

Issue # 65

PBRN Week in Review | Feb 4, 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

- ◆ **PBRN Research Publication Opportunities.** The Coordinating Center is in discussions with several leading journals in our field about the possibility of a special issue or theme issue dedicated to research from the PBRNs. Details will be forthcoming, but manuscripts likely would need to be ready for submission by May or June 2011. We encourage networks to consider what findings they may have ready to disseminate, and let us know any thoughts you may have on content, timing, venues, etc. More details will be forthcoming soon.
- ◆ **PRC-PH PBRN Webinar.** The PRC-PH PBRN Webinar held on Thursday, January 20 was a productive opening that stimulated some real interest for discussion. We hope that what was shared on the webinar will inspire you to reach out to a PBRN or PRC in your state and explore collaborative opportunities. After the webinar, we solicited further questions and comments from all participants and circulated the summary last week. You may access the PRC-PH PBRN webinar slides by clicking [here](#). Remember to share this information with your research colleagues. If you have additional questions, please send an [email](#) to the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center or call (501)551-0106.
- ◆ **Narrative and Budget Reports.** Final narrative and budget reports for Round I and annual narrative and budget reports for Round II are due to RWJF. Any products not sent during the year also should be submitted. Remember to copy the [PBRN National Coordinating Center](#) and let us know if assistance is needed.
- ◆ **PH PBRN Communications.** Does your Public Health PBRN have its own newsletter? If so, please add the [National Coordinating Center](#) to your e-subscriber list so that we can keep up with your latest goings-on! Have a web page? Please send a link to us! We do not want to miss a thing!
- ◆ **Keeneland Conference Abstracts.** The National Coordinating Center is proud to announce that our very own, Sharla Smith, had a research abstract accepted for presentation at the PHSSR Keeneland Conference. Congratulations, Sharla! We are asking core and affiliate PBRNs to let the [National Coordinating Center](#) know if you have abstracts accepted for the Keeneland Conference and/or other conferences.

- ◆ **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 core and affiliate Public Health PBRNs. 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 summary of the Q & A Conference Call was emailed to networks this week. The application deadline is February 11, 2011.

Activities on the Horizon

- ◆ **PBRN Monthly Conference Calls.** The Round I PBRN Grantees monthly conference call is scheduled for next week on Tuesday, February 8 from 11:30-12:30 ET. The Round II PBRN Grantees monthly conference call is scheduled for Thursday, February 17 from 1:00-2:30 pm ET.
- ◆ **PBRN Grantees:** In the coming weeks, the National Coordinating Center will be requesting your participation in two brief assessments (on-line survey, structured interview) about your research activities and specific needs and interests. The findings, to be presented at the 2011 Keeneland Conference, will be used to enhance the Public Health PBRN Program so that it more effectively supports the good work that all of you do. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Health [PBRN National Coordinating Center](#).
- ◆ **PH PBRN Research at Preventive Medicine 2011.** NAC Chair Michael Caldwell, noted PHSSR leader Doug Scutchfield, RWJF Senior Program Officer Debra Pérez, Ohio PH PBRN representative Scott Frank, and Coordinating Center Director Glen Mays will form the luncheon panel for a February 17 presentation at [Preventive Medicine 2011](#), the American College of Preventive Medicine annual meeting. In this significant opportunity to reach stakeholders, the panel will explore advances in PHSSR occurring through the PBRNs and will highlight applications in the context of health reform implementation.
- ◆ **PERRC Summit.** 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 in 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 gathers early findings and preliminary evidence from related projects, please let the Coordinating Center know so that we can help you think through dissemination opportunities with policymakers. 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.

- **APHA.** The deadline for submitting an abstract for the [2011 Annual Meeting](#) is next week. 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.
- **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

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

- **Evidence that Consumers Are Skeptical about Evidence-Based Health Care.** A recent [article](#) in *Health Affairs* by Kristin L. Carman and colleagues examines consumers' beliefs, values and knowledge about what policy-makers prescribe as evidence-based health care. This study found that most consumers did not understand terms such as medical evidence or quality guidelines. The authors believe the gaps in knowledge and misconceptions point to serious challenges in engaging consumers in evidence-based decision-making.
- **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 dealing with 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 communities. Therefore, they must move "further upstream" and begin to address such issues as housing and the built environment, early childhood development, food deserts and neighborhood safety.
- **Vaccinating Health Care Workers against Influenza.** A recent [article](#) in the *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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

- **Profile of Local Boards of Health 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 an accurate picture 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.

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:

- **Public Health Law Research (PHLR) Program.** The 2011 [Call for Proposals](#) – Round 3 from the PHLR program has been released, with \$2.85 million 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).
- **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 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](#).

Key Dates

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