

Issue # 67

PBRN Week in Review | Feb 25, 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/Announcements

- **Annual Grantee Meeting.** The Annual Grantee Meeting is set for Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, in Lexington in conjunction with the Keeneland Conference. Guidelines for travel planning have been distributed to network leaders. Each grantee may plan to send two persons to the meeting with expenses covered by the NCC and as many additional persons as desired with expenses covered by other organizations. Please let [Lenora Martindale](#) know the names of the persons attending from your network!
- **Agenda Items for PH PBRN Annual Grantee Meeting.** The Annual Grantee Meeting is a prime time to collaborate and learn about a wide array of topics germane to public health practice-based research or the broader field of public health systems and services research. We want to have a good mix of meeting formats and subjects to maximize these one and a half days together. Please send your suggestions to the [NCC](#) about session formats (e.g., presentation, small group) and topics as soon as possible.
- **PH PBRN Research Panels at the Keeneland Conference.** The PH PBRN NCC has reserved two panel sessions for Round I and Round II Grantees to present RIA, QSRF, or small scale projects preliminary research findings at the 2011 Annual Keeneland Conference on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. The NCC will compile all abstracts submitted by interested PBRNs and organize the PH PBRN Grantee research panels based on common themes across networks. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Coordinating Center](#).
- **PH PBRNs Keeneland Conference Exhibit.** Stop by and visit the PH PBRNs Exhibit April 12-14, 2011. The exhibit will be located in the Thoroughbred Pre-function space at the Lexington Convention Center.
- **Developments in PHAST Study!!**
 - The Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) study team has partnered with the University of Washington Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) to assist in the development of a *spatial* database of the retrospective local health department (LHD) service data from participating PHAST states. PHAST researchers are elated about the opportunities this collaboration presents and will share their findings with us as they evolve!

- The study team has received retrospective data from almost all participating PBRNs and is conducting a meticulous examination of the data elements. They will be contacting each participating PBRN soon.
- PHAST researchers have submitted abstracts to the AcademyHealth Public Health Systems Research Interest Group and APHA annual meetings.

Reminder to PBRNs participating in the PHAST study: As you collect more data, please send them to the PHAST staff as soon as possible for cleaning and entry into the database.

- **AcademyHealth Methods Course Offerings for PH PBRN Grantees and Partners.** Don't forget to take advantage of the new opportunities for learning! The Public Health PBRN Coordinating Center and AcademyHealth have arranged for the PBRN grantees, affiliates and network partners to access, at no cost, some of AcademyHealth's most popular methods courses for health services research (HSR) and public health services and systems research (PHSSR). Course offerings change every quarter so don't miss this opportunity to learn from some of the leading lights of HSR and PHSSR! You may access the courses at your convenience and view them as often as you like. We encourage you to invite your PBRN partners to watch the webinars consider scheduling sessions for group participation. If you did not receive or need another copy of the email with course descriptions and access instructions, contact the [NCC](#).

Winter Quarter Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs – Available Through April 3:

- Intro to HSR Methods Seminar Series
 - Part I: Evidence-based Practice
- Part II: Quality and Performance Measurement
- The GRACE Principles: Comparative Effectiveness and HSR
- Methods Matter: Correlation and Causation in PHSSR
- Paper vs. Speech vs. Poster: Different Formats for Communicating Research

We want your input on upcoming webinar offerings. In what sessions are you most interested for the next quarter? View the [AcademyHealth Professional Development Catalog](#) for a comprehensive list of training opportunities and be ready to choose four topics when we survey the group in early March.

Please contact [PH PBRN NCC](#) if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks and have a great day.

- **Greetings Newcomers to PH PBRNs!** We join the **New York PH PBRN** in giving a hail and hearty welcome to new Co-PI, **Dayna M. Maniccia, DrPH, MS**. Dayna is a Senior Research Associate at the University at Albany School of Public Health Center for Health Workforce Studies, one of the network's academic partners, and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Behavior. She has been working in public health for more than twenty years and has extensive experience in project management, data collection and analysis, and program evaluation. Her current research focuses on health information technology adoption by physicians and hospitals in New York State. Dayna earned a DrPH in behavioral science and an MS in health policy and management from the University at Albany School of Public Health.

Washington PH PBRN welcomes **Laura Hitchcock, JD**, Public Health Seattle-King County Policy, Research and Development Specialist, to her role in coordination of the administrative aspects of the PBRN including network communications, meeting facilitation and grant development. Laura was formerly the Executive Director of the Washington State Public Health Association and is a long-time proponent of effective systems and strong health and human services policy. She brings both the expertise to support the network's organizational infrastructure, as well as a systems perspective to help support the PBRN's research agenda. While our colleague **Karen Hartfield** will continue to be involved in WA PBRN activities, Laura will be transitioning into the role of liaison to the national program.

Washington PH PBRN also welcomes **Marguerite Ro, DrPH**, PHSKC's new Chief of the Assessment, Policy Development and Evaluation Unit. Marguerite has worked with vulnerable communities across the U.S. to improve access to care and eliminate health disparities through policy, systems, and environmental change. She served as Deputy Director of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum and an assistant professor at Columbia University. Marguerite and her team offer research leadership to the PBRN Executive Committee.

Activities on the Horizon

- ✦ **PH PBRN Grantees.** The NCC is requesting your participation in two brief assessments (on-line survey, structured interview) about your research activities and specific needs and interests. The findings will be used to enhance the *Public Health PBRN Program* and will be discussed at the grantee meeting in Lexington. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Coordinating Center](#).
- ✦ **2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference Registration.** The 2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference will begin Tuesday, April 12 and continue through Thursday, April 14, in Lexington, Kentucky. Join other researchers, practitioners and policymakers in Lexington and share innovative ideas on how to improve the public health system. A block of rooms has been reserved at the [Hyatt Regency Lexington](#). When you contact the hotel, please make sure to ask for the 2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference rate of \$129.00 per night. They will also honor the government rate.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE AND HOTEL CLOSSES MARCH 18. [Register Online Today.](#)

- ✦ **PBRN Research Publication Opportunities.** The Coordinating Center is in discussions with several leading journals in PHSSR and HSR 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.

Public Health PBRN Leaders' Presentations

Do you have an upcoming presentation at a conference or other venue that features your PBRN's work with the *Public Health PBRN Program*? [Let us know!](#) Recent and coming events that put public health practice-based research in the limelight:

- **NIH Conference.** The *Public Health PBRN Program* will be well represented at the 4th Annual [NIH Conference](#) on the Science of Dissemination & Implementation, March 21-22, in Bethesda, Maryland. Julie Marshall (CO PH PBRN), Betty Bekemeier (WA PH PBRN), and Rebecca Wells (NC PH PBRN) will present a panel entitled "The Science of Public Health Practice: Using PBRNs to Conduct Implementation Research in Public Health Settings." Glen Mays will moderate the panel.
- **Missouri Affiliate.** On Friday, February 25, in Columbia, Glen Mays presented "Strengthening the Science of Public Health Delivery: PHSSR & PBRNs" at a meeting of the Missouri Public Health PBRN, an affiliate of the *Public Health PBRN Program*.
- **Keeneland Conference**
 - ◆ Florida PBRN co-principal investigator Bill Livingood will present findings of the network's study of county health department leaders' perceptions of funding for essential services.
 - ◆ Ohio PH PBRN Quick Strike project, "Variation in Enforcement of the Ohio Smoke Free Work Place Act by Local Health Departments," will be presented by David Bruckman.
 - ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN project, "Local health department financial practices and outcomes during economic challenging times," will be presented by Susan Zahner.
 - ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN "Public Health Systems and Services Research Inventory" will be presented as a poster.

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.
- **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.



- ✦ **Call for Policy-Relevant PHSSR Findings:** Will your research produce evidence regarding the effectiveness and value of investments in the public health system? Several Public Health PBRNs are studying related issues such as 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, please let the NCC 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.
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Resources in Research and Practice

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

- ✦ **Cross-Jurisdictional Relationships in Local Public Health.** Former NACCHO Director Patrick Libbey was commissioned by RWJF to conduct an environmental scan, research and report on collaborative relationships among health departments. He has authored an executive summary of the project's preliminary report. The [report](#) is available on the RWJF website.
- ✦ **Workplace Wellness Programs Can Generate Savings.** A recent [article](#) in *Health Affairs* by Katherine Baicker and colleagues describes their meta-analysis of the literature on costs and savings associated with workplace disease prevention and wellness programs. This study found that medical costs fall by about \$3.27 for every dollar spent on wellness programs and that absenteeism costs fall by about \$2.73 for every dollar spent.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

- ✦ **Training on Impact Evaluation Using Randomized Trials.** The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab is partnering with NIH to offer a two-day training, March 21-22, that will focus on how to incorporate rigorous impact evaluation methodologies into operations and implementation research. This [workshop](#) is not part of the 4th Annual NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation and requires a separate application process.

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 initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Deadline for receipt of brief proposals: **April 20, 2011** (3 pm ET).
- ◆ **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, 2011.
- ◆ **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

March 19	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 pm ET
April 10-12	2011 Annual Grantee and NAC meetings in Lexington
April 13	Round I and Round II Grantees Keeneland Conference Research Panels
April 12-14	2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington
April 26	Hold date for webinar! 2:00 pm ET