PHSSR Research-In-Progress Series:
Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 12noon -1pm EDT

Perspectives on Primary Care and Public Health Collaboration

Conference Phone: 877-394-0659
Conference Code: 775 483 8037#
Please remember to mute your computer speakers during the presentation
Agenda

Welcome: Glen Mays, PhD, National Coordinating Center PHSSR

Presenters: “Perspectives on Primary Care and Public Health Collaboration”

Kim Gearin, PhD, MS, and Beth Gyllstrom, PhD, MPH, Senior Research Scientists, Minnesota Dept. of Health

Rebekah Pratt, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health

Commentary: Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MPH, Schools of Nursing and Public Health, University of Washington

Questions and Discussion

Future Webinars and Announcements
Presenters

Kim Gearin, PhD, MS  
Senior Research Scientist, Minnesota Dept. of Health

Beth Gyllstrom, PhD, MPH  
Senior Research Scientist, Minnesota Dept. of Health

Rebekah Pratt, PhD  
Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health
Perspectives on Primary Care and Public Health Collaboration

Kim Gearin, PhD, MS and Beth Gyllstrom, PhD, MPH: Minnesota Department of Health

Rebekah Pratt, PhD: University of Minnesota

December 3, 2014
Public Health Public Health Services & Systems Research
Research in Progress
Acknowledgements

The Minnesota Department of Health is a grantee of *Public Health Services and Systems Research* (PHSSR), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

This research would not be possible without the local public health directors and local clinic medical directors and staff who participated in the interviews, as well as all of those who participate on their practice-based research networks and have provided guidance on the implementation of this study.
Partner State Investigators

**Colorado**

Lisa VanRaemdonck, MPH
Sarah Lampe, MPH
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Don Nease, MD
University of Colorado, Denver

**Washington**

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University of Washington, School of Nursing

Laura-Mae Baldwin, MD, MPH
Gina Keppel, MPH
University of Washington, Department of Family Medicine

**Wisconsin**

Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN
Tracy Mrochek, MPH
University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing

David Hahn, MD, MS
Erin Leege, MPH
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health
Primary Care and Public Health

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) makes a compelling case that increased collaboration between primary care and public health is crucial to population health, and the Affordable Care Act provides new incentives and expectations for such partnerships.

Primary Care-Public Health Joint Study

**Purpose**

- Develop measures and use them to identify differences in integration.

- Identify factors that facilitate or inhibit integration.

- Examine the relationship between extent of integration, and services and outcomes in select areas (immunizations, tobacco use, and physical activity).
Primary Care and Public Health Research Questions

• How does the degree of integration between PC and PH vary across local jurisdictions?

• What factors facilitate or inhibit integration, and how can PC and PH leverage those factors to increase integration?

• Does the degree of integration differ based on health topic?

• Do areas of greater integration have better health outcomes?
Study Design & Timeline

The study combines existing health data with new data collected through telephone interviews, an on-line survey, and focus groups.

February-May 2014: Conduct key informant interviews
April-July 2014: Qualitative analysis, present early findings

July-December 2014: Qualitative results dissemination; Online survey development & testing

Early 2015: Field online survey
2015: Quantitative analysis, mixed methods analysis
2016: Translation and dissemination activities, including convening focus groups
In early 2014, each state conducted at least 5 pairs of key informant interviews that engaged a public health director and primary care representative from the same jurisdiction.

• 40 interviews analyzed in total; 10 in each state
• Emerging themes identified systematically through the data
• Coding was done *independently* of theoretical models, allowing a fresh perspective
• Qualitative analysis contributes to all of the research questions
• Next several slides highlight qualitative findings, which advance each of our aims
Variation in Collaboration

• Collaboration a preferred term to integration
• Key components of the PC-PH relationship emerged as important for collaboration
  • Aligned leadership
  • Formal processes
  • Commitment to a shared strategic vision
  • Data sharing and analysis
  • Sustainability
  • Opportunity
  • Partnership
  • The collaboration context
Key Aspects of Collaboration

- **Partnership**
  
  “For me it has been a huge learning opportunity. I see them as equal partners. I think that you know I have been so many times amazed with regards to what they have been able to deliver, when we have a collaboration and how dedicated they are. So I cannot say better things. It’s just great to have this opportunity.” (Minnesota, Primary Care).
Differences in Collaboration by Health Topic

- More narrowly defined topics have been easier for collaboration between PC and PH
- Common areas of current work: immunization, CVD risk, infectious disease, mental health, obesity
- Common areas for future work: mental health, obesity, smoking cessation, environmental health, emergency preparedness
Frequently Cited Facilitators & Barriers to Collaboration

Some of the more frequently mentioned barriers included:
- Lack of resources
- Poor communication
- Data sharing issues
- A lack of understanding each other
- Lack of cross training
- Need for relationship building
- A need to change the system
- Unmatched priorities

Some of the more frequently mentioned facilitators included:
- Co-location
- Building on opportunity
- Previous working relationship on other community initiatives (e.g. committees or community groups)
- Dedicated staff time
- Ongoing communication
Is increased collaboration related to improved health outcomes?

- PH mainly say there is *always* a benefit to health outcomes
- PC describe benefits *and* competing demands
- Very difficult to be measured or assessed in ways that allow the benefit to be shown

- “I mean, the clients that we care for, we have in common, both as populations as well as individuals, in many ways. So the extent to which we can align ourselves with the benefit of our communities and our patients in mind, the better off we all are. I mean, its kind of a simplistic way, but our fates are so intertwined that it makes no sense for us to not always be working with each other.” (Washington, Primary Care)
Framework Analysis

• Many frameworks have been developed to characterize the collaboration between PC and PH

• The study team has examined several frameworks and is working to create a modified framework.

• This modified framework will serve to guide the development of the quantitative survey instrument, as well as provide a basis for translation and dissemination activities.
## The Crosswalk:

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Current concepts
Framework Analysis

- Data coded initially blind to the models
- Data analysis indicated key themes and areas in the interviews
- Key themes cross coded with framework characteristics
- This allows us to see how our coding relates to the current frameworks
Framework Analysis
Emerging new framework

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Multi-Level Framework

- Population & Community Level
  - Shared Vision
  - Aligned Leadership
  - Data used for shared CHA
  - Innovation

- Organizational System Level
  - Building on opportunity
  - Shared population-health focus
  - Formal structures

- Patient-Centered
  - EMRs and data sharing capability
  - Established referral networks
  - Individual relationships

- Defined Roles & Responsibilities

- Organizational Champion(s)

- Communication

- Trust & Respect

- Mutual Awareness
Research Conclusions

• Study demonstrating potential to build primary care/public health research relationships within and across states.

• Informants universally rejected “integration” in favor of terms “working together.”

• Comments suggest several key characteristics that support working together across public health and primary care.

• Many findings reinforce or elevate themes in existing research literature. Some additional findings contribute important nuance and insight.
Practice Conclusions

• Systematic, long term efforts are needed to overcome a fundamental lack of mutual understanding.

• Primary care clinics and local health departments need more intentional opportunities and tangible expectations to come together, strengthen a relationship, and build a shared history of collaboration.

• Clinics and health departments can also be more strategic to capitalize on serendipity or reactive opportunities to work together, i.e. “predictable crises.”
Limitations

• This was a qualitative study, with 5 dyads sampled per site (40 total respondents).
• This is not necessarily representative, but was sampled for a depth and breadth of experiences.
• Further testing will be conducted with the quantitative survey.
• The analysis could have been influenced by the perspectives of the team, although group analysis sessions and consultation with the multi-state partnership has been undertaken in order to help validate the findings.
Questions?
Minnesota Investigators

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MN Public Health Research to Action Network:
http://www.health.state.mn.us/ran
Commentary

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University of Washington

Questions and Discussion
2015 PHSSR Keeneland Conference
April 20-22, 2015

Call for Abstracts
Deadline: December 10, 2014

Go to:
www.keenelandconference.org

Also see:
www.publichealthsystems.org
Future Webinars – PHSSR Research in Progress

All webinars from 12-1 pm, ET

Dec 10 – Integrating Public Health and Healthcare: Lessons from One Urban County

Erik L. Carlton, DrPH, Health Systems Management and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Memphis

Commentary:
Paul Erwin, MD, DrPH, Dept. of Public Health, University of Tennessee
Crystal Miller, MPH, Public Health Director, WEDCO District Health Department, Kentucky

2015: Save the Dates!

January  7 and 14 (Wednesdays) and January 22 (Thursday)

February 4 and 11 (Wednesdays) and February 19 (Thursday)
For more information contact:

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