

**2016 LIAISON REPORT**  
**STORY TIME CHILD CARE**  
**Liaison – Ron Smith**

**Need for Program:** Story Time Child Care (STCC) provides structured, licensed daycare from infants to school age including pre-school and after school programming. Services are available full time throughout the year and STCC is the only non-home based, licensed daycare provider in its immediate area, including Nevada. 100% of clients are from Story County.

**Program Strengths:** STCC provides childcare options for rural families of southeastern Story County at dramatically lower rates than otherwise available through most commercial or in-home daycare providers.

STCC enrollment is holding steady from a year ago (43) at 45 children including: 5 infant, 3 Preschool, fourteen 2-3 year olds, nine 4-5 year olds and 15 school age children. Currently, five children (3 infants) are on a waiting list. Jayne states that while 7 different DHS children were served throughout the year, there are currently nine DHS eligible children enrolled. The number of DHS eligible children at the center affects ASSET funding requests as the center cannot claim ASSET funds for DHS eligible children. Currently the number of ASSET kids is at 16. Although this represents an decrease of 7 children qualifying for ASSET funding from last year (23), the majority (7) are school age and have a minimal impact on the need for ASSET funding. Jayne states that STCC is on target to draw down budgeted ASSET funds for this year.

STCC is currently operated by 8 staff members; of which, 4 are considered full time. Inspections through DHS have historically been positive with the most recent inspection having occurred in April 2015. The center continues to participate in programming through the Heartland AEA including the Positive Behavior Support (PBS), Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, The Learning Box and Handwriting without Tears programs.

**Program Challenges:** The primary challenge facing STCC are rising operating expenses and an anticipated rate increase associated with these expenses. The annual rent subsidy STCC previously received from the City of Maxwell; which was reduced from \$5,400 to \$2,700 in 2012, was eliminated completely last year. During the most recent year, new landlords determined that the installation of separate water and electric meters was too costly; and it was decided to increase the STCC share of utilities for the building to 75%; previously STCC paid only 25% of the total utilities bill for the entire building. Fortunately the anticipate increase in Auditor expenses, with the retirement of the previous Auditor, did not occur, and the new Auditor fees were actually \$500 less than previously.

When asked about the most pressing need of the center, Jayne mentioned that much of the equipment such as toys, table and cots are showing significant wear and are at the top of the list.

**Summary:** STCC continues to serve a vital need in a very rural portion of Story County. Other than having slightly fewer children, STCC does not anticipate any funding cuts from DHS this year and does not receive any federal stimulus dollars.