



**PH PBRNs:** Please circulate relevant information to network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) at [publichealthpbrn@uams.edu](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) or (501)551-0106. [Newsletter archive](#).

## Notable PBRN Activities

- **Requests for Proposals.** The National Coordinating Center expects two funding opportunities limited to *Public Health PBRN Program* grantees and affiliates to be announced on Friday, May 27. Lead organization contacts will receive email with a link to the RFP and more details.



On **Friday, June 3**, 11:00-Noon ET, a conference call is scheduled to discuss the RFP. Please consider sending questions in advance by [email](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) to allow time for any information gathering.


- **May Conference Call.** During the recent monthly conference of Public Health PBRN grantees and affiliates, co-PI Kim Gearin of the Minnesota Public Health PBRN presented findings from their descriptive study of authority, structure and change in the state's local health departments (LHD). Concerned about reported and proposed structural changes, the implications of those changes, and the answer to the "what works best" question, the network's investigative team studied dimensions of structure, organizational change, and the role and authority of local administrators. The presentation soon will be available on the PH PBRN program website, and the first in a series of briefs related to the study is on the [MN PH PBRN](#) website under the Publications tab.

Other conference call items included:

- ◆ **Upcoming quarterly webinar.** Ask network members for ideas for the next webinar scheduled for July 20, but subject to adjustment based on presenter availability. Send ideas to the NCC mailbox.
- ◆ **Research manuscripts.** PH PBRNs intending to submit research for publication in a theme issue, likely AJPM, should plan to have manuscripts prepared for the journal by late August. If a network's authors would like the NCC to review a draft, please build this into your timeline. NCC review will not be required.
- ◆ **QSRFs available.** PH PBRNs have until July 1 to propose QSRF studies. One-page proposals should provide an overview of the research questions and the time sensitive nature of the study to inform practice or policy action. If the brief proposal shows promise, a three to five page proposal will be requested.
- ◆ **Major funding opportunities.** PH PBRNs should note several especially well suited funding announcements:

1. **PRC SIPs.** PBRNs get a specific mention as eligible applicants for CDC's Prevention Research Center [Special Interest Projects](#).
  2. **ACA Community Transformation Grants.** While this funding is for evidence-based intervention activities rather than research, the local and state government health agencies and non-profit organizations that are eligible to apply "must be able to evaluate the health impact of the program on community members." PH PBRNs are ideal partners for this role and more. [Full announcement](#).
- ◆ **PHAST study.** Betty Bekemeier reported that the team is working on the analysis of budget data for the MCH, environmental health, and chronic disease elements in the study. PHAST participants will get together at AcademyHealth for an update.
  - ◆ **Next month.** The Connecticut PH PBRN is responsible for presenting research on the June 19 conference call.
- **NAC Conference Call.** The NAC quarterly conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET. Networks are invited to submit items to be placed on the agenda for discussion by sending an [email](#) to the NCC. We look forward to hearing from you!
  - **Colorado PH PBRN and Physical Activity Promotion.** The Physical Activity Policy Research Network, a CO PH PBRN partner, has been funded for a national study on the work of coalitions and collaboratives doing physical activity promotion. The project would include social network analysis using PARTNER software. The findings of the project would inform physical activity policy work of coalitions across the nation. The network requests nominations of local coalitions or collaboratives to take part in the project. To obtain a description of the project and nomination form, contact Sarah Lampe at (303) 861-4995.
  - **PHSSR Website.** Provide feedback on the PHSSR website by taking a brief [survey](#). This website is the host/home of the PH PBRN website, so your input is needed.

## Activities on the Horizon

- **AcademyHealth Meetings.** Please let us know who among your active network members plans to attend AcademyHealth in Seattle. The WA PH PBRN is coordinating a dinner meeting for network attendees on Tuesday, June 14, immediately following the PHSR IG reception. A tentative headcount is needed for facility planning. *Please send names of possible attendees to the NCC as soon as possible.*
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- **NACCHO Annual 2011.** Join the nation's local health officials at the NACCHO Annual 2011 in Hartford, Connecticut, July 20-22. With the addition of a research track to a program known for its interactive learning sessions, this is a great opportunity for public health practice and research colleagues to explore new ideas, examine strategies, and plan for the future. Don't miss the panel of four PH PBRN representatives:
    - ◆ Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy

Moderator Matt Stefanak (Ohio), David Gregorio (Connecticut), Bill Livingood (Florida), and Julie Myhre (Minnesota)

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The AcademyHealth Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs 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

## Public Health PBRN Presentations

Do you know of an upcoming presentation that features your PBRN's work or people? [Let us know!](#)

- **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 a 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 researcher presenting on the network's small-scale research project

### 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 NCC

### **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

★ Network researcher

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

★ PHAST study team member

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

**William Riley**, University of Minnesota

★ Co-PI for a Research Implementation Award study

## **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?” The 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.

## **Resources in Research and Practice**

### **CONFERENCES**

- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.** AcademyHealth recently released its [meeting agenda](#), which indicates that multiple sessions each day with overarching themes of public health, organizational performance and management, health care workforce. Several quality topics will appeal to PH PBRN practitioners and researchers. Methods workshops in health services research are available at all skill levels. The ARM is June 12-14 in Seattle.
- **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting** in Seattle, June 14-15. [Registration](#) is open.

- **APHA Midyear Meeting** in Chicago, Illinois, June 23-25. The theme for the meeting is *Implementing Health Reform – A Public Health Approach*. Learn more about the [APHA Midyear Meeting](#).
- **NACCHO Annual 2011** in Hartford, Conn., July 20-22. [Registration](#) is open.
- **NALBOH Conference**. 19th Annual NALBOH Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 7-9. For more information and to register for this event, please visit the [website](#).
- **APHA Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Registration for the meeting and housing will open on June 1. Learn more about the [APHA Annual Meeting](#).
- **NASHP Conference**. The [National Academy for State Health Policy](#) (NASHP) Annual State Health Policy Conference is October 3-5 in Kansas City, Missouri.

#### REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Ten Great Public Health Achievements**. In the May 20 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC reported on ten noteworthy public health achievements in the decade from 2001 to 2010 in the United States.
- **PHSSR Progress Report**. RWJF has published *Strengthening the Performance and Impact of Public Health Departments: A Progress Report* highlighting the work of the University of Kentucky, NACCHO, ASTHO, and NALBOH in building the field of PHSSR.
- **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 LHDs to serve and protect the health of their communities.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

- **PHF Wants to Know...** Have you used the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* to address public health challenges in your community? Enter the *"I'm Your Community Guide" Contest* from the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and be eligible for a \$1,000 conference scholarship and other prizes. Entries must be received by June 10. Access the *Community Guide* online at [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org).

### New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Computational modeling and public health systems science**. A commentary and two studies in the March issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* discuss agent-based models (ABMs), a relatively new type of computer modeling that has potential for addressing public health problems that arise from complex, dynamic interactions of multiple factors. One [study](#) demonstrates the use of ABMs in exploring the relationship between income inequalities and diet quality in the context of residential segregation; the [other](#) explores the relationship between walking behaviors in an urban setting to multiple behavioral and environmental factors.
- **Financial indicators as a public health finance and organization assessment tool**. In the [March issue](#) of the *American Journal of Public Health*, Virginia Suarez and her colleagues provide an analysis of how the longstanding use of financial indicators by hospitals and corporations to improve organizational capacity could be applied to public health agencies.

- **Higher minimum wage and access to health care.** A multi-state study by McCarrier and colleagues, published in the [February issue](#) of the *American Journal of Public Health*, determined that low-income Americans do not experience an increased likelihood of unmet medical need or being barred from health insurance because of state policy to increase minimum wage.

## Funding Opportunities and Announcements

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

### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **SIPS.** CDC's Prevention Research Centers [Special Interest Project Competitive Supplements](#) (SIPS) are available to universities housing PRCs. Application deadline: 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.
- **Testing Evidence-Based Interventions.** HRSA's Healthy Weight Collaborative is recruiting community teams with existing linkages between primary care, public health, and community organizations with experience working together in obesity prevention to implement, test, and disseminate promising and evidence-based interventions to prevent and treat obesity for children and families using the Breakthrough Series Collaborative approach. Additional information is available at the [project website](#). Application deadline: June 3.
- **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." Application deadline: June 8.
- **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.
- **Public Health and Prevention Fund: Community Transformation Grants.** Community Transformation Grants, a key piece of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) still to be implemented through the Public Health and Prevention Fund. An important expansion of the nation's



investment in evidence-based, cross-cutting public health work, its reach, implementation and impact need to be studied in PHSSR and perhaps through the work of the PH PBRNs.

According to the [announcement](#), "the purpose of the program is to create healthier communities by: 1) building capacity to implement broad evidence and practice-based policy, environmental, programmatic and infrastructure changes... and 2) supporting implementation of such interventions in five strategic areas aligning with Healthy People 2020 focus areas. "

Applications due: July 15.

- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). 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

<b>June 3</b>	Q&A Conference Call for RFP   11:00-Noon ET
<b>June 12-14</b>	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle
<b>June 14-15</b>	AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting, Seattle
<b>June 16</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>July 20-22</b>	NACCHO Annual 2011, Hartford
<b>July 21</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Aug 18</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET