

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY
CHILDCARE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023**

A meeting of the Childcare Initiative Committee of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority was held in the boardroom of the Administration Building on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

The following were present:

Toni A. Kennedy, Committee Chair
Vernon D. Burns, Board Chair

ALSO: Steven J. Lawrence, Executive Director
Patricia A. Nisco, Chief Financial Officer
Anthony Adamczyk, Director of Economic Development
James Chase, Director of Operation

GUESTS: Lynn Pietroski, Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence
Tara Carr, Chief Operating Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence (via phone)

Committee Chair, Toni Kennedy, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

I. Business Items

1. Discussion with The ARC of Jefferson-St. Lawrence.

- a) Outline of Staff Needs vs. Child Ratio and Review of current building renderings / design

Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, presented alternative building renderings, with different options for room sizes, and staffing models, based on regulations for room size for age groups.

The schedule was discussed, with the question of running on the school schedule and partnering with the Ogdensburg School District.

Executive Director, Steven J. Lawrence, asked Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, what could be optimized. Lynn

Pietroski confirmed that she didn't have many suggestions, except for a few spaces, and shared her recommendations. Additional services for children was also discussed, such as OT, PT, autism services, and in home managed care. Committee Chair, Toni Kennedy, asked if there are any other organizations in St. Lawrence County that offer autism services. Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, confirmed that there are not, but The Arc has five licensed Board-Certified Behavior Analysts, and that they are home growing a few more to provide autism services. Committee Chair, Toni Kennedy and Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski discussed shared and non-shared staff between the OBPA and The Arc daycares. Executive Director, Steven J. Lawrence asked Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, if the OBPA daycare should offer autism services. The discussion led to the OBPA daycare center not being an autism services center, but a daycare center that offers these services. Chief Operating Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Tara Carr, offered OBPA Board and Staff to come tour the Gaffney Drive Facility to continue this conversation as this would spark some additional, important questions. Executive Director, Steven J. Lawrence, asked Chief Executive Officer, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, for an equipment budget that includes furniture and supplies that follow regulations and she agreed to provide this information, along with the exact square footage of the Watertown facility. Board Chair, Vernon D. Burns, asked Executive Director, The Arc, Jefferson-St. Lawrence, Lynn Pietroski, what kind of relationship she has with OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services). She confirmed that it is a positive working

relationship as she has worked with the before, including during the construction of the Watertown facility.

2. Update on CFA grant funding application

Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence reviewed the status of the CFA grant funding, and financing and project deadlines.

3. Next meeting date

The next meeting date is tentatively confirmed for Wednesday, May 31st, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

On a motion by Board Chair, Vernon D. Burns, seconded by Toni Kennedy, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM.

Toni Kennedy
Childcare Initiative Committee Chairperson