

Issue #76

PBRN Week in Review | May 7, 2011

PBRN Grantees: 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 archive.](#)

Notable PBRN Activities

- **PH PBRN May Conference Call.** The Public Health PBRN monthly conference call is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET.

Research Presenter: Kim Gearin, Ph.D.,
Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Health Office of Public Health Practice and
Co-Director, MN PH PBRN

Topic: Authority, Structure and Change: A descriptive study of Minnesota's local health departments

- **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group.** The Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting following AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting is rife with PH PBRN representation! Look at the three panels announced thus far...

Translating Systems Research for the Field

Tuesday, June 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

An Assessment of Response to the Release of the 2010 County Health Rankings

Bridget Booske, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

- ★ Co-PI for Research Implementation Award study

Applying Scientific Research Methods to Law: Demonstrating Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

Patricia Sweeney, University of Pittsburgh

- ★ NAC member

Public Health Spending by Non-governmental Organizations

Patrick Bernet, Florida Atlantic University

- ★ Network participant

Variability in Practices for Investigation, Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases of Public Health Significance among Washington State's Local Health Jurisdictions

Hanne Thiede, Public Health-Seattle and King County

- ★ PH PBRN steering committee member and researcher

Implications of Social Network Analysis for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Moderator: **Danielle Varda**, University of Colorado – Denver

- ★ Network participant and researcher

The Local Public Health System: Building a Model through Social Network Analysis

Paul Erwin, University of Tennessee

- ★ Director of affiliate PH PBRN

Determinants of Research Implementation and Translation Processes in Public Health Settings: Evidence from Network Analysis with PBRNs

Glen Mays, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

- ★ Director of National Coordinating Center

Application of Social Network Analysis to a Public Health Emergency Preparedness-Funded Workforce Program

Christine Bevc, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

What Works? Best Practices for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Moderator: **Mary V. Davis**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

- ★ PI for Research Implementation Award

Discussant: **Barry Kling**, Chelan-Douglas Washington Health District

- ★ Network participant and PHAST Study team

Process Analysis in Local Health Departments: Using QI Methods to Identify Failure Modes

William Riley, University of Minnesota

- ★ PI for Research Implementation Award

Effectiveness of Alert Communications between Public Health and Health Care Providers for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Debra Revere, University of Washington

Improving the Efficiency of Local Public Health Using Quality Improvement Processes: Small Change Yields Significant Success in Berrien County, Michigan

Theresa Green, Berrien County Health Department

- **Golden Opportunities.** A plethora of funding opportunities are available that can be used to support public health services and systems research (PHSSR) projects conducted through public health PBRNs. These include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) call for investigator-initiated [PHSSR](#) proposals, the University of Kentucky's funding for [dissertation research](#) and [junior faculty career development](#), the CDC's [PRC-SIP](#) funding that specifically encourages collaboration with PBRNs, [AHRQ's special emphasis research funding](#) for underserved populations and population health, and NIMHD's funding for [minority health and health disparities research](#). These and other funding sources represent golden opportunities for reaching out to engage research partners for possible collaboration through public health

PBRNs. As the behavioral economists remind us, collective action is mobilized through incentives, and research funding always drives behavior in the scientific community.

- **Reminder! Annual Grantee Meeting Reimbursement Requests.** The Public Health PBRN NCC will pay or reimburse the following travel expenses associated with this meeting:
 - Two nights of lodging at the conference hotel (Sunday and Monday nights). Tuesday night lodging is reimbursable for PBRN panelists only
 - Round-trip, coach airfare (paid by the Coordinating Center to Directravel)
 - Round-trip cab fare between the Lexington airport and conference hotel if hotel courtesy car service is unavailable
 - Meals not provided at the meeting, up to a maximum of \$61 per day for up to three days (April 10 through April 12). ***Original itemized receipts must be submitted.***
 - Up to three days of airport parking at home airport (April 10 through April 12)
 - Mileage (\$.42 per mile) for use of personal vehicle to home airport

- **The NCC needs your feedback!** If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete a brief survey about your experiences at the Annual Grantee Meeting. Your feedback is valued and will contribute to plans for next year's meeting. To complete the survey click [here](#).

Activities on the Horizon

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The NCC and AcademyHealth announce AcademyHealth's Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs. Courses are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through June 30. Invite network partners to take these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:
 - Causality in Health Services Research
 - 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 offers a great selection of free methods courses, which may be accessed through the [website](#). Please contact the [NCC](#) with questions and suggestions.

- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.** AcademyHealth recently released its conference agenda, and multiple sessions each day will appeal to PH PBRN practitioners and researchers. Visit the AcademyHealth [website](#) to see what is offered in the overarching themes of public health, organizational performance and management, health care workforce, and several quality topics. Methods workshops for health services research are available at all skill levels. The conference is June 12-14 in Seattle.

- **NACCHO Annual 2011.** PH PBRN representatives **Matt Stefanak (Ohio)**, **David Gregorio (Connecticut)**, **Bill Livingood (Florida)**, and **Julie Myhre (Minnesota)** have been invited to serve on a panel, "Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy" at the NACCHO conference, July 20-22 in Hartford, Conn.

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Science of Community Engagement.** The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) has issued a [Call for Papers](#) focusing on the science of community engagement for a special issue of the journal, *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. The call specifically invites PBRN contributions and prioritizes papers that are collaborative and co-authored by community members. The deadline for submitting papers is Monday, August 1.
- **Integrating Primary Care and Public Health.** The *American Journal of Public Health* and the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* are planning a joint issue addressing the question: “How do we improve population health and promote health equity through the effective integration of primary care and public health?” A multi-agency [Call for Papers](#) seeks submissions in the areas of science, education, practice, and policy and especially invites submissions co-authored by professionals in the public health and primary care fields. Manuscripts are due by August 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 that will not preclude subsequent publication of scientific articles. Send an [email](#) to us with your updates.

Resources in Research and Practice

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **New NACCHO Data.** NACCHO has published a [preliminary report](#) of its fall 2010 survey on local health department (LHD) job losses and program funding cuts. These state-level data show the impact of ongoing financial strain on the ability of local health departments to serve and protect the health of their communities.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Smoke-Free Laws.** An analysis of progress toward the Healthy People 2010 objective of enacting laws in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to eliminate smoking in public places and worksites is published in the April 22 issue of [MMWR](#).

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The Public Health PBRN NCC maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to its networks. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).** According to the [FOA](#), "priority topic areas for projects include: 1) information and communications technologies to increase access to care, 2) policies or initiatives to increase the supply of rural healthcare practitioners and/or the use of paraprofessionals or peer-led health services to supplement existing healthcare services, 3) strategies to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care, and 4) translational and trans-disciplinary research linking the social determinants of health and health disparities that is innovative, rigorous and well grounded in

appropriate theoretical framework. Projects should focus on improving healthcare for all individuals belonging to the target population within a local or regional catchment area of specific health care services or systems rather than for individuals with a particular health disease/condition (e.g., adults with type 2 diabetes living in rural areas). Applicants should have demonstrated partnerships with healthcare organizations, local or state governments, professional provider organizations, patient/consumer advocacy groups, or other relevant collaborators to ensure the feasibility and eventual impact of projects." Deadlines: Letter of Interest, May 8; Application: June 8.

- **Accreditation Preparation.** NACCHO has announced a new funding opportunity for LHDs to engage in community health assessments and community health improvement plans. The program will award 12 competitive grants of \$35,000 each. Visit the NACCHO [website](#) for additional information. Application deadline: May 23.
- **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](#). Application deadline: May 23.
- **Public Health Services and Systems Research.** RWJF has released a [CFP](#) for PHSSR. Approximately \$2.7 million has been made available in this round of funding for up to 14 awards. Grantees will receive up to \$200,000 each to be used over a 24-month period. Brief Proposal deadline: May 24, 2011.
- **Dissertation Research.** RWJF has released a [Call for Proposals](#) for the Assuring the Future of Public Health Systems & Services Research: Dissertation Grant Program for pre-doctoral dissertation applicants. Deadline for receipt of online proposals: June 1.
- **Health Impact Project.** A [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 with 18-month project periods. Up to eight projects will be awarded. Deadline for brief online proposals: June 1.
- **SIPS.** CDC's Prevention Research Centers [Special Interest Project Competitive Supplements](#) (SIPS) are available to universities housing PRCs. Application deadline: June 1.
- **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced a grant competition designed to encourage cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website. Final application deadline: June 16.
- **HHS Preparedness.** CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program](#). Note eligibility requirements and opportunities for collaboration. Application deadline: June 17.

Specifies
PBRNs

- **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 accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

Key Dates

May 19	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
June 12-14	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle
June 14-15	AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting, Seattle
June 16	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
July 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference, Hartford
July 21	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET