Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Our Savior Little Lambs Day Care **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID:** 29420

Street: 301 3rd Street N **City:** Swea City **IA** **Zip Code:** 50590 **County:** Kossuth

Mailing Address: PO Box 134

Mailing City: Swea City **IA** **Zip Code:** 50590

Director's Name: Malloree Jorgensen **Center Phone Number:** 515-272-4696

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** littlelambs@ringtelco.com

Date of Complaint: 01-25-2023 **Date of Visit:** 01-27-2023

[ ] 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 center has been out of ratio

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(2) Ratio maintained in center as required by age.

Inspection Findings:

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

An unannounced visit was made to the Our Savior Little Lambs Day Care on 01-27-23 where I met with the center director, Malloree Jorgensen. Malloree was informed of the complaint and confirmed that the center has been out of ratio over the past couple of weeks due to an employee who quit. Malloree stated that the center has been looking for new employee but has not had any success in finding a replacement.

On the day of the visit the center had 7 children present with 4 preschool age children, and 3 infants. Two staff were present with Malloree in the classroom at the front of the building with the preschool age children, and the other teacher with the infants in the classroom at the back of the building. During the time of the visit the teacher that was with the infants did come to the front of the building but did return to the classroom space within a couple of minutes.

It was reviewed that the center must maintain ratio as required by age. Recent changes to ratio requirements were reviewed with infants remaining at a staff to child ratio of 1:4. Ratio for preschool age children were increased to allow a staff to child ratio of 1:7 for children 24-36 months of age, and 1:10 for children 36-48 months of age. The center does operate with combined age group programming for children 2 years of age and older. When combined age groups include children that are 24-36 months of age are present the staff to child ratio shall be 1:7. However, if there are no children present in the group under the age of 36 months in a combined age group of children 3-5 years of age the center can operate at a staff to child ratio of 1:12. The use of volunteers was discussed as one option reviewing that volunteers can be counted in ratio. It was also reviewed that a recent change does allow staff under 18 years of age to be able to supervise groups of school age children (enrolled in kindergarten or above) on their own. It was reviewed that once the center reaches the staff to child ratio limit the center would have to refuse acceptance of additional children that day.

Based on the information provided this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.8(2) which requires that ratio be maintained in the center as required by age. While the center was in ratio at the time of the visit Malloree did confirm that the center had been out of ratio over the past week and a half to two weeks due to an employee having quit without notice. It was reviewed that the center cannot operate out of ratio and once the staff to child ratio limit has been met the center would need to refuse acceptance of additional children.

Special Notes and Action Required:

This complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of the identified Licensing Standard. The following actions are required and/or recommended. A full license will remain in effect at this time.

REQUIRED:
1. The center shall refuse to accept additional children once the maximum staff to child ratio is reached as determined by the ages of the children present.

2. The center shall ensure that staff are present in each room where a child is present. Staff shall be within sight and sound of children at all times, and engaged in child programming activities with the children.

Consultant's Signature:

Ray Salsbury

Date:

02-03-2023