

POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRIOR FOR THE REGION

PRIOR Engagement



An Update on the Policy Research Institute for the Region
WINTER 2009

PRIOR publishes “Mount Laurel II at 25: The Unfinished Agenda of Fair Share Housing”

PRIOR released the publication “Mount Laurel II at 25: The Unfinished Agenda of Fair Share Housing.” The report is drawn from a symposium held earlier this year marking the 25th anniversary of the New Jersey Supreme Court’s decision on affordable housing, exclusionary zoning and sound planning.

The featured luncheon speaker was Michael Stegman, Director of Policy for the Program on Human and Community Development at the MacArthur Foundation and the former Assistant Secretary for Policy Development at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition, scholars from Princeton University, Rutgers University and the National Housing Institute examined the origins of the Mount Laurel decision, commented on the current state of the doctrine, analyzed its influence on geographic locales and government policy and discussed its unfinished agenda, touching on matters of race, class, redevelopment and smart growth. Panels addressed questions regarding the future of Mount Laurel, with particular emphasis on how New Jersey, the region and the nation grapple with persistent housing and related land-use challenges. Copies of the publication may be obtained by contacting Georgette Harrison gharriso@princeton.edu.

PRIOR publishes “Campus Safety in Focus: Advances & Ongoing Challenges One Year Later”

PRIOR released the publication “Campus Safety in Focus: Advances & Ongoing Challenges One Year Later,” drawn from a conference held on April 18, 2008. PRIOR and the Princeton University Department of Public Safety and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) hosted a conference exploring the ongoing progress and continuing questions involved in securing the nation’s campuses.

The day-long program featured the release of IACLEA’s *Blueprint for Safer Campuses*, a keynote address by Princeton University’s Katherine S. Newman and presentations by nationally recognized experts on the best practices and model policies in threat assessment, the growing complexities in liability analysis, and the broader sociological phenomena behind incidents. Public safety professionals from institutions in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania offered their views on the state of campus safety in the region. Copies of the publication may be obtained by contacting Georgette Harrison gharriso@princeton.edu.

PRIOR sponsors forum on The “E” in Thorough and Efficient: How Can We Insure Efficiency in Spending School Tax Dollars”

PRIOR and the New Jersey School Boards Association sponsored a forum titled “The “E” in Thorough and Efficient: How Can We Insure Efficiency in Spending School Tax Dollars” on Friday, February 6, 2009.

In the first morning session, experts discussed the wisdom and feasibility of the consolidation of school districts and addressed issues such as economy of scale, organizational efficiency, sharing of services, provision of special services, and transportation.

The second panel of experts discussed relationships between efficiency measures and school formulae, considered whether or not a school formula can guarantee efficiency, analyzed the methods of measuring a school district’s efficiency, and debated the cost efficiency of school programs.

Paul L. Tractenberg, Esquire, Board of Governors Distinguished Professor and Alfred C. Clapp Distinguished Public Service Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law – Newark delivered the morning keynote address and Hugh B. Price, the Weinberg/Sachs Visiting Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University and former President, The National Urban League, delivered the luncheon address.

The forum concluded with a panel discussion that focused on performance accountability and service delivery. Experts explored the current thinking related to accountability and performance to include how to best measure performance of the student, the teaching team, and the school.

PRIOR hosts conference on “Tougher Standards and High School Academics”

PRIOR hosted a closed practitioners’ working conference on “Tougher Standards and High School Academics,” cosponsored with the Wilson School’s Education Research Section, on November 17, 2008. The invitation-only session was moderated by Gordon MacInnes, Visiting Lecturer at WWS, and gathered practitioners, consultants, academics, Education Law Center and NJDOE staff to discuss the mandate for high school re-constitution and how school districts and their high schools can prepare for the even tougher academic standards recommended by the New Jersey High School Redesign Steering Committee. The achievement gap between affluent and poor students will only be exacerbated when more rigorous standards are set for students who are unable to meet the standards and assessments that are presently in place. The challenge will be to craft and implement a plan that will enable these students to achieve the newly-mandated goals.

PRIOR hosts Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey forum

PRIOR, in conjunction with the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, hosted a closed, invitation-only Forum on Friday, December 5, 2008, entitled “The Feasibility of the Conversion of Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield.” A distinguished group of panelist and 100 attendees discussed the pending application for conversion of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey from a not-for-profit health service corporation to a for-profit health insurer and what that will mean for New Jersey residents, if the application is successful.

Forum participants presented their views on the pending BCBSNJ conversion application, analyzed the results of similar conversions in other states, and offered opinions on anticipated benefits and potential problems for Jersey health care recipients. Participant experts included Dr. Christopher Conover, Director of the Jim Bernstein Health Policy Scholars Program, Duke University; Dr. Mark Smith, President and CEO, California HealthCare Foundation; and Dr. Joel Cantor, Professor and Director of the Center for State Health Policy, Rutgers University.

PRIOR Director, Richard F. Keevey in the Region

Richard F. Keevey, PRIOR Director, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Center for Health Care Strategies – a non-profit policy resource center dedicated to improving the health care quality for low income children and families.

Mr. Keevey participated with health care experts in New Jersey in development of a ‘Health Care Improvement Issue Paper’ for submission to President-elect Obama’s transition team.

Mr. Keevey was chair of the Revenue sub- Committee of the NJ Commission on Cancer Research’s strategic planning initiative.

The **Director** made several presentations to regional organizations on the role of PRIOR -- as well as the overall financial pressures facing the country and the state of New Jersey.

Mr. Keevey, as part of the WWS faculty’s memos to the President project, submitted a memo on the “Need for a New Management Agenda.”

PRIOR Innovative Practice Lunch Series Continues

PRIOR continued its **Innovative Practice Lunch Series** for WWS graduate students with guest speakers **Richard Roper** MPA ’71, Director of the Planning Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, **Martin Johnson** ’81, President and CEO of Isles, Inc., and **Michael Aron** MPA ’70, Senior Political Correspondent and Interim Director of NJN Nightly News. Five additional luncheon presentations are scheduled for the remainder of the semester.

[For more information, please visit our web site at http://www.princeton.edu/prior/](http://www.princeton.edu/prior/)

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