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

Name of Center: ASAC Heart Of Iowa Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 12 **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: 07-09-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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:** 07-19-2024

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 12.

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 24 years experience working with children.

On 7/9/2024, 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.

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 4 years. Congratulations! Ms. Meggenberg has goals for the program as well as herself. 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 24 years, 16 years, 10 years and 3 years with the program! Ms. Meggenberg discussed being proud of their team of employees describing them as reliable, dependable, and a great group of people to have during some of most unique and challenging as well as joyful situations. Ms. Meggenberg continues to acknowledge staff's immense communication with families and the modeling of child 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, 2023 air quality alerts 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. Since the last review, some classrooms have been 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 2024 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. Recent past building updates have included roof replacement, window screen replacement, and updated outdoor play spaces (e.g. equipment, cushion surfacing). The most recent updates since the last monitoring visit include a fresh coat of paint in many areas and a relocated patient support area. Ms. Meggenberg talked about future childcare goals of updated the programs written handbooks.

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. Ms. Meggenberg and staff discussed recent menu updating.

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 operates extended 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. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, Clever infant popsicle feet!) Activities observed were many (e.g.one-on-one painting, small group school-age geography discussion, a spirited game of checkers). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. 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 strongly recommends 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.

A full license is issued. 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.