

# DRAFT

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POVERTY REDUCTION TASK FORCE**  
**November 6, 2015 – 9:30 AM**  
**County of Oswego Office Building, Oswego, NY**  
**Legislative Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Roy Reehil, Chair  
Leg. Jake Mulcahey  
Leg. Daniel LeClair  
Anita Murphy, Superintendent APW CSD  
John Shelmidine, President CiTi BOE  
Lisa Roman, Counselor, Oswego City CSD  
Excused: Stewart Amell,  
Leg. Marie Schadt

**ADVISORS PRESENT:**

Leg. Shane Broadwell  
Brian Chetney  
Karen Goetz, Executive Director, Shineman Foundation  
Penny Halstead, Shineman Foundation  
Michael C Backus, Oswego County Clerk  
Chris Jones, Cre8 Studios  
Greg Mills, Executive Director of the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce  
Justin Rudgick, Community Development Office, City of Oswego  
David Turner, Director of the Community Development, Tourism & Planning Department  
Heathe Jones, Cre8 Studios  
Chena Tucker, Office of Business Relations SUNY Oswego

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM.

**Minutes**

The meeting opened with a recap of Task Force activities. The research and reporting phase of the task force was ending soon and an action phase needed to be planned.

APW Schools Superintendent Anita Murphy asked to make an announcement and shared that a large grant was just received on behalf of all the school districts in the county to start “PTECH” an advanced countywide High School based at CiTi where almost all courses will earn college credits. Much of the coursework will be able to be geared towards filling the job requirements at local businesses and manufacturers. The announcement was greeted by the Task Force with applause.

Moving on to business, Chairman Reehil made a motion to accept the czb draft as their final report, seconded by Leg. Mulcahey. At the recommendation of David Turner, Director of the Community Development, Tourism & Planning Department, Chairman Reehil amended his motion to request that an “Executive Summary” be added to the report before it is finalized. Leg. Mulcahey seconded. Both the amendment and motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reehil opened a discussion of potential partners in an action phase of the Task Force. They are the people or groups that the Task Force would distribute the report to and invite to a roll-out event. A list of groups that the report should be distributed to included:

- Government Representatives: Federal, State, County, Town and Village, Judges, County and State Departments
- County Schools: School Boards and Administrators
- All Focus Group Participants
- Regional Not-For-Profit agencies involved in human services and transportation activities
- College administrators
- Ecumenical Community
- Businesses
- Press/Media

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With potential partners identified, the discussion turned to prioritizing action items.

Chairman Reehil distributed a document titled “A Draft Action Plan and Talking Points” to help members identify priorities. Chairman Reehil explained that there were five teams established on the Task Force to develop and implement recommended actions. The teams were created in order to tackle a wide variety of issues relating to Poverty. The teams are: Economic Development, Community Development, Social Services Collaborative, Youth and Schools, and Policy. He said that new teams could also be created as needed. His hope is that the teams will add volunteers and find fiduciary partners to either subsidize or be able to pass through grants or donations to accomplish tasks.

He requested that everyone create their own list of priorities to focus the efforts of the teams. He then suggested that this was a good time for teams to start bringing initiatives to the table and he asked Karen Goetz to discuss some of the initiatives coming to the Shineman Foundation related to the work of the Task Force. She said there were many tremendous programs that deserved our consideration. Leg. LeClair added that he had several initiatives coming from the Community Development Team too. Clerk Backus mentioned how important he thought school based clinics could be for children in their formative years. Anita Murphy emphasized that she thought pre-K and mandatory Kindergarten should be top priorities. Leg. Mulcahey agreed and volunteered to work with Superintendent Murphy to make cost calculations regarding Pre-K that would be useful for fundraising, etc. Rather than continuing to discuss specific initiatives, Chairman Reehil asked to begin a discussion about the Roll-Out of the czb Report, with the hopes of returning to specific initiatives if time permitted.

## Roll-Out of the czb Report

Chairman Reehil opened the discussion saying that the roll-out of the report was an opportunity to begin soliciting partners that could help implement or fund actions. Leg. Broadwell said that he believed that the beginning of the action phase warranted a full day event with break-out sessions, etc. Clerk Backus suggested that there should be two events, one that was more like a Press Conference to hold the czb presentation and to then have a full day event later to kick off the action phase of the Task Force. That idea was well-received and Chairman Reehil said he would talk to czb about setting up a date sometime in early December. Superintendent Murphy suggested that March would be a good time to hold a full-day kick-off event. She also suggested that the Task Force should schedule monthly meetings, possibly on the 1st Friday of the month for as long as the Task Force exists. Chairman Reehil suggested that the meetings could rotate locations to include all the school districts and Superintendent Murphy volunteered to host the first one.

## Discussion of completing the Task Force’s proposed work products.

Chairman Reehil reminded the Task Force of proposed work products that the Task Force had begun or had discussed creating. They are:

- 1.) A Best Practices for Poverty Intervention Manual for school districts to share.
- 2.) A Comprehensive Poverty Prevention Plan to outline and prioritize short and long-term goals and to describe how we can coordinate services and better utilize local resources.
- 3.) A Database of Human Services Resources, including contact info and service descriptions.
- 4.) A Re-Branded Web Site containing our reports, work products and resources. This could include a Social Media presence too.

Chairman Reehil explained that the initiatives are supported by the czb report, and asked if the Task Force was in agreement to complete them. Superintendent Murphy suggested that the Best Practices manual would be especially useful for people outside the schools and that it would not be that hard to create. Leg. LeClair mentioned that his team had already begun developing a database of resources for the Central Square School District and Chairman Reehil added that many of the County resources had already been collected in a database developed with the help of Tara Hudjar, the Task Force’s intern from SUNY Oswego. Youth Bureau Director Brian Chetney added that the new “Community Services Directory” would be available by the first of the year with updated contact information.

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Chairman Reehil talked about re-branding and creating a web site and said that he thought something like OswegoCounty2030.org would coincide with the idea of the “15 Year Plan” described in the czb report. Heathe Jones added that she thought that there were too many similar sites and that something that was more timely, action oriented and engaging would be better. Chris Jones added that having a list of accomplishments or things that were already in progress would help generate excitement. With agreement that the Task Force would continue to meet it was acknowledged that the four work products would be part of the discussion of priorities as we enter an action phase of the Task Force.

With the business portion of the meeting complete, Chairman Reehil gave the floor to Karen Goetz, Executive Director of the Shineman Foundation to share the details of initiatives that she had prepared for the Task Force’s consideration, many of which the Foundation has already funded:

- The package included:
- The Wisdom Thinkers Network
- The Leader in Me
- National Math Foundation
- Enterprise America
- Circle of Security Parenting
- Palermo United Methodist Church Training Center
- Victory Housing First Initiative
- Blessings in a Backpack
- Backpack Program at APW Schools

Chairman Reehil closed the meeting reminding everyone to identify priorities and teams they would like participate on. Leg. LeClair and Greg Mills, Executive Director of the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, both expressed interest in working with the Economic Development Team. Chairman Reehil adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.