERO Detention, Removals and Information Line. For more information, click [here](#).

Our facilities are subject to multiple layers of oversight and are monitored very closely by our government partners to ensure full compliance with policies and procedures, including any applicable detention standards. We also have our own detailed [Human Rights Policy](#) that clearly outlines our commitments regarding detainee rights and treatment, including legal rights, safety and security, healthcare, visitation and standards of living. We don't cut corners on care, staff, or training, which meets, and in many cases exceeds, our government partners' standards. CoreCivic has extensive pre- and in-service training requirements for staff covering all key policy areas. In many cases, CoreCivic staff training is identical to the training received by our government partner counterparts, and it meets or exceeds the training standards of the independent American Correctional Association (ACA). **OMDC is accredited by ACA and scored 100% on the mandatory and non-mandatory standards during their most recent audit.**

For more information beyond what we've provided here, we recommend you reach out to the [ICE Public Affairs Office](#).

Respectfully,

Ryan

Ryan Gustin

Senior Director, Public Affairs



CoreCivic Facility Support Center

5501 Virginia Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027

o. 615.263.3163

www.corecivic.com

PublicAffairs@CoreCivic.com - Media Inquiries