

# OGDENSBURG BRIDGE AND PORT AUTHORITY CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

## COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 - 5PM

### I. Business Items

#### 1. Project Update

##### a. Update on Grant Funding for Project

- CFA grant funding application \$1.9 M (award notification 11/23)
- USDA Grant \$2.1 M (secured)
- NBRC Catalyst Grant \$1.0 M (secured)

### II. Other Such Matters

**Notes/Questions from Bright Beginnings Facility Tour**  
**Thursday, April 27, 2023**

**Present for OBPA: Vernon D. Burns, Megan J. M. Whitton, Steven Lawrence, Anthony Adamczyk, James Chase, Jennifer Wilson, Karin Blackburn**

**Present for Bright Beginnings: Lynn Pietroski, Michelle Carpenter, Tara Carr**

- Snoezelen Sensory Room: \$25,000  
Spend the extra money to have a Snoezelen Team Member come set up the room vs. doing it yourselves – extra cost isn't factored in to the \$25,000.
- All restrooms in Bright Beginnings Facility are ADA Compliant.
- Light colored paint and furniture / storage fixtures: can't see scratches, promotes positive environment
- Blueprints for OBPA and Bright Beginnings Facilities are about equal for square footage
- Add space for adequate breakroom for staff – this complies with labor laws
- Ensure adequate storage – “daycares have a lot of stuff”
- Kitchen isn't industrial – no DOH compliance rules
- Don't provide warm lunches for children, have them pack a lunch. Have items to provide a cold lunch (sandwiches, yogurt, carrot sticks, etc). Providing warm lunches puts you in a different DOH compliance category.
- Question and answer time after tour:
  - Update from Mr. Lawrence:  
Northern Border  
Two Rounds  
Almost \$1 million in funding  
Regional Council has a rolling deadline
  - Lynn Pietroski reached out to the OCFS Supervisor, Briane Tice, out of Syracuse  
Briane would like to be involved from the beginning, attend meetings, share things back and forth.
  - For OCFS, it always comes down to the safety of the child.
  - OCFS has a new licensing process, it's all done on-line. Very user friendly. Submit renderings, certificates, and permits.
  - Special Education: schools pay for one-on-one, contract with all counties – early intervention. School districts reimburse Bright Beginnings for staff hours.
  - Bright Beginnings Student Teacher Ratio: 1:4.
  - Bright Beginnings takes all forms of payment: Private pay, DSS subsidy
  - Bright Beginnings is doing an Adopt the Classroom in May  
Community members and business can adopt a classroom.  
Teachers and clinical staff create a list of needed supplies.  
Community members and business donate supplies, money, or gift cards to cover the cost.

- Bright Beginnings provides an After School Care Program for Bright Beginnings students, not external students.
- Special Education positions are the hardest to fill. Bright Beginnings acquires a waiver and approval to fill the positions with substitutes. They are currently working to increase permanent TA positions. Their turnover is the highest with substitute TA positions due to no benefits.