Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Tracey's Tots Daycare Co - Fort Dodge **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID:** 7448

Street: 109 S 8th ST **City:** Fort Dodge **IA** **Zip Code:** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 109 S 8th ST

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

Director's Name: Jennifer Lindner **Center Phone Number:** 515-576-5437

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** traceystotsdaycare@frontier.com

Date of Complaint: 10-04-2023 **Date of Visit:** 10-05-2023

[ ] 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 a child (3-4yrs old) was found outside by the road and when taken into the center, staff had no idea the child was missing. The information provided identified did not identify the child, or the date though it was at some point in the past. It was further reported that staff in the infant room are placing babies in the cribs on their tummy with their bibs still on, leaving the room, while babies are in their cribs, and did not feed a 5 month old all day earlier in the week when there was no formula for the child.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(2)d At least one staff shall be present in every room.Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present.

109.10(16)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

109.12(5)e The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

109.15(3)a Children under 12 months fed on demand, unless other written instructions from parent.Infant CACFP menu patterns followed and appropriate to the infant's nutritional requirements and eating abilities.Menu patterns modified only upon written instruction of parent, physician, or health care provider.Special formulas given to child with feeding problem if prescribed by physician.

Inspection Findings:

An unannounced visit was made to Tracey's Tots Daycare center on 10-05-23 where I met with center director Jenny Lindner. Jenny was informed of the complaint and and stated she was not aware of a child ever having been found outside the center, or staff leaving children unattended in any of the

classrooms. Jenny stated that the center has been working to ensure that staff are following safe sleep requirements and she is not aware of any staff putting infants into cribs on their stomach though she did note that some children do roll over on their own. Jenny stated that while the specific infant was identified in the concern regarding the child not being fed she did know which child that referred to and she was aware of the concern but that the information was not accurate. Jenny stated that there was a situation where a child had a special formula which was provided by the family but was running low. Jenny stated that the parent was informed that a new container was needed but the parent did not provide one. Jenny stated that the parent had wanted to try introducing solid foods to the child and had provided several jars of baby food. Jenny stated that the child was fed that food, and staff did prepare bottles using the last of the formula they had the center. When asked if the center had any other center provided formula options that could have been substituted Jenny stated that they did not.

In visiting the classrooms it was noted that the visit was following lunch time when the children were napping. All napping children were observed to have a cot or crib available. Children sleeping in the infant room were placed in cribs and safe sleep practices regarding not having blankets, plush toys, bottles, toys, rail mounted items, bibs, or pacifiers with ribbon clips were observed. There was one child in a crib that was observed to be on their stomach and is noted that the child was of a developmental level that the child was able to move and roll on their own. The teacher in the classroom confirmed that the child had been placed into the crib on their back.

The staff in the infant room was asked about the concern of an infant having run out of formula and not being fed. The classroom teacher stated that this had occurred the previous week on Tuesday or Wednesday when the child was running low on formula which was the parent was informed of. The teacher stated that the child had enough formula for about 1 1/2 bottles and also had jarred carrots and beans. A copy of the daily infant sheet for the child was available for the date of 09-25-23. The daily sheet did identify that the child was provided a 4 oz bottle at 8 AM, jarred carrots at 10:30 AM, a 4 oz bottle at 12 PM, jarred green beans at 1:40 PM, and jarred carrots at 3:15 PM.

When asked about the concern of children being left unattended the teacher did confirm that there have been occasions when needing to use the restroom and no one was available to relieve her that she had stepped out of the room. The teacher stated that this was for very short periods of time of just a few minutes, and that this only occurred on a couple of occasions but otherwise someone will take her place.

During the visit all staff denied being aware of any child ever being found outside of the center alone. While speaking with Jenny a child was observed to be standing outside the center at the entrance and visible through the entry door window. I did go out to check on the child and observed an individual in one of the center owned vans with another child in the front seat. Jenny stated that while the individual was an employee the children were that individuals own children, and they were just arriving to the center for the day and the employee's shift. Jenny stated that the individual was allowed to use a center owned van for personal use for a couple due to her personal vehicle having broken down and while waiting for repairs to be made.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.8(2)d which requires that at least one staff shall be present in every room when children are present. Credible information was provided that employees have left children in the infant room for brief periods for restroom breaks without another employee in the room. While licensing does allow for brief reductions of ratio of five minutes or less for situations such as restroom breaks at least one employee must be present in the room.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is NOT SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.10(16)a which requires that staff knows names and number of children assigned, and shall provide careful supervision. No corroborating information could be found to support the claim that a child had left the center unsupervised. All staff deny that there has been a time when a child has left the center and been unaccounted for.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is NOT SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.12(5)e which requires that
t center shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age. During the visit children were observed during nap time and safe sleep practices were being met. Staff in the center reported that all children are placed in cribs on their back.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is NOT SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.15(3)a-e which requires among other things that children under 12 months are fed on demand, with fed single-serve, ready-to-feed formulas, concentrated or powdered formula following manufacturer’s instructions or breast milk unless otherwise ordered by parent or physician. The center did confirm that the parent does provide a special formula for the child believed to be the child identified in the complaint. The center provided information that the container of formula had run out and that the parent had been notified but not provided a new container. The center director stated that the center

does not maintain a supply of formula in the center. The center staff stated that the parent had identified wanting to begin transitioning the child to solid foods and had provided jarred baby food. Documentation did identify that the child was provided with meals on average every 2 hours with options of formula and jarred baby food.

Special Notes and Action Required:

This complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of some of the identified Licensing Standards, and NOT SUBSTANTIATED for others. The following actions are required and/or recommended. A full license will remain in effect.

REQUIRED:
1. The center director shall develop a schedule to ensure that staff are available to provide for the supervision needs of the children and maintain ratio in classrooms as required. The schedule shall include a rotation of breaks that ensure coverage is provided in classrooms to maintain ratio as required.

2. The center shall maintain a supply of Iron Rich Formula as required by CACFP to ensure that an appropriate option is available to ensure that infants are fed in accordance with CACFP requirements.

Consultant's Signature:

Ray Salsbury

Date:

10-19-2023