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

Name of Center: Helen G. Nassif YMCA **Enrollment:** 152 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51939

Street: 207 7th AVE SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52401 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 207 7th AVE SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

Director's Name: Tanisha Phelps **Phone Number:** 319-366-6421

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tanisha Phelps **E-Mail:** phelps@crmetroymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-14-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-09-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			36	116	152
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-14-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 12-01-2022

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

Not applicable. This is a new program which completed an Application to Operate on 7/14/2022. The program was granted permission to open on 10/28/2022 and commenced programming on 11/7/2022.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. Specifically, Helen G. Nassif YMCA commenced operations on 11/7/2022. The program is located inside the Helen G Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids. The program operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves preschool (preschool program and childcare) and school-age children (childcare). Current enrollment is 7.

YMCA - multi-site director is Tanisha Phelps. Ms. Phelps has been the multi-site executive director of all the YMCA childcare sites since January, 2019. Ms. Phelps has a BA degree in interdisciplinary studies, over 8 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/14/2022, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. The YMCA provides a variety of full-time and part-time childcare options to help meet the needs of families. YMCA accepts multiple funding sources.

YMCA has the following website for the community and families to access information about the program: http://www.crmetroymca.org/Cedar_Rapids/YMCA/Welcome/For_Youth_Development/Child_Care.php.

The mission of YMCA is "...to put Christian principals into practice through program that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all..."

Helen G. Nassif YMCA operates under a board of directors. While Helen G. Nassif YMCA is a newly established preschool and childcare, management and ownership of the YMCA childcares has remained consistent. This includes multi-site director Ms. Phelps who has been with the YMCA childcares for over 3 years. Management continues to develop systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Ms. Phelps discussed having a great team of employees who assist in various capacities as needed.

Helen G. Nassif YMCA has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Prior to this specific childcare commencing operations in November 2022, various other YMCA childcare sites did successfully navigate through the 2008 historic Linn County Floods, the 8/10/22 Derecho Storm event, and the 2019 pandemic.

Helen G. Nassif YMCA is located within the Helen G. Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids facility. Building and grounds are maintained. Helen G. Nassif YMCA has a strong partnership with Helen G. Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids. YMCA custodial staff, YMCA board members, and YMCA administrative personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. There is an AED on-site Helen G. Nassif YMCA has numerous unique features including an on-site aquatic

center which is accessible at times to the childcare children (e.g. swim lessons).

According to the program's website, "...child care and early learning programs at the Y focus on holistically nurturing child development by providing a safe and healthy place to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships and build self-reliance through the Y values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility...The Helen G Nassif YMCA is proud to offer a high level of child care services to the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan area. From 3 years old to 5 years old , we strive to meet the needs of all families in our community. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay..." The preschool program is currently being offered in their own separate classroom space focusing on kindergarten readiness with teacher inspired ideas. Once enrollment expands, the school-age program will be offered in a sectioned-off area of the main gym. The program has purchased wheeled carts/shelves for school-age materials to be easily moved and stored when the program is not in session. Curriculum will also include enrichment opportunities (e.g. swimming lessons, dance class, chess), guest speaker events, and off-site field trip experiences. Ms. Phelps discussed how 2023 early-bird summer camp sign-up will be commencing in December 2022 for currently enrolled families and then the public in February 2023.

Helen G. Nassif YMCA continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. The YMCA sponsors many community family/youth events including Parents Night Out event and Scholastic Book Fair event.

The YMCA collaborates well with many community partners including local small businesses, health professionals, local school districts, and other childcare owners/directors (locally and nationally). Helen G. Nassif YMCA receives full food service from Horizons Family Service Alliance provider.

YMCA promotes a "safe shoe" policy to help prevent foot/leg injuries as well as help ensure each child can easily participate in each day's activities.

Each family and child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. The program has policies and procedures for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff reported lesson plans are being created and posted on Brightwheel. Ratio was observed to be 3 staff to 3 children which allowed for much one-on-one learning experiences! Activities observed included morning gathering events and small group work (e.g. sensory/play dough, book reading "The Very Lazy Ladybug"). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, lunch rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.6(6): Record checks
- Staff files AP and LC lacked documentation of a federal fingerprint record check.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- Staff file AP lacked documentation of a current physical exam report with TB screening/testing.

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
- Staff file AP lacked documentation of current first-aid, CPR and UP/Bloodborne Pathogens training.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.-
- Each cleaner, sanitizer, and disinfectant shall be properly labeled (e.g. name of product, dilution if applicable, manufacturer instructions including dwell time) to help ensure each product is properly used.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of a current all fuel burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.
- A UL Standard 2034 carbon monoxide detector (electric with battery back-up) was not found to be in use on the day of the monitoring visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

When both Linn County YMCA childcare programs operate simultaneously, ensure each site has their own separate, pre-qualified on-site supervisor present as the code requires. Currently, Tanisha Phelps is listed as the combined director/on-site supervisor of both.

It shall be noted, Helen G. Nassif YMCA has been allowed permission to open with the understanding they are partnering with the nearby The Arc of East Central Iowa - Daycare Enrichment to expand and share outdoor space. Ms. Phelps discussed how the expanded outdoor space will be at least 3,450 square feet to accommodate their program's total capacity of 152. Ms. Phelps is also aware that the outdoor space shall include equipment that meets US CPSC and ASTM standards and is designed for preschool-age and school-age children. Ms. Phelps reported a timeframe for completion of the outdoor play space being March of 2023. Failure to establish an outdoor play area as code requires will impact the program's license.

Ensure dish washing procedures are posted at any sink dishes are washed by hand.

While a childcare management system is being utilized to communicate with families, required postings still need to be posted on-site as indicated in code. Please continue to ensure those required postings (e.g. daily schedule, lesson plans, mandatory reporting requirements, consultant information, license) are posted in areas frequented by parents.

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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.