**Iowa Department of Human Services**
**CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE**

**Name of Center:** YMCA After School Program-Clear Creek **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42239

**Street:** 901 S 14th ST **City:** Clear Lake Iowa **Zip** 50428 **County:** Cerro Gordo

**Mailing Address:** 1840 S Monroe AVE, Mason City, IA, 50401

**Director's Name:** Jessica Wilkerson **Phone Number:** 641-422-5992

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Jenny Sauer **E-Mail:** jwilkerson@masoncityymca.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 09-19-2024

**Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

**LICENSING VISITS**

**New Application** X **Re-Application** **NA**

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

**FIRE INSPECTION** X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

**Date Inspected:** 10-11-2022

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** Profit X Non-Profit NA

**Accredition:** Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

**Program Serves:** Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

**SCHEDULE:** Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

| **HOURS:** | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | | | | 50 | 50 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 1

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-23-2024

**I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced annual visit was made to the YMCA After School Program at Clear Creek in Clear Lake on 09-19-24 where I met with the on-site supervisor, Jennifer Sauer who took over that position at the start of the 24-25 school year. Jessica Wilkerson is the the executive director of this program and the main program at the YMCA in Mason City. Both are qualified for their positions based on their experience, education, and training. The program is operated out of the Clear Creek Elementary school building. The program is operated independently of the school under a separate board of directors but does have a strong collaborative relationship with the school. The program provides after school programming for school age children only. There are currently 42 children enrolled in the program though all do not attend on a regular basis or at any given time. There are 7 staff working at the center. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout and design of the building and program remain the same as in the prior visit(s). The program is making use of the "Little Cafeteria" of the school which was estimated to be 64 feet by 45 feet providing a total useable space of 2880 square feet and allowing for 82 children. The YMCA did elect to limit the licensed capacity to 50 children to more accurately reflect their enrollment and daily attendance numbers. In reviewing the programming space there were no issues noted due to maintenance or cleanliness. The little cafeteria is an interior space that does not have any windows and so also serves an emergency storm shelter. There are 3 sets of doors with two opening on to a hallway, and other to the large cafeteria which has secondary direct egress to the outdoors. Restrooms are located down the main hallway and children are escorted to the restroom once they check into the after school program so that staff are able to ensure the safety and supervision. The water temperature of the handwashing sinks in the restrooms used by the program was measured to be 141 deg. F. which can result in immediate scald burns. While it is understood that the school is responsible to maintain the physical facilities and information was provided to the school office regarding the temperature and risks associated with temperatures exceeding 120 d. F., the center staff will need to monitor the use of sinks to help reduce the risk of injury.

The cafeteria is a large open space that has trestle tables arranged but these can be folded and stored to provide room for the children if needed. Because the primary programming space serves as the cafeteria space for the school during the day the program materials are kept in storage and brought out each day. A good variety of options were present that included table games, art/crafts, small manipulatives, and books. Due to the limited hours of operation the center has a very minimal schedule and curriculum but general themes are identified to help guide the curriculum. While not rising to the level of being a violation several issues regarding supervision were noted. This included the check in process where by one teacher took note of children entering the space rather than a discreet process of having children come to a designated staff member to sign in. The process of relying on staff to recognize children does increase the risk of a child being missed especially given that children were entering the cafeteria at the same time for other purposes such as those waiting for a bus, and others from a band class picking up personal belongings. One option that was discussed was designating the middle doorway as the entry point for the licensed program and arranging tables to create a defined space and barrier to reduce the risk of children co-mingling with other programs. The staff were observed to be engaged with the children during the visit but it was also discussed that making use of defined staff positioning locations both in the cafeteria and the playground could also help to reduce the risk of children eloping from the center, and staff being more readily able to intervene in behaviors that could result in conflict or injury of children. When engaging with the children all employees were observed to be very

positive using calm tones, and showing interest in the children. The program does use positive behavior management support approaches such as routines, reminders of expected behavior, and redirection to reduce the occurence of negative behavior.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served by snacks are provided. Good food storage practices were observed with most items being prepackaged single serving items. The snack on the day of my visit was not credible in that children were provided with an option of a sweetened granola bar, or fruit gummies neither of which meet the CACFP guidelines as a credible snack option. The program does maintain a menu of served items, which, along with other observed snack supply options such as fruits, cheese, and yogurt would be credible. Good food storage practices were observed.

The program makes use of the school playground which is a large area with several climbing structures and swings that are intended to provide appropriate play options for several different age groups that attend the school. One issue that was noted during the visit was the children using equipment that is not appropriate to their age/developmental level, or in a manner as intended. This included some children using the bucket swings intended for the younger preschool age children, or children climbing on areas of structures that were intended for climbing or use as platforms. While the staff did redirect children this did take several minutes in some cases. New fall surfacing has been installed since the time of the last visit with wood mulch being removed and replaced with a unitary foam rubber surface. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. In the event that an issue is not corrected staff would need to ensure that the children do not make use of that equipment until repairs are made.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed. The center does have a first aid bag which while needing to be replenished was stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The program also has access to additional supplies in the school office and nurse's office. The program does not typically administer medications but does have policies should it become necessary in the future. Good hand washing were observed with the children washing their hands prior to snack service, and after restroom use. Staff also need to wash their hands prior to serving or assisting children with snack. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. The center uses a bucket of product labeled "sanitizer/disinfectant", but did not know what the contents were. It was presumed to be a sanitizing product intended for use on the table surfaces which is what the staff did use it for. Staff did wait for children to be out of the immediate area before using the product to clean the tables. During the time of the visit one child identified they were not feeling well. Jenny did check that the child did not have a temperature, and the staff did get out a yoga type of mat for the child to lay down on in an area separate from the other children. After the child left the staff did not disinfect the mat before returning it to storage. While the reported issue was a "tummy ache" and it was noted that the child has complained of that ailment before it should still be treated as if the condition could be communicable with using an approved disinfectant to clean the mat.

In reviewing administrative records the program has posted some required notices on storage cabinets but the required notices for Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and the Consultant Contact notice were not present. Copies were sent to the program main office and Jessica stated she would print and post those notices. In reviewing child files copies of contact information for each child was present and parents use a statement of health and authorization that allows the center to access school health records if needed. Staff files were previously reviewed at the program central office and any concerns identified were addressed at that time. Jenny was not able to locate the fire and tornado drill logs from the previous year but did have copies of the logs for the current year and had already noted drills being conducted for the month of August.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

This program has seen several changes this year with a new on-site supervisor, staff, and changes to the playground that were completed by the school.

The program has maintained a high level of consistency regarding the enrollment by children, and has a positive reputation and rapport with the families that make use of the program.

**IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:**

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for:Mandatory reporter requirements.Notice of availability of handbook.Program activities.These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.
-- Notices for Mandatory Reporting, and Consultant Contact information were not present on the day of the visit.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and

outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The hot water temperature was measured to be in excess of 140 deg. F. which can result in instant scald burns and should be adjusted to no more than 120 deg. F. While it is the responsibility of the school to maintain the physical facilities the staff do need to be aware of the concern and provide supervision and assistance to children to reduce the risk of injury.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Staff did not clean and disinfect sleeping mat following use by a sick child. Staff need to wash hands prior to handling/serving snack items.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.