

Health & Welfare Policy & Reform in the Florio Administration
Monday, April 8, 2013

Participants

Brenda Bacon is president and chief executive officer of Brandywine Senior Living, a company she co-founded in 1996, which now owns and operates 25 senior living communities in five states. From 1989 to 1993, she served as chief of management and planning, a cabinet-level position, under Governor James J. Florio. In this capacity, she oversaw health care and human services reform efforts and departments, and served as a senior advisor to the Governor. Bacon currently serves as Vice Chair of the board of the Assisted Living Federation of America and is on the executive board of the American Senior Housing Association. She is also an independent director of FTI Consulting, Inc., (NYSE: FCN).

Nancy H. Becker founded and led the independent public affairs consulting firm Becker Associates for 30 years until her retirement in 2006. Since 2008, she has been working on the Thomas H. Kean portion of the Center on the American Governor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, where she is a Visiting Associate. She also serves on the boards of Capital Health System, the Mental Health Association of New Jersey, Rider University, Greenwood House, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and the Christine Todd Whitman Excellence in Public Service Series. Previously, Becker served as the vice-chair of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for eight years. She was a long-time member of the board of the American Repertory Ballet, where she served as chair from 2002-2004. She also served on the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the New Jersey Advisory Committee of Channel 13-WNET, the New Jersey Council on Advertising, the Center for Non-Profit Corporations, Women in Philanthropy and the Trust Company of Princeton.

Raymond Bramucci was selected by Governor Jim Florio to serve as Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Labor. Among his signature achievements was the passage of the Workforce Development Partnership Act, which trained unemployed workers in high-tech, emerging trades. From 1994 to 1998 Bramucci served as the executive director of the Seton Hall University Institute on Work, a not-for-profit organization advocating workplace equity. He also served as an arbitrator on the New Jersey Board of Mediation, a special advisor to the president of Montclair State University, and an adjunct professor of political science at Rutgers University. In 1998 President Bill Clinton tapped him to serve as Assistant Secretary of Labor at the U.S. Department of Labor, where he oversaw the administration of national Youth Opportunity grants and became a driving force in employment and training nationwide. From 1979 – 1990 Bramucci led the New Jersey office of Senator Bill Bradley. He now consults on worker training, labor issues, conflict resolution and arbitration for public and private sector clients throughout the region.

Kathy E. Crotty was executive director of New Jersey's Senate Democratic Office from 1986 until her retirement in April, 2009. First appointed by Senate President John Russo, she was reappointed by Senate Presidents John Lynch and Richard Codey. Crotty was responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the New Jersey Senate, providing leadership on a wide variety of issues. She was the first and only woman to serve as executive director of one of the legislature's partisan staff offices. Crotty first joined the Senate staff in 1974 as special assistant to the executive director. Throughout her career, she worked to professionalize the legislature and its staff and expand public access to and understanding of the legislative process. Crotty was also involved in efforts to renovate and restore the State Capitol building and related legislative facilities, chairing the State Capitol Joint Management Commission. Outside of the legislature, she has been involved in and advised a number of gubernatorial and legislative campaigns and was a delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention. Long active in women's political advocacy, she was a founding member of PAM's List, a PAC supporting Democratic women candidates for the state legislature. She serves on the advisory committees for Ready to Run™ and the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership, both programs of Eagleton's Center for American Women and Politics. Crotty is a graduate of Rutgers University-Newark College of Arts and Sciences.

Robert J. Del Tufo was New Jersey attorney general from 1990 to 1993. Previously, he served as United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey and as commissioner of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation, first assistant state attorney general and director of New Jersey's Division of Criminal Justice. Del Tufo is now in private practice primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, environmental law, products liability, white collar defense, and governmental relations. He has served on numerous boards including the Boys and Girls Club of America and continues to serve on: PAX, American Bar Foundation, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Integrity, Inc., Daytop Village Foundation, and John Cabot University, among others.

Sonia Delgado is a principal at Princeton Public Affairs Group with more than twenty years of experience in the analysis and management of legislative and regulatory issues in public sector, corporate and healthcare settings. Prior to joining PPAG, she held senior executive positions at HIP Health Plan, UMDNJ University Hospital, and Mercy Health Plan of New Jersey. A former policy analyst with the New Jersey State Senate Democratic Office, she participated on the health transition teams for Governors Corzine and McGreevey and was appointed by Governor Codey to the Board of Trustees of UMDNJ, where she served as interim chairperson to the Board. In 2001 she was appointed by the chairman of the Democratic State Committee to the Legislative Apportionment Commission. Delgado has led coursework in health care policy at Seton Hall University and the New School for Social Research. She currently serves on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Jersey Nursing Initiative National Advisory Committee and the board of the Greater Trenton Behavioral Health Center and the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

Steve DeMicco, as chairman and senior partner at Message & Media, Inc. and PublicMedia, provides expert services in the areas of message development, strategic planning, communications strategies and campaign management. In addition to his successful efforts as campaign director for Governors Jim McGreevey and Jon Corzine, DeMicco also directed the U.S. Senate campaigns of Frank Lautenberg, Jon Corzine, and Bob Menendez. His firm serves Reps. Frank Pallone, Rush Holt, and Albio Sires and provides campaign and strategic services to Mayors Cory Booker, Jeremiah Healy, Chris Bollwage and Jim Cahill, among others. During the 2010 and 2012 federal election cycles, M&M also provided strategic and media services to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and other party committees.

Donald T. DiFrancesco was a member of the State Senate from 1979-2002 and also served as New Jersey's fifty-first governor from 2000-2002. His career in public service began with his election to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1975 where he served until 1979. He served as Senate minority leader from 1982 to 1984. In 1992, he was chosen to serve as president of the Senate, setting a record for his decade-long service in that role. On January 31, 2001, when Gov. Whitman resigned to become administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DiFrancesco became the first New Jersey legislator since the amendment to the 1947 State Constitution to serve in the dual role of Governor and Senate President, a role he held during the period following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. DiFrancesco was born in Scotch Plains. He is currently a senior partner at the law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis & Lehrer, P.C. in Warren, New Jersey.

Jamie Fox is a founding partner of the strategic consulting firm Fox & Shuffler, specializing in transportation and infrastructure policy and planning, crisis management, government affairs, media relations and regulatory support. The firm's offices are based in New York City and Trenton, New Jersey. He served as a senior advisor to the Obama campaign in Florida in 200 and also led national Democratic efforts to regain the U.S. Senate Majority in 2000. He is a regular media commentator on political and policy matters. Fox served as commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, chief of staff to New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey and U.S. Senator Bob Torricelli, state director for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, and executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. He also served as deputy chief of staff to former New Jersey Governor James Florio.

Jeanne M. Fox, a commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP), served as its president and a member of the Governor's cabinet from January 2002 to January 2010. Prior to her appointment to the Board, Fox served as a Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and as commissioner and deputy commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. Fox is active on many boards, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Public Advisory Council on Smart Grid; Harvard Electricity Policy Group (HEPG); National Petroleum Council; National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP); and Board of the National Regulatory Research Institute Research Advisory Committee (NRRI-RAC). Additionally, she served as President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners and as a member of the National Academy of Science Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making; National Leadership Group on Energy Efficiency; EPRI Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; and the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee. She has served as a visiting Distinguished Lecturer at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Kelvin S. "Kelly" Ganges serves as chief of staff to Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes. He formerly served as executive director of the New Jersey General Assembly Majority Office. Earlier, he served in several leadership roles in the Assembly Democratic Office and represented that office as a staff liaison to Governor Florio's Commission on Health Care Costs. Ganges has also served as a legislative aide and chief of staff to two state legislators and as state legislative coordinator for the New Jersey Transit Corporation. He worked in Washington, DC as chief of staff to Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Ganges was a member of the adjunct faculty at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. He is a court appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer for children with the Mercer/Burlington CASA chapter.

Sharon Anne Harrington is a commissioner and currently vice chair of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission. She served as chief administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) from March 2004 through July 2009. Harrington was state director for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg. She had previously been managing partner with Public Strategies Impact, a Trenton-based government relations/public affairs firm where her portfolio included public and private sector clients at the state and federal levels. Harrington served as vice chair of the Region 1 Board of Directors of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and on its International board. She served as a member of the State Ethics Commission, public member to the New Jersey Cemetery Board (1981-1983), commissioner on the Urban Enterprise Zone Authority (1984-1990) and member and chairman of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (1990-1996; 2002-2010). Harrington currently serves as a board member of ArtPride New Jersey, the Non-Profit Finance Fund, and the Atlantic City Improvement District Advisory Committee. Past service includes: the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, Passage Theatre, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Women of Irish Heritage of the Jersey Shore.

Barbara Hauke is an independent agent for AFLAC insurance focusing on helping employers understand the importance of offering voluntary benefits to their employees and to understand and communicate to their employees the facts, benefits and disadvantages of Healthcare Reform. She is also the President of BHK Franchise, LLC. Hauke was a graduate fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Greta Kiernan worked in government for 40 years including one term in the Assembly from Bergen County. She was on the staff of three Assembly Members, three State Senators, one Congressman (Rush Holt) and three Governors. She also worked at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Department of Environmental Protection. Now retired from government, she is a freelance creative consultant, writer and editor. Kiernan is vice chair of the Plainsboro Planning Board and serves as a trustee of the Plainsboro Public Library.

David L. Knowlton founded and served as executive director of the Health Care Payers Coalition of New Jersey, a non-profit corporation representing business and labor organizations that provide healthcare. Knowlton is currently the president and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. He has served as a vice president of the Medical Inter-Insurance Exchange (MIIX) and is immediate past chairman of the Leapfrog Group, a foundation committed to reduce medical errors and improve the quality of patient care throughout the United States. Knowlton has served on several National Quality Forum (NQF) Steering Committees and currently co-chairs the NQF Steering Committee on Stroke Measures. Knowlton served as deputy commissioner of health for the State of New Jersey from 1987 to 1990. He currently serves on the Commissioner's Quality Improvement Advisory Committee. Knowlton was appointed by Governor Chris Christie to serve as chairman of the health sub-committee of his transition team. He chairs the health reform working group for Senator Joseph Vitale which continues to work on the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in New Jersey. He was vice chairman of Health Decisions, a foundation dedicated to improving the caliber of and access to quality end-of-life care. Knowlton has authored several published articles on health care coalitions and related health care management issues. He is a member of the Leadership Team of the Consumer Disclosure Project nationally and is a senior scholar at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He has taught political science at Rutgers and public health in urban ministry at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He chairs and teaches in the Rutgers/Johnson & Johnson Health Policy Excellence program.

Tina Lado, a former staff member in the Florio administration, is the director of government and community relations at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Jeannine LaRue joined Kaufmann Zita Group in 2011 after retiring from Rutgers University as vice president of public affairs. Prior to joining the University's administration, LaRue served as deputy chief of staff for former New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine. From 1996-2006, she was senior vice president of governmental affairs for Saint Barnabas Health Care System. LaRue was appointed by Governor James J. Florio to the Casino Control Commission and served for 5 years. Prior to that appointment, she served for 10 years as the chief lobbyist for the New Jersey Education Association. LaRue has been an adjunct professor, college administrator and trustee for Camden County College and Essex County College. She served 12 years in elective office on her local school board and her town council.

Robert "Bob" Long is a regional director for Paradigm Associates, a national business consulting firm, working as a business improvement specialist and personal development coach. Long served as the deputy treasurer and treasurer of Governor Florio's 1989 and 1993 gubernatorial campaigns, and subsequently served similar roles for Governor McGreevey's 1997 and 2001 campaigns. Long served on the transition teams of both Governors as well. Additionally, Long was the executive assistant to the Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office from 1990-1991. Following the 1993 campaign, Long joined with Bob Guarasci to found the NJ Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) in Paterson, a thriving social service agency providing an array of services to Paterson residents and the community-at-large. Long is an ordained clergy person, currently serving as a part-time pastor in the United Methodist Church.

Ruth B. Mandel is director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics, and Rutgers Board of Governors Professor of Politics. She has led Eagleton's expansion of graduate and undergraduate offerings and launched new program areas in youth political engagement, immigrant political behavior, and the study of governors. In 1971, Professor Mandel co-founded Eagleton's Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). As CAWP'S director for over two decades, she developed the nation's premier research and education center for the study of women's changing political roles. Her *In the Running: The New Woman Candidate* was the first book about women campaigning for office. During three administrations (1991 to 2006), Mandel held a presidential appointment on the governing council of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Named Council Vice Chairperson by President Clinton in 1993, she led the process to create the Committee on Conscience and became its founding chair. Her board service also includes the Charles H. Revson Foundation and the National Council for Research on Women. Recently she joined the board of the New Jersey Council on the Humanities.

Amy B. Mansue has been president and chief executive officer of Children's Specialized Hospital, the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital, since 2003. Mansue worked for Governor Jim Florio as a staffer on healthcare policy in Congress and in his policy office. In 1993, she oversaw programs for children, people with developmental disabilities, mental health and Medicaid as a deputy commissioner in the New Jersey Department of Human Services. She served as deputy chief of staff to Governor James McGreevey. Her honors include being selected as one of the 100 most powerful people in New Jersey business, by NJBiz and by Modern Healthcare as one of the top 40 executives under the age 40. She has been honored by numerous non-profit organizations for her work on health care reform and for helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Mansue currently serves on the boards of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce (2nd Vice Chair), New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), Middlesex Water Company, Children's Hospital Association (Treasurer), and the Association's Public Policy Council.

Russ Molloy is vice president of government relations for Meridian Health and oversees all federal, state and local legislative strategies for one of New Jersey's largest healthcare systems. Prior to joining Meridian, Molloy led the government affairs office for the University of Pennsylvania Health System, one of the nation's largest integrated health systems. He served as the principal strategist and manager for all contacts with local, state, tri-state and federal officials. Molloy was recruited to Penn following three years as the head of government relations for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. During Governor Florio's administration, Molloy served as a policy advisor, deputy director of the Authorities Unit and deputy director of Policy. He is a past chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Health and Hospital Law Section and currently serves on the board of directors of the Trauma Center Association of America and chairs the Academic Health Centers of the Mid-Atlantic. He is also an adjunct senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth A. Ryan is president and CEO of the Princeton-based New Jersey Hospital Association, a not-for-profit trade association representing New Jersey's hospitals and other healthcare providers. As CEO, Ryan oversees NJHA, the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey, a not-for-profit affiliate that promotes continuing patient safety, quality improvement education and research; and the for-profit Healthcare Business Solutions, which provides group purchasing and other business solutions for healthcare providers. Prior to being selected as CEO of NJHA in 2008, Ryan served as its COO and general counsel. She started her career practicing law in Mount Holly and went on to serve as assistant counsel under former Governor Jim Florio and chief of staff of the state Department of Health. She was also a senior vice president with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. and a regional executive for the American Hospital Association and the Healthcare Association of New York State. She served as a member of New Jersey's Board of Medical Examiners, the Clinton-Gore Transition Team, the legal audit team for the Clinton National Health Care Reform Task Force and both Governor Corzine's and Governor McGreevey's transition teams.

David Scanlan serves as the chief of staff at the NJ Casino Control Commission. In this role, he is the chief administrator and primary policy advisor to the Chairman and Commissioners. Scanlan previously worked in a business advocacy role at Rutgers University in Camden and served as an assistant commissioner at the NJ Department of Community Affairs. For 10 years prior, he served as president of a health care management firm. He began his career as a staff member of then-Congressman James Florio and joined the Florio administration's transition team, ultimately serving the governor as his Director of Appointments.

Eleanor Seel was employed by the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) from 1976 to 2011 serving as committee aide to the Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee from 1978 to 2011, and as section chief of the Human Services Section from 1986 to 2011. At OLS, she provided nonpartisan research, bill drafting, fiscal analysis, and committee staffing services to both Houses of the Legislature on issues concerning public welfare, Medicaid, developmental disabilities, mental health, health policy, regulation of health care facilities and health care professionals, child welfare, senior citizens, and health insurance.

Donald Sico is president and CEO of Donald Sico & Co. LLC. In the early 1980's, Sico was a reporter and editor at *The Madison Press* in London, Ohio, where he won an Associated Press award for his investigative report of the state's juvenile justice system. After working for the Ohio Legislature in an investigatory capacity for three years, he became press secretary to U.S. Representative Bob McEwen (R-Ohio) on Capitol Hill. He left Washington in 1988 to become speechwriter for New Jersey Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick. In 1989, Sico served as communications director in Hardwick's Republican primary campaign for governor. He then served as communications director to the gubernatorial campaign of James Courter. Following Courter's defeat, Sico returned to the Assembly Republican Office as communications director. From 1990 to 2002, he served as executive director of the Assembly Republicans, the longest serving executive director of the Assembly in its history. Donald Sico & Co. LLC has provided media, public and government relations and event planning services to a wide array of clients. Sico, formerly a guest columnist on the www.inthelobby.net website, now publishes his own blog at www.sicoviews.blogspot.com.

Rick Sinding served as a policy advisor to the governor and as assistant commissioner of environmental protection in the Florio administration. He recently retired after 42 years in and out of journalism, state government, public policy research and advocacy, nonprofit management and academia and is now assisting the Center on the American Governor with development of the Florio Archive.

Robert Smartt has held senior management positions in planning, policy analysis, public affairs and public administration at the New Jersey Treasury Department, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the New Jersey State Legislature. He has served as treasury ethics officer, deputy state treasurer, state contract manager for the New Jersey Lottery gaming system contract, administrator of the state Office of Telecommunications and Information Systems, manager of the Port Authority Office of Strategy and Policy Analysis, and deputy director of the General Assembly Majority Office. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as staff vice president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the highest-ranking staff officer on the executive committee, and served on the executive committee of the Eastern Regional Conference of The Council of State Governments. He worked as a reporter and editor at the *Daily Record* in Morristown, as a reporter at *The Star-Ledger*, and as deputy press secretary for the first Brendan T. Byrne gubernatorial campaign.

William Waldman has served as a visiting professor, lecturer and executive in residence at the Rutgers University School of Social Work since January, 2001. From July 1998 to December, 2000 he was the executive director of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) in Washington, DC. Waldman was employed by the State of New Jersey from July 1987 to June 1998 during which time he served as a director of the Division of Youth and Family Services, as deputy commissioner and then commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and a member of the cabinet for three Governors of New Jersey. From 1975 until 1987 Waldman directed the Middlesex County, New Jersey Department of Human Services and before that he worked for the Essex County Welfare Board in Newark. He began as a caseworker and advanced through a series of progressively responsible supervisory and administrative positions including the administration of the County's food stamp, employment and training programs.

Scott Weiner is the president, CEO and a member of the Board of Directors of the Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation (AFHDC). Prior to being elected to those positions in May 2010, Scott served as the chairman of the AFHDC and as a trustee of its parent organization, The Actors Fund. From 2006 through 2008, he served as chief executive officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority and its predecessor, the New Jersey School Construction Corporation. Immediately prior to that position, Weiner served on the transition team for New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine and as the Governor's Special Counsel for School Construction. Weiner has practiced law with a concentration in land use and municipal finance and has served as a senior executive in a number of private and public corporations related to the energy industry. He is the founding director of the Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy at Rutgers University and has served as a senior policy fellow and faculty fellow at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Weiner also has served as president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy; chief counsel to New Jersey Governor Jim Florio; vice chair of the New Jersey Executive Commission of Ethical Standards during the Florio administration; and as a member of the Clinton-Gore EPA Transition Team.

John Weingart is associate director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. He also chaired New Jersey's Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council from its establishment in 2004 through 2009. Before coming to Eagleton, Weingart worked in New Jersey state government, focusing on environmental and land use issues, during the administrations of two Democratic and two Republican governors, including that of Governor Florio. His posts included director of the Division of Coastal Resources and assistant commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection; and executive director of the state's Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility Siting Board. He chaired the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission from 2002-2004.