

**County of Oswego
Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force
February 18, 2015
County of Oswego Office Building, Oswego, NY
4th Floor Conference Room “E”**

Members present: Leg. Reehil (Chair), Leg. Schadt (Vice Chair), Leg. Mulcahey, Leg. LeClair, Superintendent Steward Arnell, Sandy Creek CSD, John Shelmidine, Board President of the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) and Sandy Creek Central Schools, Charles Buki, President czb Alexandria Virginia.

Advisors present: Legislature Chair Gardner, Philip Church, County Administrator,

Guests: County Attorney Richard Mitchell, Betsy Sherman-Saunders, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Excused: Lisa Roman, Counselor, Oswego City CSD, Superintendent Anita Murphy, Altmar-Parish-Williamstown CSD, Christopher Todd, District Superintendent CiTi

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Committee Chair Reehil called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Introduction of Members and Advisors

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

3. Chairman’s Update and Comments

Chairman Reehil gave an overview of the purpose of the committee.

4. County Mission & Background, Shane Broadwell

Legislator Broadwell explained why the Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force committee started.

5. Discussion of Data Collection Required/Open Discussion

Charles Buki, President, czb explained that the data that will need to be collected should include the poor, who might remain poor, those who are on the verge of being poor and whether or not they will end up poor. It is also important to look at overlaps of who is at risk and who is already in trouble.

Each school district has a tremendous amount of data that can be used; as does CiTi.

Legislator Mulcahey asked what the goal is and how the progress will be tracked. Mr. Buki said that when all the data is collected they will build a chart with every anti-poverty program, all customers, the family members of customers and the longevity each customer has been on the program.

Chairman of the Committee Reehil distributed a handout, Envisioning the Network and Contact Hierarchy. It shows how everyone has a place in the hierarchy.

Legislator Schadt asked if Oswego County has a larger population of individuals on social services than anywhere else in the state. Mr. Buki said that the data collection and analysis will help decipher this information.

Mr. Buki explained that this committee is on the “what” stage right now and as this process moves forward this group will spend some time on goals and action plans.

Department of Social Services Commissioner Gregg Heffner said he had concerns about the data collection due to confidentiality issues in the department. He explained there are, in excess, of 25,000 people that are in a database and this information is confidential. He continued to say that if the names cannot be part of the equation it will make it difficult to cross reference any information. Commissioner Heffner explained that this is a New York State web based system and is not sure what information can be accessed. He added that the database will not show the any additional services customers may be using in the county.

County Attorney Richard Mitchell suggested that in order to keep the that the expectations of what is expected of each school district needs to be in writing of what is expected so each school districts and count gives the same exact data.

The committee shared ideas on the collection and organization of data. Legislator Mulcahey suggested an intern from the college the Department of Social Services with data collection.

The information that would need to be collected and organized includes TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, and Safety Net. Along with this, the customer’s current and past addresses would need to be added to evaluate whether they are coming to the Oswego County after being on a program or whether they started on the program in the county. Data from the school districts and other organizations that offer services in the county should be collected as well in order to cross reference the amount of services one family or individual is using.

County Administrator Church suggested asking the state department that if a confidentiality agreement is signed by czb, would they be willing to turn the information over to them. He added that it should be explained that Oswego County is kicking off a PILOT program. County Attorney Mitchell suggested that the State Technology Department merge the data for the County.

All information from Kindergarten to Medicaid

CiTi should be the central location for the school districts to give the data.

6. Establishing Tasks

- County Administrator Church, Legislator Reehil and Commissioner Heffner will work with state.
- Mr. Buki said the committee needs to evaluate and think about the following questions:
 - What the county is doing or not doing that is causing the county to succeed or fail regarding moving families off TANF in five years?
 - What can be done to slow down the flow of at risk families?
 - What is extent for this whole endeavor that may actually help with poverty reduction and enlarge the middle class?
 - How can the County retain and grow the middle class?
 - What is the County doing and what is our capacity of at risk families that have not fallen into poverty?

- Are there any opportunities to prevent them falling before they do?

7. **Letterhead**

County Administrator Church explained that the taskforce should have its own identity. He distributed a copy of letterhead that he created.

8. **Fixing a Time and Place for the next meeting**

Meetings will be held once a month the between Health and Human Services committee meeting at 12:00 PM. Roy will create a meeting schedule and email it out.

The press will be invited when the committee has a solid plan in place.