

Issue # 73

PBRN Week in Review | April 8, 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 (NCC) at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or (501)551-0106. Newsletter archives are available [here](#).

Notable PBRN Activities/Announcements

- **PH PBRN Annual Grantee Meeting.** The Annual Grantee Meeting is just around the corner! The NCC staff is looking forward to seeing PH PBRN grantees and fellow travelers in public health services and systems research (PHSSR) at the meeting on Monday and Tuesday, April 11-12, and the Keeneland Conference that follows, April 12-14. The two events will offer excellent opportunities to network and learn about a wide array of topics germane to PHSSR. The mix of organized venues will include presentations, posters, and panel talks, as well as mealtime confabs around topics of high importance to all PBRNs. [The Annual Grantee Meeting Agenda can be found at the end of this newsletter.](#) See you there!
- **PH PBRN Dine-Around for PH PBRN Annual Grantee Meeting.** The NCC staff has organized a dine-around for grantees to participate in stimulating conversation during a casual dinner after Monday's grantee meeting. Reservations for groups have been arranged by NCC staff, and dinner hosts will coordinate travel to destinations and lead the discussions. Each attendee will be responsible for his or her own bill and gratuity at the time of dinner, but may submit original itemized receipts to the NCC for reimbursement. The dine-a-round groups, titles, and restaurant choices are below.

Group I: Sustainability

- Host: Nancy Winterbauer
- Restaurant: deSha's

Group II: Engaging Practice Partners

- Host: Lisa VanRaemdonck
- Restaurant: Jonathan's

Group III: PH PBRN PHAST Study

- Host: Betty Bekemeier
- Restaurant: Dudley's

Group IV: Dissemination of PH PBRN findings

- Host: Angela Dearing
- Restaurant: Portofino

- **PH PBRN Program Keeneland Conference Exhibit.** If you will be at Keeneland, be sure to visit the PH PBRN Program Exhibit, located in the Thoroughbred Pre-function space at the Lexington Convention Center.
- **Your Input Counts!!** Participate in setting the PHSSR Research Agenda by taking a brief survey. Analysis of the survey responses will be presented during the Keeneland Conference closing plenary session. Don't wait! Survey closes Sunday, April 10th.
- **PH PBRN Research Panels at the Keeneland Conference.** Round I and Round II grantees will present research findings at conference on Wednesday, April 13. The panels are organized by common themes. Times and presenters for the panels are below.

PH PBRN Research Panel 1 • 9:15 a.m.-10:45 p.m. • Scientific Session 2.E

Moderator: Patricia M. Sweeney, JD, MPH, RN
 Kentucky PH PBRN-Angela Dearing, MD, MPH
 Minnesota PH PBRN-Kim Gearin, PhD
 Florida PH PBRN-Nancy Winterbauer, PhD, MS

PH PBRN Research Panel 2 • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Scientific Session 3.A

Moderator: Glen P. Mays, PhD, MPH
 Washington-Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MSN, MPH
 New York-Chris Maylahn, MPH
 Colorado-Julie Marshall, PhD
 North Carolina-Dorothy Cilenti, DrPH, MPH, MSW

PH PBRN Research Panel 3 • 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. • Scientific Session 4.A

Moderator: Michael Caldwell, MD
 Florida-Michael Morris MPH MPA CPH
 Massachusetts-Justine Hyde, PhD
 Ohio-David Bruckman, MS, MT(ASCP)
 Wisconsin-Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN

➤ **Other Presentations by PH PBRN Grantees**

- ◆ Colorado PH PBRN's Lisa N. VanRaemdonck, MPH, MSW will be on a panel entitled, "The Political Implications of Accreditation, Regionalization, and County Health Rankings."
- ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN Quick Strike project, "A Systematic Method to Document Population-Level Nursing Interventions in an Electronic Health System," will be presented by Dr. Mary Jo Baisch.
- ◆ Ohio PH PBRN principal investigator Scott Frank will present findings of the network's study, "Health Information Technology in Ohio and its Applications for Quality Improvement, Community Assessment, and Performance Measurement."
- ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN's "Public Health Systems and Services Research Inventory" will be presented as a poster

- **PH PBRN Assessment.** The NCC recently conducted a two-part assessment aimed to gather information about: the status of research projects; lessons learned (challenges and facilitators in development of PBRN); sustainability plans; and recommendations to the NCC. Grantee participation in this study was greatly appreciated. Eleven of the 12 grantees participated in the online assessment, and 100 percent participated in the semi-structured interviews. Findings will be presented at the annual grantee meeting.
- **Evidence-Based Practice Webinar by Ross Brownson, Ph.D.** On Tuesday, April 26, 2:00-3:30 p.m. We invite you to extend this invitation to the Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar to your network partners and others.

This presentation will provide an overview of the principles of evidence-based approaches in public health. It will include both the scientific basis for evidence-based approaches as well as the practical challenges of implementation. The learning objectives are to:

1. Understand the definition of evidence-based public health;
2. Explore various types and quality of evidence;
3. Explore the uses of various tools and resources;
4. Review the barriers to evidence-based approaches; and
5. Understand how we can increase the uptake of evidence-based practices in public health.

Please take a moment to [register](#) for the event. The April 26 webinar is an excellent opportunity to hear from one of the intellectual leaders in public health services and systems research. Don't miss it!

- **Congratulations!** Dr. Mary Jo Baisch (WI PBRN) has been invited to present the findings of the Quick Strike project, "A Systematic Method to Document Population-Level Nursing Interventions in an Electronic Health System," at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in June.
- **Dissemination Opportunity.** PBRNs that have research findings ready for dissemination are strongly encouraged to consider the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* as a venue. Findings from QIQSs and QSRFs are especially suited for the *MMWR* in that they are intended for rapid impact. Publishing in the *MMWR* will not preclude publication later in a peer-reviewed journal. Every piece submitted to the *MMWR* must have a CDC sponsor and, if possible, a state health agency sponsor. The NCC will be happy to assist in facilitating the CDC connection and advising on the appropriateness of the *MMWR* as an avenue for dissemination. Please visit the CDC [website](#) to review instructions for *MMWR* contributors.

Activities on the Horizon

- **AcademyHealth Spring Methods Course Offerings for PH PBRN Grantees and Partners.** The courses are available for 90 days to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through **June 30**. We encourage you to invite your PBRN partners to utilize the courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation. The sessions offered are also listed below.

Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs

- Causality in Health Services Research (HSR)
 - Part I: Introduction to Causal Concepts
 - Part II: Estimation Techniques for Causal Modeling
- Do You Really Want to test Whether Two Populations are Equal? The Science of Equivalency Testing
- Introduction to Case Studies: A Public Health Methods Webinar

AcademyHealth also offers a great selection of free methods courses. Please visit the [website](#) to access the free courses.

A password is required to view the Spring Methods course. If you don't have the password, please contact the [NCC](#) for assistance.

- **Keep Us in the Loop!** Please remember to include the NCC on all reporting of dissemination products to RWJF, by cc'ing the [NCC](#). Keeping abreast of PBRN dissemination via presentations at national, regional, and state meetings; written reports, webinars, research briefs, journal articles, as well as web-based communication channels, will enable the NCC staff to more effectively support all the networks and spread the word about their accomplishments.
- **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:

- **NACCHO Annual.** Kudos to Matthew Stefanak (Ohio PBRN) for spearheading the submission of a PH PBRN panel abstract. Matt will moderate for the session. William Livingood (FL PBRN), David Gregorio (CT PBRN), and Julie Myhre (MN PBRN) will be presenters for a sharing session at the NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference, July 20-22 at the Connecticut Convention Center in downtown Hartford. The session title is Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy. If other core or affiliate PBRNs have been invited to present at the NACCHO or AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM), please remember to let the NCC know.

Calls for Abstracts/Proposals/Presentations/Review

- **Integrating Primary Care and Public Health.** A joint AHRQ-HRSA-CDC-NIH [Call for Papers](#) has been released. AHRQ is co-sponsoring with HRSA, CDC and the NIH a special journal supplement on primary care and public health. Manuscripts are due to [AJPH](#) on **August 1**. For further information, please contact the guest editors at AJPH-AJPM Papers@hrsa.gov.
- **Health Impact Project.** A [Call for Proposals](#) (CFP) has been issued for the *Health Impact Project: Advancing Smarter Policies for Healthier Communities*, a collaboration of RWJF and The Pew Charitable Trusts. This CFP is for organizations that wish to undertake a health impact assessment as a way to demonstrate their value in policymaking. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and must be completed within 18 months. Up to eight projects will be awarded. Deadline for brief online proposals: **June 1, 5:00 p.m. EDT**.
- **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.

Resources in Research and Practice

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

- **Public Health Blog.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has just launched a public health [blog](#). The public health blog will be a great resource for keeping up with all the exciting discussions occurring at the upcoming Keeneland conference, in addition to links to and from Scutch's blog. So please join us as we talk about the current state of public health.
- **Investing in America's Health.** Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) have released an annual report, [Investing in America's Health: A State-By-State Look At Public Health Funding And Key Health Facts](#) and new [state pages](#). The annual report explores public health funding and health key facts in states around the country. The state pages provide state-specific public health data and information on funding, preparedness and compare states on each specific health indicator.
- **New Data Confirm Job Losses and Program Cuts in LHDs Continue.** Results from NACCHO's Job Losses and Program Cuts Survey show that local health departments (LHDs) lost 29,000 jobs to layoffs and attrition between January 2008 and December 2010, roughly 19 percent of the 2008 nationwide LHD workforce. In 2010, 18,000 LHD employees were subjected to reduced hours or mandatory furloughs. State-level analysis of budget, staffing, and program cuts data from the 2010 National Profile of Local Health Departments Survey will be available in early April. More info is available at www.naccho.org/jobloss.

NIH Training Institute. NIH launches training institute on dissemination and implementation research in health scheduled for August 1-5 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Details of the program are available on the [NIH](#) website. The Application deadline is **April 15**. Please visit the website to [register and for more information](#) on the agenda and faculty.

- **Midyear Meeting.** The American Public Health Association (APHA) will have its first-ever Midyear Meeting in Chicago, Ill., June 23-25, 2011. The theme for the meeting is *Implementing Health Reform – A Public Health Approach*. Visit the website for a full description of the [meeting](#) and [registration](#). **Early-Bird Registration Deadline is April 15! Advanced Registration Deadline: May 20.**
- **Analysis of Social Networks Webinar Series.** AcademyHealth is offering a new three-part webinar series on social network analysis taught by Robert Hanneman, Ph.D. The two remaining sessions are:
 - 1) Analysis of Social Networks Part II: Basic Network Analysis
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (ET).
 - 2) Analysis of Social Networks Part III: Beyond the Basics
Thursday, April 28, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (ET).

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**, 3 p.m. ET.
- **Junior Investigators .** New Connections-Junior Investigator Program has released a [Call for Proposals](#). RWJF will select up to a total of 13 *Junior Investigator* grants of up to \$75,000 each for 24 months. Brief Proposal Deadline: **May 5**, 3:00 p.m. ET.
- **AHRQ Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Service.** AHRQ has made \$4.5 million available to fund three research centers with a focus on one of the following programmatic areas: patient safety, health equity, or health care system implementation. The project period is for three years with a \$1.5 million annual budget for each year. For more information, click on [RFA-HS-11-005](#). Deadlines: Letters of intent, **April 29** and applications, **May 23**.
- **HRSA Affordable Care Act – Public Health Training Center (PHTC) program.** This program will provide funding for a four-year project period. Estimated total program funding is \$6.5 million with an award ceiling of \$650,000. Please view the funding announcement, [HRSA-11-142](#), for more information. **Deadline: May 23**.
- **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced their joint support for round two of the Digging into Data Challenge, a grant competition designed to encourage cutting edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Further information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website. Final applications are due **June 16**.
- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). The Rapid-response award concept papers are due **August 2**.
- **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](#).

Annual Grantee Meeting

April 11-12, 2011

Hyatt Regency and Lexington Convention Center, Lexington, Kentucky

Day One: Monday, April 11

Mezzanine Level – Woodford/Scott

7:30am Breakfast available

8:00am **Welcome and Introductions**
Glen Mays, PhD, MPH
Michael Caldwell, MD, MPH

8:30am **PH PBRN Program Status: Where Are We Now and What’s on the Horizon?**
Glen Mays, PhD, MPH

9:30am **PHSSR Research Agenda-setting: Implications for PBRNs**
F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD

10:15am **Scaling Up for Big(ger) Science: Cross-cutting and Multi-Network Research**
Round I and Round II grantees

Success with practice-based research ultimately depends in part on the ability to tackle “big” questions with strong research designs, data, and analytic strategies that can support clear inferences about policy and practice decisions on a broad, national scale. How can PBRNs “scale up” by pursuing coordinated sets of research questions, standardized research designs involving multiple states and large numbers of practice settings, pooled data collection strategies and registries, etc? After a preliminary discussion of these issues as a large group, small-group discussions will be held on four major, cross-cutting research areas in PHSSR currently being pursued by PBRNs. Two “flights” of these small group discussions will be held so that each participant can rotate through two small group discussions.

10:30am **Break** – select your first small group

10:45am **Big Science Flight I: Small Group Discussion of Cross-cutting and Multi-Network Research**
Group 1: Measuring adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices in public health: metrics and methodology
Group 2: Organizing and re-organizing public health delivery: studying regionalization issues

Group 3: Understanding resource flows in public health: budget reductions, stimulus funds, and other drivers of change

Group 4: Research on the public health workforce and its role in the “production chain” for public health services

Day One: Monday, April 11

Mezzanine Level – Woodford/Scott

11:30am Brief summary reports from Big Science Flight I small groups

12:00pm **Lunch, Hyatt Regency Ballroom**

1:00pm **Big Science Flight II:** Small Group Discussion of Cross-cutting and Multi-Network Research

Group 1: Measuring adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices in public health: metrics and methodology

Group 2: Organizing and re-organizing public health delivery: studying regionalization issues

Group 3: Understanding resource flows in public health: budget reductions, stimulus funds, and other drivers of change

Group 4: Research on the public health workforce and its role in the “production chain” for public health services

2:00pm Brief summary reports from Big Science Flight II small groups

2:30pm **Themes from 2011 PBRN Assessment Activities**
National Coordinating Center staff

A discussion of the recently conducted assessment of the PBRNs’ activities, lessons learned and suggestions for strengthening the PH PBRN Program.

3:15pm **Break**

3:30pm **Looking Ahead: Dissemination and Sustainability**
Glen Mays, PhD, MPH

Strategies for timely dissemination of research; strategies for sustaining and growing your practice-based research enterprise

4:30pm **Concluding Comments and Wrap-Up**

5:00pm **National Advisory Committee Meeting and Dinner** (NAC members)

6:00pm **PH PBRN Dine-A-Round** (PH-PBRN grantees, collaborators, groups)

Day Two: Tuesday, April 12

Lexington Convention Center – Lobby Level – Thoroughbred 1

- 7:30am **Breakfast** – Lexington Convention Center, Bluegrass Room
- 8:15am **Progress on the Public Health PBRN PHAST Study**
Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MSN, MPH
- 9:30am **Roundtable Discussion on Quick Strike Research: What Are We Learning from the Process and the Findings?**
Roundtable discussion led by QSRF and QIQS grantees
- 10:30am **Break**
- 10:45am **Revisiting Network Analysis as a Strategy for Studying PBRNs as Mechanisms for Research Production and Translation**
National Coordinating Center team
- 11:15am **The Strategic PBRN: Middle Ground Strategies for Pursuing Research that Aligns with Policy Issues, Practice Interests, and Funding Opportunities**
Ed Baker, Jr., MD, MPH, MSc
- 11:45am **Concluding Comments, Questions, and Wrap-up**
- 12:00pm **Keeneland Conference Opening Luncheon** – Lexington Convention Center, Bluegrass Room

Key Dates

- April 10-12 2011 Annual Grantee and NAC meetings in Lexington
- April 12-14 2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington
- April 13 Round I and Round II Grantees Keeneland Conference Research Panels
- April 21 Monthly Conference Call CANCELLED | 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
- April 26 Evidence-Based Practice and Policy Webinar! | 2:00 p.m. ET
- May 19 Monthly Conference Call | 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
- June 12-14 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting
- June 16 Monthly Conference Call | 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
- July 20-22 NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference