

Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Step Ahead Child Care & Preschool	Enrollment: 89	License ID: 47932
Street: 2555 Berkshire Pkwy Ste B	City: Clive	IA Zip Code: 50325
County: Polk		
Mailing Address: 2555 Berkshire Pkwy Ste B		
Mailing City: Clive	IA Zip Code: 50325	
Director's Name: Crystal Steffen and Laura Eeri	Center Phone Number: 515-987-6991	
On-Site Supervisors: Cheryl Halas, Elizabeth Benne, Sunshine Huisman	E-Mail Address: crystal@stepaheadchildcare.org	

Date of Complaint: 03-15-2019 **Date of Visit:** 03-20-2019

Scheduled Unannounced NA

Non-Compliance with Regulations Found Compliance with Regulations Found NA

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

PROVISIONAL license from _____ **to** _____

SUSPENSION of License

REVOCAION of License

Complaint Details:

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? Yes No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? Yes No

Summary of Complaint:

It was reported that a staff member who went into cardiac arrest while at the center later tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana in her system.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

106.6(7) Use of controlled substances and medications: All owners, personnel, and volunteers shall be free of the use of illegal drugs and shall not be under the influence of alcohol or of any prescription or nonprescription drug that could impair their ability to function.

Inspection Findings:

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This consultant as well as DHS employee Melissa Krug made a visit to the center on 3/20/19 and further explained to the owner/director, Crystal, as well as assistant director, Laura, the situation. This consultant had previously contacted Crystal by phone to inform her of this complaint that was reported and to schedule 3/20/19 to come to the center.

Several staff members who work in the same classroom as the staff member who tested positive for illegal substances were also interviewed after Crystal and Laura. No staff member interviewed observed any abnormal or unusual signs that their coworker was using illegal substances or had any previous concerns about this employee's work habits. This staff member also had record checks completed prior to employment beginning and had all of the required training completed within the required time frames.

However, during the investigation, it was also learned that this same staff person may have had prior issues with using illegal substances that she failed to report to the center.

Management was cooperative throughout this investigation and has taken the proper steps to hopefully help prevent a similar situation like this from happening in the future. However, because of this staff person testing positive for methamphetamine and marijuana as well as a past, unreported substance abuse issue, the center is **FOUND TO BE IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE LICENSING RULES AND REGULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS COMPLAINT.**

Special Notes and Action Required:

There are no further actions being requested of the center at this time in regards to this complaint. The center had followed all of the procedures for this staff person prior to hire, during employment (training completed), etc. Although the center is found to be in non-compliance with this licensing regulation, they appear to be more of a victim of circumstance based on this former employee's decision making.

If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your consultant at 515-725-2654 or email nknepper@dhs.state.ia.us so that we may discuss the issue. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report.

*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.

Consultant's Signature:

Nathan Knepper

Date:

04-01-2019