

## PHSSR InsideTrack-June 2012



As I leave Lexington, a place where I actually have a "favorite restaurant" thanks to the Keeneland Conference, on my way back to Colorado, I am reminded of how fortunate I feel to have found this "home" for my research. The funny thing is, my Colorado "home" is in a School of Public Affairs. While it might seem like an odd fit (a public affairs scholar fitting into a public health field), it is actually quite the opposite. When I first attended the Keeneland Conference, I was invited to present. My first thought was "wow, they must be desperate for submissions," and while the field was quite new (this was the first), they were anything but desperate. I learned later that I was invited because I was actually doing research that fit into the scope of how PHSSR is defined. I just didn't know that yet. However, a few years prior, I was lucky enough to work for my now long-time mentor, Dr. Nicki Lurie, at the RAND Corporation, who saw early on how the skills I brought to the table (knowledge of organization theory, public management, and interorganizational collaboration) could be applied in her world - public health. She encouraged me to develop a tool (PARTNER - [www.partnertool.net](http://www.partnertool.net)) that combined all of this into

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*research (PHSSR) examines questions that relate to the financing, organization and delivery of public health services - and how those factors translate to population health.*

something that would build capacity in the public health community. My goals now are to continue to bring the well-developed scholarship of public affairs into the field of PHSSR, and I am thrilled that three of my doctoral students are interested in doing the same. While I am pleased to see them apply the foundational theories, research, and practice of public affairs to questions in PHSSR, I am equally tickled that in my department at the University of Colorado Denver, the use of the word "systems" to describe the interrelated, multidisciplinary interests of the students is prevalent. We (myself and two students) have written a little about this in a recent *American Journal of Public Health* article titled *A Systematic Review of Collaboration and Network Research in the Public Affairs Literature: Implications for Public Health Practice and Research*. I encourage my students to become active in the PHSSR agenda and tell them often that it is rare to find a place and fit as a junior researcher that will yield such a high reward. I am grateful to be a part of this community, and excited about what is yet to come.

Danielle Varda, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs

Click the [video link](#) above to learn more about Dr. Varda's work and the PARTNER tool.

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## Research

### Latest PubMed Search Results

[The economic, institutional, and political determinants of public health delivery system structures.](#)

Ingram RC, Scutchfield FD, Mays GP, Bhandari MW.  
Public Health Rep. 2012 Mar-Apr; 127(2):208-15.  
PMID: 22379221 [PubMed – indexed for MEDLINE]

[Is there an association between local health department organizational and administrative factors and childhood immunization coverage rates?](#)

Ransom J, Schaff K, Kan L.  
J Health Hum Serv Adm. 2012 Spring;34(4):418-55.  
PMID: 22530285 [PubMed – indexed for MEDLINE]

[Public health department accreditation implementation: transforming public health department performance.](#)

Riley WJ, Bender K, Lownik E.  
Am J Public Health. 2012 Feb; 102(2):237-42. Epub 2011 Dec 15.  
PMID: 22390438 [PubMed – indexed for MEDLINE]

[Related citations](#)

### Award Winning Research

AcademyHealth's PHSR Interest Group announces the [5 most noteworthy articles from 2011](#). Congratulations to the authors of the Year Award!

[articles from 2011](#). One article will receive the Article of the Year Award at the [11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interest Group Meeting](#), June 26-27 in Orlando.

### **National Network of Public Health Institutes Announces Launch of Healthy Farms, Healthy People State Meetings Learning Community**

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) has selected seven nonprofit organizations to receive \$7,500 awards, coupled with individualized technical assistance from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), to conduct meetings in 2012 promoting a cross-sector examination of the intersection between agriculture, food systems, and human health. Find more information [here](#).

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## **Practice**

### **Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks**

Debbie Humphries of Yale University recently presented findings from the Connecticut Public Health PBRN's study of revenue streams in service delivery in the state's local health jurisdictions (LHJ). Through collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, the team came to four key conclusions:

- LHJs adjust to economic downturns and reduced revenues in a variety of ways, but these adjustments are not captured in the Department of Public Health's annual report data.
- LHJ rural/urban location and LHJ district, full time, or part time status are more important predictors of revenues and services than unemployment rate or housing permits.
- Political support from local government officials is an important determinant of LHJ revenues.
- Some services are more resistant to changing economic and revenue conditions than others.

The full presentation will be available soon on the Public Health PBRN resources [webpage](#).

### **Six Research Networks Join Forces to Examine Geographic Differences in Public Health Delivery**

Everyone knows that location matters in real estate, but what effect does it have on how public health services are delivered? A new large-scale research project called MPROVE – Multi-Network Research Practice and Outcome Variation Examination – attempts to answer that question.

MPROVE, the first project to bring together the power of six public health practice-based research networks (PBRNs) from across the country, will look at how geography may play a role in the delivery of public health services that promote health and prevent disease and injury in communities.

Find out more about the projects [here](#).

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## Policy

### **A Sneak Preview of the 2012 Public Health Law Conference**

In the [next webinar](#), Toxic Exposures, Emergency Planning and E-Health Records: A Sneak Preview of the 2012 Public Health Law Conference, attendees will get a sneak preview into just three of the numerous topics that will be covered at the [2012 Public Health Law Conference](#). Webinar presenters will discuss using law and policy to reduce toxic exposures, to protect older adults in public health emergencies and to regulate electronic health records (EHR) for public health purposes. This is an opportunity for webinar attendees to learn about these important subjects, gain insight into the conference and to ask questions that will inform the speakers' final presentations. Find out more about the webinar and registration [here](#).

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## Funding

### **Keeneland Conference Scholarships to Honor Dr. Richard E. Brown**

To honor the legacy of Dr. E. Richard "Rick" Brown, distinguished leader, scholar and teacher in public health and the founding director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research is establishing three annual Keeneland Conference scholarships. These scholarships recognize Dr. Brown's role in PHSSR and his participation in the Keeneland Conference.

A true public health visionary, Dr. Brown touched the lives of tens of thousands of Americans with his unique blend of warmth, intelligence, tenacity and belief that public health data and information could be a powerful force for good.

We at the National Coordinating Center for PHSSR wish to recognize Dr. Brown's life and dedication and contributions to the field through three annual scholarships to defray the cost of attending the PHSSR Keeneland Conference.

The scholarships honoring his life and work will be awarded to, in order of preference, doctoral students who are pursuing research in PHSSR and to junior scholars within three years of receiving their doctorate, who are from historically underrepresented research communities. Special consideration will be extended to scholars from minority or disadvantaged backgrounds, such as the first in a family to graduate from college.

Recipients of the annual Dr. E. Richard "Rick" Brown Keeneland Conference Scholarships will be expected to attend the entire Keeneland Conference

and participate with junior researchers in networking events. Applications will be available after Nov. 15, 2012, at the [Keeneland Conference website](#) and the [National Coordinating Center for PHSSR website](#) for the 2013 Brown Keeneland Conference Scholarships.

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## Events

### **Attend the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Orlando**

AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting is packed with public health, PHSSR, and population health related sessions, including methods training, policy roundtables, and presentations of emerging research results. A list of related sessions can be found [here](#).

To register, visit the AcademyHealth [Events Section](#).

### **Last Chance to Submit Your Idea for AcademyHealth and PHLR Event**

AcademyHealth's PHSR Interest Group and Public Health Law Research (PHLR) are co-sponsoring a reception and "performance" of *Critical Opportunities for Public Health Law* on Tuesday evening, June 26, 2012. PHLR and the PHSR IG have extended the deadline to submit your pitch for this fun, interactive reception until June 6!

Join as a presenter or as a spectator at a "poetry slam"-type reception where multiple presenters will be filmed pitching their great idea for using law as a tool to promote public health. Visit the [PHLR website](#) to learn more about the criteria for what makes an idea a Critical Opportunity, download a template and submit your 3-5 minute "TED-talk"-style pitch. PHLR will select the top 3 to 4 ideas for presentation at the reception. Check out the [PHLR website](#) for more details.

### **NALBOH Webinar – Facilitating the NPHPS: Governance Instrument**

During this webinar, participants will learn about the differences between the State, Local and Governance instruments; why it is important to complete a Governance assessment; and how the results of this assessment can be integrated with other assessment processes. The webinar will also spend some time on the underlying structure of the Governance Instrument (functions) and how the instrument has evolved from Version 2.0.

#### **Presenters:**

Tricia Valasek, NALBOH; Bethany Grose, NALBOH; Valeria Carlson, CDC

June 14, 2012 3-4 pm EDT

There is no cost to participate in the webinar. Click [here](#) to register today.

Also, register now for [NALBOH's 20th Annual Conference](#) August 8-10 in Atlanta, Ga.

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## In Memorium



### Marie Fallon

The National Coordinating Center for PHSSR extends our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and associates of Marie M. Fallon, CEO of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. Marie passed away May 5, 2012. She will be greatly missed. Learn more about memorial contributions and how to share your special memories of Marie on the

NALBOH [website](#).

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