

## **2017 LIAISON REPORT**

### **Story Time Child Care**

#### **Liaison – Eric Adelmund**

##### **1. Need for Program**

Opening in 1991, Story Time Child Care Center (STCC) provides a licensed daycare for infants through school aged children in rural part of Story County. STCC operates year round and is the only non-home based licensed daycare provider in the area and surrounding towns. Enrollment fluctuates slightly throughout the year due to summer break and school schedules, however the total number of children has remained stable from last year. The cost for childcare at STCC is on a sliding scale bases with a three level pay structure. Without this service, many parents in this area would be without childcare.

##### **2. Program Strengths**

The cost for childcare at STCC is on a sliding scale bases with a three level pay structure (depending on parents income and family size). STCC's full enrollment numbers at the time of the visit were four infants (2 on waiting list), fourteen 2-3 year olds, eight 4-5 year olds, and fifteen school aged children. At this time there are 18 children on ASSET funding, up from 16 last year. STCC accepts DHS eligible students and currently has 2 children using this funding. The amount of DHS eligible children at STCC affects ASSET funding requests due to DHS eligible children are not able to qualify for ASSET funds.

STCC has 9 staff members (4 full time, 5 part time) and is looking to add another member in the future. Jayne stated that they are trying to increase the amount of staff members to provide more infant services. In order to accept more infants, STCC is required to follow Iowa code to increase staff numbers.

Inspections through DHS have historically been positive. 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.

##### **3. Program Challenges**

The expenses and maintenance of the facility are the primary challenges to STCC. In recent years, 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. Maintenance of the building, especially the nursery area, have become a challenge STCC is facing this year. Paint from the walls in the nursery have begun to flake off, due to moisture problems in that room, and need to be replaced.

##### **4. Summary**

STCC serves a much needed population in the Story County area. Currently STCC has increased their ASSET funded children by 2 from last year. STCC does not anticipate any funding cuts from DHS this year and does not receive any federal stimulus dollars