

Issue # 64

PBRN Week in Review | Jan 28, 2011

PBRN Grantees and Affiliates: Please circulate relevant information to your network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the National Coordinating Center at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or 501-551-0106. Newsletter archives are available [here](#).

Notable PBRN Activities

- ◆ **Public Health Blog.** PBRN National Advisory Committee Member, Dr. Alice Ammerman was a guest author recently for the blog, "Community and Economic Development in North Carolina and Beyond," hosted by the UNC School of Government. Please visit this [site](#) to read the blog and learn more about the UNC School of Government's Community and Economic Development program.
- ◆ **Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) Update.** The PHAST study is moving ahead with retrospective data collection. PHAST conference calls have focused on the need for **retrospective** LHD services data related, but not limited, to maternal/child health, environmental health, and communicable disease control. These domains of practice potentially include some of the most comparable, existing data across PBRN states and health departments. Discussions have been helpful not only for the PHAST study but also for PH PBRN states involved in organizing complementary ideas, data and resources. Networks should send the most retrievable data as soon as possible. PHAST staff will compile, transform, and link data together into a comparable data set for preliminary analyses.

Data collected from PBRNs have included:

- o budget data (expenditure and revenue) per LHD activity or service
 - o water/food-borne outbreak investigation data
 - o WIC clients served data
 - o general activity and services data
- ◆ **New Funding for PH PBRN Research.** The PH PBRN National Coordinating Center has released a Request for Proposals for rapid-response, time-sensitive research studies designed to produce evidence about the effectiveness and impact of quality improvement, accreditation, and public reporting strategies in public health settings. Eligible applicants for Quality Improvement Quick Strikes (QIQS) are Public Health PBRNs that received core funding as RWJF program grantees or that completed registration as program affiliates by Friday, January 14, 2011.

Up to three awards of \$25,000 for smaller projects and up to two awards of \$50,000 for larger projects ranging from three to nine months may be funded. A Q&A conference call was held January 27. The application deadline is February 11, 2011.

Activities on the Horizon

- **Are We Prepared?** The journal, *Public Health Reports* will be hosting a webcast, "Are We Prepared? Lessons Learned from a Decade of Training," on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 1:00-2:00 pm ET. Speakers for the webcast include PBRN collaborator Dr. Edward Baker, Mr. Jack Thompson, and Dr. Bernard Turnock, who will discuss past, present and future efforts to train current and future public health workforce to respond to hazards events. Space is limited. Register today at this [site](#).
- **PH PBRN Research at Preventive Medicine 2011.** The previously mentioned opportunity to connect with stakeholders at the American College of Preventive Medicine annual meeting, [Preventive Medicine 2011](#), is finalized. On Thursday, February 17, a luncheon panel featuring RWJF and PH PBRN speakers will explore advances in PHSSR occurring through the PBRNs and will highlight applications in the context of health reform implementation. Many thanks to National Advisory Committee Chair Michael Caldwell for his key role in this effort.
- **PERRCs Presentation.** Several PH PBRNs have university partners that house Preparedness and Emergency Response Centers (PERRC) and hold potential for collaboration in preparedness research. An interactive session involving the PERRCs at [CDC's 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit](#) in Atlanta may be of particular interest. Entitled "Assessing Public Health System Preparedness to Strengthen Capacity, Adaptation, Response, and Resilience," this session will be Wednesday, February 23, from 1:30-3:00 pm. The summit is February 22-25.

Calls for Abstracts/Proposals/Presentations/Review

- **Call for Policy-Relevant PHSSR Findings:** With Congress back in session to consider difficult questions about discretionary federal spending, and with state legislatures convening across the country to respond to continuing budgetary squeezes, there is growing demand for evidence regarding the effectiveness and value of investments within the public health system. Several Public Health PBRNs have research underway that speaks to these issues, including uses of funding streams, responses to economic shocks, and efforts to reconfigure delivery systems for improved capabilities and efficiency. As your network begins to have early findings and preliminary evidence from these projects, please let the Coordinating Center know so that we can help you think through dissemination opportunities to these policy audiences. There are some very effective vehicles for rapid release of early findings that will not preclude subsequent opportunities for publication of scientific articles. Send us a quick email with your updates at publichealthPBRN@uams.edu
- **Public Health Law Research (PHLR) Program.** The 2011 [Call for Proposals](#) – Round 3 from the PHLR program has been released. \$2.85 million is available. The PHLR Program is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Deadline for receipt of brief proposals: April 20, 2011 (3 pm ET).
- **APHA.** Only two weeks remaining to submit an abstract for the 2011 Annual Meeting. The APHA [Call for Abstracts](#) is open. The theme of the meeting, scheduled from October 29 through November 2 in Washington, D.C., is "Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies." Deadlines for abstracts range from February 7 to 11, depending upon the entity within APHA.

- ◆ **Society for Public Health Education.** [Call for book prospectus & editors.](#) The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) are collaborating to co-publish a new health communications handbook for public health professionals. SOPHE is seeking proposals for the book that address basic information all public health professionals need to know about health communication. Deadline for Applications: April 1, 2011.
- ◆ **2011 Annual NALBOH Conference.** The [Call for Presentations](#) is open for the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) 19th Annual Conference scheduled for September 7-9 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Proposals are sought on the topics of governance and leadership, board development, public health policy, and public health priorities for 60-minute breakout sessions, two-hour interactive workshops, and posters of model practices. Due date: March 1.

Resources in Research and Practice

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ **State Courts and Public Health.** A recent report in *Public Health Reports* by Patricia Sweeney and colleagues explains the development, by the University of Pittsburg Center for Public Health Preparedness, of key resources to ensure preparedness of state judicial systems for public health emergencies, with potential usefulness by jurisdictions nationwide. To read more click [here](#).
- ◆ **Improving Quality and Efficiency.** A [report](#), “State Strategies to Improve Quality and Efficiency: Making the Most of Opportunities in National Health Reform,” was recently published by the National Academy for State Health Policy and the Commonwealth Fund. The authors, Jill Rosenthal, Abigail Arons and Anne Gauthier, examine 10 states' initiatives to address key components of quality and efficiency improvement, including data collection, aggregation, and standardization; public reporting; payment reform; consumer engagement; and provider engagement.

TOOLS

- ◆ **Starting the Conversation.** A recent article in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* by Alice Ammerman and colleagues examines the feasibility, validity, and sensitivity to changes of the starting the conversation tool (STC), which is a simplified screener instrument for dietary assessment and counseling. This study found that the STC was a simple, valid and efficient tool for assessment and intervention in the clinical setting. To read the full article click [here](#).

Opportunities for Input and Involvement

- ◆ **Profile of Local Boards of Health Has Launched.** In January 2011, the Profile of Local Boards of Health was launched online. We urge you to make sure that the chairperson of your local board of health completes the survey to ensure that your board is represented in the only national profile of local boards of health. Researchers, policymakers, boards of health, NALBOH staff, and partner organizations use these data to develop programs and set priorities. Input from all local boards of health is critical to ensure accurate profiles of local boards and that the latest, most accurate information is available for agenda setting and program

development. The profile provides information on board composition, duties and responsibilities, training, needs, and accreditation. For more information, visit www.nalboh.org. This project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

- **Academic Health Departments.** The Council on Linkages is establishing an Academic Health Department (AHD) learning community to facilitate communication among those interested in developing, sustaining or expanding an AHD. A workgroup has taken the initial steps of exploring topics, format and desired outcomes for the learning community and has developed a [concept paper and bibliography](#). A [web page](#) for the AHD learning community also has been created. The workgroup requests PH PBRN feedback on the documents and encourages sharing the links with partners. Suggestions are invited and may be addressed to [Kathleen Amos](#), who also can provide more information about the initiative.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Moving on Upstream.** A recent article in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* by F. Douglas Scutchfield and Alex Howard examines the role of public health in responding to the findings and recommendations of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Commission to Build a Healthier America. The authors suggest that public health departments must address broader societal issues that influence the health of the community. Therefore, they must move "further upstream" and begin to address such factors as housing and the built environment, early childhood development, food deserts and neighborhood safety. To read the full article click [here](#).
- **Vaccinating Health Care Workers against Influenza.** A recent article in *AJPH* by Abigale L. Ottenberg and colleagues examines the scientific evidence, ethical principles and legal precedent for mandatory influenza immunizations for health care workers who have direct contact with patients. To read more click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The PBRN National Coordinating Center maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to Public Health PBRNs. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated. Here are opportunities available now:

- **NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research [PA-11-063](#)**
Translating Basic Behavioral and Social Science Discoveries into Interventions to Improve Health-Related Behaviors (R01)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement "seeks highly innovative Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to translate findings from basic research on human behavior into effective clinical, community, or population-based behavioral interventions to improve health. Specifically, this FOA will support interdisciplinary teams of basic and applied biological, behavioral and/or social science researchers in developing and refining novel behavioral interventions with high potential impact to improve health-promoting behaviors (e.g., healthy dietary intake, sun safety, physical activity, or adherence to medical regimens), and/or reduce problem health behaviors (e.g., smoking, tanning or physical activity or alcohol or substance use, abuse or dependence)."

Key Dates: Application due February 5.

Next cycle: Letter of Interest due May 5, and application due June 5, 2011

- **Funding for Post-Docs and Junior Faculty.** Applications are being accepted for the [2011 Pfizer Fellowships](#). Clinical and research fellowships are available in various areas, including global health, health disparities, and public health, for post-docs and junior faculty in medicine, osteopathy, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.

Key Dates: The application deadline is February 11. Awards will be announced April 15, and funding begins July 1, 2011.

- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). Under this CFP, three types of awards are available:
 - ◆ Round 6 research grant full proposals due March 10;
 - ◆ Rapid-response award concept papers accepted until August 2; and
 - ◆ RWJF *New Connections* grants through *Healthy Eating Research* concept papers are due March 10.
- **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals are accepted online on a rolling basis. Details about the solicitation and the application process are [linked here](#).

Career Opportunities

- **APHA Public Health Fellowship.** Applications for the APHA Public Health Fellowship in Government for 2012 are now being accepted. APHA is looking for candidates with strong public health credentials who wish to spend one year in Washington, D.C. working in a congressional office on legislative and policy issues such as health, the environment or other public health concerns. The deadline for submission is April 4, 2011. For more information please go to this [link](#).
- **PHSSR Faculty Search.** The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is seeking candidates for a tenure-track, open-rank faculty position in the Health Policy and Management Department to advance its research program in public health systems and services research. Candidates should have a successful record of research relevant to the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services or the ability to develop such a record. For more information contact gpmays@uams.edu.

Key Dates

Feb 8	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
Feb 17	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 ET
April 10-12	2011 Annual Grantee and NAC meetings in Lexington
April 12-14	2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington