

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY  
CHILDCARE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021**

A meeting of the Childcare Initiative Committee of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority was held in the boardroom of the Administration Building on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

The following were present:

Toni Kennedy, Committee Chair  
Nicole Terminelli, Member  
Vernon D. Burns, Board Chair  
Steven J. Lawrence, Executive Director  
Patricia A. Nisco, Chief Financial Officer

Committee Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

I. Business Items

1. Goals of the Committee. Nicole Terminelli stated that some of the goals should be regularly timed meetings and a needs assessment to find out what type of childcare should be offered. Committee Chair Toni Kennedy stated that the Committee should look at what families in the area need and that providing an educational component is important. Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence suggested that a reasonable time-frame before opening a facility would be approximately 24-36 months.
2. Materials/Information Review. Committee Chair Toni Kennedy asked if the Authority is allowed to open a childcare facility, and if so, what are the limitations. Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence stated that it is allowed and has been done in the past, but there are some restrictions.

3. Initial Discussion. Board Chair Vernon D. Burns stated that this committee was formed because in August 2020 Senator Gillibrand came to Ogdensburg and spoke about the need for adequate childcare.
4. Assignment of Research Topics. Nicole Terminelli suggested that the various employers in the area should be surveyed to assess the need for childcare. Board Chair Vernon D. Burns stated that the Committee should work closely with Senator Gillibrand's office to secure any federal funding that may be available. Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence will contact Bruce Stewart, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Childcare Council, Inc. and invite him to the Committee's next meeting. The Committee will work on a list of questions to be presented to Mr. Stewart.
5. Establishing date/time of next meeting. The next meeting will be dependent upon Mr. Stewart's availability, but should be held within the next two weeks.

On a motion by Nicole Terminelli, seconded by Vernon D. Burns, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.



Toni Kennedy  
Childcare Initiative Committee Chairperson