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

Name of Center: Unity Point Health Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 165 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26547

Street: 1019 Chestnut ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1200 Pleasant ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Sue Huffman **Phone Number:** 515-241-8827

On-Site Supervisor(s): Donna Kennebeck **E-Mail:** sue.huffman@unitypoint.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-24-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-15-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-23-2022

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	93		129		222
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-26-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Unity Point Health Child Development Center, formerly known as Iowa Health Child Development Center, has been providing child care services since 1979. The center serves children ages infancy through preschool age. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has a secured entrance. Sue Huffman has been the director since 2013. Sue has a Bachelors in Management. Sue has been at Unity Point Health Child Development Center since 1983. Donna Kennebeck is the On Site Supervisor. She began in this role in March 2013. Donna has a BA in Early Childhood Education. She has been employed at the center since 2003.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to DHHS licensing rules were reviewed today. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classroom schedules and lesson plans are posted in each classroom. The classroom has developmentally appropriate furnishings, supplies, toys and learning supplies. Classrooms have defined interest centers.

Sue and Donna were present today. Sue assisted with the program rooms observation. Sue and Donna assisted with the administration record review. The center has eight infant classrooms, some of them referred to as toddler classrooms which are older infant classrooms. There are two 2's/3's classrooms, one 3's classrooms, two 3/4's classroom and one 4/5's classrooms in operation. All classrooms were at or above ratio requirements. Children were observed during lunch time, during child directed play and learning activities, during transition time and during rest time. Staff were assisting children with their activities. Staff sat beside children on the floor while children were resting. Interactions between children and staff were observed to be positive.

The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Meals are provided from Iowa Methodist cafeteria staff. Lunch served today was vegetable lasagna, apple sauce, wheat bread and milk. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP requirements.

The center has a playground with fencing. There are several small climbing structures. There is poured rubber for surfacing material. The center completes monthly playground checks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is accredited through NAEYC. This is a big accomplishment for centers and an indication of the center's commitment to providing quality child care. Sue has served as director of this center for several years. Donna has served as assistant director. The center benefits from their leadership and experience. Classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate toys and furnishings. Lead teachers of the classrooms have a two year degree or more. Teacher assistants have CDA's. Administrative records are well maintained.

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

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
A staff member had a transgression on her criminal record. A DHHS issued permission letter couldn't be located in her file. Sue and Donna don't complete SING or federal record checks on staff. These are done by the HR department at the hospital. Sue is sending the complete DHHS record check information file to the HR department.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

Infant classrooms have used boppy pillows to prop up infants for play and after feeding for infants with reflux issues. The manufacturers intended use for these devices is not for propping infants. These are loungers and pillow like devices and cannot be used in licensed child care programs. The misuse of these pillows has caused injury and even deaths due to suffocation. Sue said the boppy pillows will be removed from the infant classrooms.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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