



# Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force

*A Partnership of the Oswego County Legislature & County School Districts with Support from the Richard S. Shineman Foundation*

## Task Force Team Missions and Goals

### 1 - Economic Development Team

**Mission:** Create a “living” economic development plan for Oswego County in cooperation with our business community and all cities, towns and villages in the County.

**Goal 1 - Attract New Businesses, Retain Existing Businesses and Diversify the Economy.**

**Goal 2 - Develop a More Skilled Workforce.**

**Goal 3 - Explore ways to promote agriculture and businesses involved in “growing, distributing, and eating local.”**

**Goal 4 - Invest in the able-to-work but unemployed to help to independence.**

### 2 - Public and Private Social Services Collaboration Team

**Mission:** Develop a Countywide “One Stop and No Wrong Door” connection to human service support that links people to services that could prevent their need to access the normal public system. Collaboration is the key.

**Goal 1 - Define and refine the “One Stop and No Wrong Door” collaborative model.**

**Goal 2 - Address the integrated needs of children and their families by creating individual and family support networks, a multi-generational approach to services.**

**Goal 3 - Developed Cross-Agency Unified Standards of Care.**

**Goal 4 - Emphasize Prevention of Unwanted Teen Pregnancies.**

**Goal 5 - Promote rehabilitation over incarceration especially for youthful offenders**

**Goal 6 - Create a Countywide Database of all Service Providers and County Departments.**

This would be used in conjunction with the 211 system and local Ambassadors in order to more quickly locate the nearest appropriate service providers.

**Goal 7 - Develop “Local Ambassadors”** Definition of an Ambassador: Anyone who interacts with the public. Local government officials, emergency service providers, school personnel, etc.

**Goal 8 - Briskly Fight Fraud and Abuse of the System.**

**Goal 9 - Work to Fix Broken Policies in the Welfare System.**

### 3 - Youth and Schools Team

**Mission:** Develop a unified approach to students (and families) who are most at risk for not graduating to mentor and support collaborative interventions proven to increase their educational success.

**Goal 1 - Create a Best Practices Manual for schools to share**

**Goal 2 - Full-day Pre-K in all Districts**

**Goal 3 - Work to break cycles of generational poverty through confidence building and goal-setting for students—The 15 year plan. (Definition: The goal that every child who enters pre-school today is on a 15 year path to breaking generational poverty.)**

**Goal 4 - Establish school based health centers in more of our schools, including dental, mental health and nutrition services**

**Goal 5 - Promote collaborations that will facilitate a “One Stop and No Wrong Door, Multi-generational” care system.**

#### Additional thoughts:

One of the most often repeated themes throughout our focus groups was that “**To prevent you must educate.**” Pre-K, Head Start, character education, literacy training, parenting skills, the dangers of drugs, finances, work skills, social skills, all these are examples of training where a dollar spent early could pay off down the road.

#### 4 - Community Development Team

**Mission:** Develop a system of public outreach to facilitate the “One Stop and No Wrong Door” collaborative between government, schools and faith organizations to enhance human services delivery and strengthen communities.

**Goal 1 - Implement the Ambassador Program**

**Goal 2 - Develop Local Mentors** - Local mentors could help keep families connected to schools and community.

**Goal 3 - Create a “Life Skills Curriculum”** Including Literacy, GED, Soft Skills, Violence Prevention, Parenting, Health, Nutrition, Family Planning and Finance, to deliver at churches and town halls, etc.

**Goal 4 - Develop a CCC style program to build or repair public infrastructure, trails and parks, etc.**

**Goal 5 - Focus on Kids projects, organizations and activities.**

Activities provide mentoring opportunities and connect families to the community.

**Goal 6 - Increase community pride, increase property values, encourage property ownership.**

#### 5 - Policy Team

**Mission:** Identify, categorize and prioritize bad policies. Begin cataloging evidence proving why individual policies need to change. Draft new policies to replace.

**Goal 1 - Advocate changing State and Federal policies that are creating negative outcomes.**

**Goal 2 - Find ways to remove disincentives to work or to work more hours**

**Goal 3 - Fix Rural Transportation Dispatch**

**Goal 4 - Using Policy to Fight the Abuse of Services**

#### 6 - Mental Health and Homelessness Team

**Mission:** Identify deficiencies in the support system for homeless persons and find ways to help the homeless back to normalcy.

**Goal 1 - Increase the availability of safe housing options for homeless individuals and longer-term access to decent affordable low income housing.**

**Goal 2 - Find ways to help homeless persons make lifestyle changes that can lead to a safer and more productive life.**

#### 7 - Substance Abuse and Recovery Team

**Mission:** Identify deficiencies in the support system for individuals who want help recovering from substance abuse or addiction.

**Goal 1 - Find ways to increase rehabilitation and rehab services.**

**Goal 2 - Enhance mentoring and support services.**

**Goal 3 - Identify policies that deter recovery and work to change them.**

#### 8 - Grants and Fund Raising Team

**Mission:** Research grant opportunities and partnerships with non-profit agencies through which funding streams can flow directly to projects, action items or team initiatives.

**Goal 1 - Apply for grants, develop fund raising proposals or events and raise funds for prioritized task force action items.**

## Closing Thoughts

**We've begun a powerful dialogue.** If you have a special interest, or expertise, and the energy to help us succeed, please join a team or donate to a specific cause or initiative. The only way we are going to have a long-term impact on poverty in Oswego County is to mobilize every ounce of effort and good-will available. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Reehil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roy Reehil  
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