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

Name of Center: Bethany Lutheran Daycare **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47418

Street: 400 Latrobe Ave **City:** McCallsburg Iowa **Zip** 50154 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: PO Box A, McCallsburg, IA, 50154

Director's Name: Kathy Sandmann/Jennifer Kistler **Phone Number:** 515-338-0182

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** daycarebethanylutheran@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-18-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-05-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-13-2022

Comments : Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	12	12	12	14	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SW4 **Date:** 08-18-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was completed to the center 7/18/23. The interim director (Pastor Kathy) was present throughout this visit.

Bethany Lutheran Daycare was established in 2016 and had previously been operated by the local school district and regulated by the Dept of education. Changes in the law lead to the center being under DHHS purview. This program is under a Board of Directors from the adjacent Bethany Lutheran Church. The daycare program is operated from a vacated school building; for which maintenance/up-keep is shared with Colo-NESCO schools. This program operates 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday to children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. They currently have enrolled 38 children.

Kathy Sandmann became the interim director in June of 2021 when the previous director was relieved of her role by the Board of Director for this program. The center continues to consider filling the director position as Kathy is the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church and is on the Board of Directors for this center. Kathy has a Bachelor's degree in Food, Science and Nutrition and a Master's degree in Divinity. Kathy has over 20 years of experience in leading church groups for children and three years of experience teaching gifted and talented children. Kathy meets requirements to be the director. Kathy remains in the role as interim director. Due to her schedule and need to also be present at the church as pastor, Jennifer has agreed to take on the role of co-director with Kathy. Jennifer Kistler started as the on-site supervisor in July of 2021. Jennifer has an Associate's degree in general studies and three years of experience in a licensed childcare program. She meets qualifications to be the co-director.

Observation of Rooms:
Infants to one are in a room that was observed to be welcoming, with age/developmentally appropriate toys/centers. The sheets on cribs were tight without other objects in the cribs per safe sleep regulations. This room is in ratio with staff in the middle of a feeding time and diaper change. The changing station was observed to have debris under the plastic covered mat. Discussion was had with Director and center would reach out to CCR&R to establish approved cleaning/sanitizing protocols for the changing tables. The staff were observed to be holding the children or attending to their needs.

Toddlers room was observed to be clean and free from obvious safety concerns. The toddlers were entering a rest period during this observation. The room has age/developmentally appropriate toys/centers with a room arrangement that provided good ability to supervise the children.

Pre-school room was observed to be beginning their rest period on cots. The staff were observed to have appropriate and nurturing interaction with the children while maintaining structure in this room. The room was set up nicely with plenty of age/developmentally appropriate centers and activities.

School-age room was observed to be getting ready for a field trip to the pool. Staff were working together with the children to count/check names while using the restroom and preparing items necessary for the trip (proper pool attire the children brought with them) and lining up to depart. The staff and children were observed to be interactive and staff had appropriate redirections of the children to maintain structure in a somewhat busy time of this day. The children appeared to freely

approach staff with their needs and the staff were responsive.

The center continues to have lesson plans and activities posted in each room; along with meal plans. structured activities. Kathy and Jennifer train staff on curriculum and Kathy completes the majority of the lesson plans.

Nutrition:
The center has an on-site working kitchen and dedicated cook; who was observed to be preparing and serving Lunch to center children while this visit occurred. Classroom staff accompany the children to the cafeteria and work cooperatively to get lunch served. Lunch is served in the cafeteria on the daylight level of the building. The center had just received a new order of food for the week and was to be put in storage. Food Storage is adjacent to the kitchen applicates and was clean with appropriate storage mechanisms like sealed containers etc. The center continues to progress in their rotating menus which are currently on a 3-week rotation for summer. There are 2 large lateral deep freezers that are in the cafeteria, outside the kitchen against a wall; discussion was had regarding installation of a locking mechanism on the deep freezers to prevent unauthorized entry or danger a child that may inquire in the deep freezers etc.

Health and Safety:
The center employs approved medication storage and management. The center has a designated medication manager/passer. The center has 1st aid kits along with emergency tornado and fire plan displayed. The center keeps a check list of monthly fire and tornado drills. The center missed fire and Tornado exit drills in one month, all others noted to have been completed. The center's HVAC systems are maintained and checked by the school--owner of the building.

The center on the whole was observed to be tidy, have appropriate toys/centers/activities for the children; to have appropriate restroom facilities and to have a welcoming environment.

Playground:
The center enjoys the use of two playgrounds: one for older children, that was surfaced with pea rock. The playground for older children appeared in good condition/good repair. The school and the center share maintenance costs for the playgrounds. The playground for younger children is fenced and has rubber chips surfacing. This playground also in good condition/good repair.

Transportation:
This center has contracted with the school to provide transportation and a bus driver for field trips.

Administrative Records:
The center was observed to have their license to operate, consultant contact, emergency plans and non-smoking signs conspicuously posted. Posting for mandatory reporters was missing and the director agreed to remedy this.

Ten child files were reviewed. There were missing items such as relevant medical and dental contact information; child physicals and records of immunization were missing or invalid (not dated). Eleven staff files were reviewed. Some staff files were missing SING checks or fingerprint checks; statement from employee/volunteer; or staff physicals. Discussion with the Director was regarding developing a check list for files to establish a center system to help keep files in compliance.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

• Comment on unique strengths that exceed minimum standards.
• Identify accreditations established or pursuing.
• Consider asking the center, “What have you accomplished since the last visit” or “What are you proud of” or “What are you working on to improve practice.”

Bethany Lutheran Daycare continues to build upon their center by bringing the program into licensure compliance. This is accomplished by the director and staff being willing to reach out for support from CCR&R, DHHS and the school when additional needs are present.

This center offers needed daycare in a rural community. The center enjoys support/assistance from the school district such as the use of a school-owned building and for building maintenance and school bus/driver transportation.

The center communicates well with the parents and the parents are supportive of the center.

The center has a secure entrance and a security camera is placed in the front entry way.

The center director continues to inquire about resources to support the children and staff such as IQ4K and other community resources to assist in maintaining staff and center enrolment.

The center uses the Bright Wheel Application to log children's activities for parents to have ready access.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 3

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 3
Number not in compliance for dental: 3
Information lacking: Some files reviewed did not have dentist information; preferred hospital and/or doctor's contact information and name.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 1

The center director indicated the intention of reaching out to CCR&R for assistance in developing a system to maintain necessary child and staff information to increase safety/quality care.

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 center director agreed to be in contact with CCR&R for assistance in establishing adequate cleaning/sanitization processes; specifically as it applies to diaper changing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in June of 2022 and all rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines and the center participates in the food program.

Discussion took place with the need to reach out to CCR&R for additional resources to establish/maintain child and staff files along with good cleaning/sanitization processes.

The center indicated they are considering establishing a Director.

The center has monthly staff meetings and includes teachers of special education to train staff on a variety of strategies to manage difficult behaviors.

*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.