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

**Name of Center:** ASAC Heart Of Iowa Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 11 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6788

**Street:** 4050 Bowling ST SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

**Mailing Address:** 4050 Bowling ST SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

**Director's Name:** Amanda Meggenberg **Phone Number:** 319-862-1050

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Amanda Meggenberg **E-Mail:** ameggenberg@asac.us

**Date(s) of Visit:** 06-11-2025

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 09-11-2023

**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:** 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 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 24 | 66 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Amy Lyons **Date:** 07-09-2025

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

Not applicable.

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

ASAC Heart of Iowa is one of the "oldest, largest, and most comprehensive substance abuse prevention and treatment agencies in the state of Iowa". Specifically, ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center became licensed in 2002. ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center provides care to children age infant through school-age while their mothers are receiving inpatient substance abuse treatment. The program does have an on-site residential treatment component. Current enrollment is 11.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center combined director/on-site supervisor is Amanda Meggenberg. Ms. Meggenberg has been the combined director/on-site supervisor since July, 2020. Ms. Meggenberg has a BA degree in psychology and criminal justice and over 25 years of experience working with children.

On 6/11/2025, program space was observed.

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

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center is unique and serves an important role for mothers recovering from addiction. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a
predominantly urban community. ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center provides full-time and part-time childcare options depending on the needs of the mother and family.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center maintains the following website for families and the community http://www.asac.us/treatment/heart-iowa/.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center has a history of participating in quality initiatives including a local quality initiative, CACFP and the quality rating system. There is CARF International accreditation.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center operates under a board of directors.

Ownership and management of the program has remained consistent. Ms. Meggenberg has been the director of this program for 5 years. Congratulations! Ms. Meggenberg has also assisted with some duties related to facility compliance and apartment management. Ms. Meggenberg is extremely organized and goal oriented. Ms. Meggenberg has systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Meggenberg is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

The program continues to retain seasoned staff. Staff throughout the classrooms reported celebrating 25 years, 14 years and 4 years with the program! Ms. Meggenberg discussed having a great team of employees, who work hard, show compassion and go above and beyond including creating mommy and me projects. Ms. Meggenberg continues to acknowledge staff's immense communication with families and the modeling of child related cares. Ms. Meggenberg continues to emphasis

how their team has a strong willingness to not only help the children but also the families move forward.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This childcare has successfully navigated through historic Linn County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (e.g. 2023, 2025) and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center has an organized parent/program communication center which includes required postings and child sign-in/ sign-out information. This area also includes program reminders, community resource information, and information about upcoming program events/curriculum. Classrooms continue to be arranged and rearranged in a thoughtful manner keeping learning at the forefront. Curriculum supports children learning through play. Communication between children and staff is done verbally and with picture cues. School-age summer 2025 field trips include local parks and splash pads. On-site events historically include an annual cook-out.

ASAC has an administrative support team (including patient support team), cook, and building/maintenance team which help ensure program space is safe, sanitary and hazard free each day. Since the last review, the main restrooms received a fresh coat of paint with affirmations noted. The toddler room's back storage area was cleaned out and organized! Ms. Meggenberg talked about future goals including replacing and updating outdoor fencing near the dumpsters and replenishing outdoor cushion surfacing.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center has much community support. The program connects and equips mothers in recovery with education services, mental health services, independent living skills, vocational assistance, medical care, transportation, special support services for children, and housing. The program collaborates with many community partners to accomplish connections including local counseling agencies, school districts, local businesses, health professionals, and early access services. The on-site program kitchen is inspected at least annually by the local Health Department.

ASAC Heart of Iowa Child Care Center has a history of offering family events including weekly "Mommy and Me" classes, family events (e.g. picnics, splash pad days, ice cream socials), a Family Education Day, and family outreach sessions. The childcare program has the ability to extend hours on Mondays to allow recovering mothers the opportunity to attend evening support groups.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encourage innovative play. Activities observed were many including small group games (e.g. mancalla, art projects). Evidence of recent garden area of study was observed in the preschool-age room. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. breakfast rituals, clean-up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Licensing continues to strongly recommend a hand washing sink be added to the preschool-age room. This will help with sanitation and repeated trips to the public restrooms located in the front entrance of the building.

Licensing requests all administrative documents required for childcare licensing be maintained on-site in their entirety (e.g. staff file documents).

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The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.