Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Community Christian School **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID:** 18042

Street: 2406 9 1/2 Ave S **City:** Fort Dodge **IA** **Zip Code:** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 2406 9 1/2 Ave S

Mailing City: Fort Dodge **IA** **Zip Code:** 50501

Director's Name: Kathy Dencklau **Center Phone Number:** 515-573-3011

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** kathyd1995@gmail.com

Date of Complaint: 07-14-2020 **Date of Visit:** 07-15-2020

[ ] Scheduled **[X]** Unannounced **[ ]** NA

[X] Non-Compliance with Regulations Found **[ ]** Compliance with Regulations Found

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

[X] NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

[ ] PROVISIONAL license from **to**

[ ] SUSPENSION of License

[ ] REVOCATION 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:

A complaint was received that the staff at the center were using inappropriate forms of discipline including making the school age children run around the playground perimeter even on days when the temperatures were very warm. It was further reported that staff had made the children clean up the bathrooms including bodily fluids due to a child or children that had smeared feces on a wall on several occasions and the staff being unable to determine which child(ren) was responsible.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(2) Center shall have written policy on discipline of children which provides for positive guidance, with direction for resolving conflict and setting of limits.

Inspection Findings:

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

An unannounced visit was made to the Community Christian School daycare center on 07-15-20 where I met with the center director Kathy Dencklau. Kathy was informed of the complaint and stated that she was aware of the situation regarding the bathroom concern. Kathy stated that there were two occasions where there was a fecal smear on the wall. Kathy stated that the staff did clean the bathroom on both occasions. Kathy stated that they did talk to the children about keeping the bathrooms clean and did have them do some things in the bathrooms to demonstrate how to keep it clean such as picking up paper towels, or wiping spills off counters. Kathy stated that the children also sometimes will help with things such as emptying the trash but they are not made to do that.

With regard to the concern of the children being made to run as a punishment Kathy stated that no one has ever identified that this has occurred but that they do have a “walking club”. Kathy stated that this was developed in response to a child that has some identified health concerns and as a way to encourage that child and build social interactions in the classroom some of the teachers and children will walk the perimeter of the playground each day. Kathy stated that this is purely voluntary and that some children do choose to run rather than walk. Kathy stated that there have been times in the past when she has told the staff and or children that they should go outside and “run off some energy”, but she meant this only in a general sense of allowing the children to play in a more physical manner, not that the children were required to run and to her knowledge no one had ever taken it to mean that the children were meant to run.

Kathy was able provide the names of the staff that work in the school age room. For those staff who were not present at the center contact numbers were provided. Of the six employees identified I was able to speak to three at the center, and a call was made with a message left to return the call to the other employees. In speaking with the staff about the discipline used in the center all provided consistent and credible information. All denied that they were aware of anyone ever having used corporal punishment, derogatory comments, or punishment associated with food or toileting. All staff agreed that the center policies on discipline is to engage children in identifying positive behaviors, and if needed the use of a limited time out.

When asked more specifically about the concerns of the children being made to clean the restroom, and being made to run, all staff stated that they children had not been made to clean up any bodily fluids or feces. All staff agreed that there had been a situation of a child having smeared feces and they did talk with the children about needing to keep the bathroom clean and some of the children do like to help when they clean the bathroom but no child has been made to clean the bathrooms. With regard to the children being made to run as a form of punishment all staff denied that they had used that form of punishment. One staff member did confirm being aware of two other employees, one of which was no longer with the center, having used this method of punishment in the past. The employee stated that she was aware of a couple occasions that the other teachers had made the children run laps around the playground because of behavioral issues. The employee stated that at most the children were made to run two laps. The employee stated that none of the children had any negative health concerns in response nor reported any concerns.

Based on the information provided this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.12(2)a-d which requires that center shall have written policy on discipline of children which provides for positive guidance, with direction for resolving conflict and setting of limits and which prohibits among other things punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort. Information was provided that at least two staff members had made the children run laps around the perimeter of the playground as a form of punishment. This would be considered a punishment that would be intended or likely to result in humiliation or discomfort. With regard to the concern of children being required to clean the bathrooms following toileting accidents the information provided is that the children were not required to do this but the center did have staff talk to the children about picking up after themselves.

Special Notes and Action Required:

This complaint is SUBSTANTIATED . An agreement was made that the director would have a staff meeting to review both center policy and DHS Licensing Standards regarding discipline that is to be used in the center and which is prohibited. Documentation will be maintained by the center of the date and names of employees attending that training.

Consultant's Signature: **Date:**

Ray Salsbury 07-29-2020