

Issue #82

PBRN Week in Review | June 24, 2011

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 or (501) 551-0106. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

Notable PBRN Activities

- **New PBRN Products – Don't Forget to Submit:** Results from Public Health PBRN research projects are coming into full bloom, as evidenced by recent presentations at the Keeneland Conference, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, and the research track of NACCHO's upcoming annual meeting this summer. As your network produces presentations, manuscripts, research briefs, and other products and tools that communicate findings and recommendations, don't forget to submit these to RWJF by following its electronic submission process. RWJF asks to receive these products as soon as they are completed. All products are submitted via e-mail and should be e-mailed to grantreports@rwjf.org. In addition please email the [NCC](#) a copy of your submitted products for our archives. For more information and instructions on submitting products, see [RWJF Electronic Submission Standards](#).
- ***Special Issue of Leadership in Public Health Devoted to the work of the PBRNs:*** The University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health is dedicating an upcoming issue of their journal, *Leadership in Public Health*, to the work of the Public Health PBRNs and the interplay between practice-based scholarship and leadership in public health. Editor Dr. Lou Rowitz tells us that the issue is now in production and we should have a publication date soon. Stay tuned!
- **QSRFs Available.** PH PBRNs have until **July 1** to propose Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF) studies for the current program year. The required one-page proposal should state the research questions and explain how the study will address a time-sensitive public health practice or policy issue. If the brief proposal shows promise, a three- to five-page proposal will be requested.
- **Grantee Quarterly Updates.** A reminder to grantee networks to respond to a recent email from Nancy Dockter in the NCC regarding the quarterly update on Public Health PBRN work. Using the provided guide, send an [email update](#) or call Nancy (501-686-5820) to give information by phone by June 30.
- **Quick Strike Project Wins Best Abstract Award AcademyHealth.** A research presentation at last week's AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting by Dr. Mary Jo Baisch and colleagues won the Most Outstanding Abstract Award in the Public Health Theme Area. The presentation summarized findings from the Wisconsin PBRN's QSRF longitudinal study of the scope and intensity of community health improvement interventions implemented in Wisconsin, using a novel electronic data system that heretofore had not been used for research purposes. Dr. Baisch is a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and a member of the Wisconsin

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Public Health PBRN. The award-winning abstract was titled, “A Longitudinal Study of Population Level Health Problems and Interventions.”

- **Academic Partner in the Georgia Public Health PBRN Earns CEPH Accreditation.** Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students of the **PH PBRN**. Jiann Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University for earning full accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), as announced earlier this week by CEPH. Interim dean Dr. Lynn Woodhouse is an energetic leader Georgia’s Public Health PBRN with a strong commitment to practice-based scholarship.
- **NAC Conference Call.** National Advisory Committee members met by teleconference on Wednesday, June 21. Action items include:
 - ◆ NAC members have identified some promising strategies to more meaningfully engage state health officials in the work of the PBRNs and in the larger PHSSR enterprise. More details will follow.
 - ◆ NAC members are invited to submit editorials or commentaries for a planned theme journal issue based on the work of the Public Health PBRNs. More details are available from Glen Mays.
- **PBRN Research Permeates the Nation’s Largest HSR Meeting.** One attendee at the 2011 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Seattle noted, “The Public Health PBRNs are everywhere!” In fact, PBRN research featured prominently in six research sessions and a poster session devoted to PHSSR at the main AcademyHealth meeting, and at the two-day Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting that followed. The PHSR Interest Group meeting celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and has become the second largest interest group at AcademyHealth with more than 2,000 members (second only to child health services research). PBRN members from Washington, Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida, and Missouri presented their research and engaged in a productive series of networking events and discussions with colleagues in the larger field of health services research.

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** Don’t miss out! 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

We want your input on upcoming AcademyHealth Summer webinar offerings!! Are there methods courses your PBRN is interested in viewing or past course offerings you would like to view again or didn’t get a chance to view? If so, please choose four topics you are most interested in for the next quarter via this link: <http://PHPBRNsMethodCourses.com> and send your selection to publichealthpbrn@uams.edu by June 28.

- **RFPs for Public Health PBRNs.** Responses to two RWJF requests for proposals (RFPs) limited to *Public Health PBRN* program grantees and affiliates are **due July 7**. Lead organization

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contacts who received the email invitation and link to the RWJF online proposal system must add other network members as contributors to share responsibilities for proofing and editing proposals.

Administrative Supplements. This RFP offers two opportunities for grantees and affiliates to broaden research in response to external developments that have varying effects on public health delivery systems and the populations they serve:

- ◆ *Expanding Diversity, Addressing Disparities and Social Determinants of Health* (Diversity and Disparities Supplement) provides PBRNs with an avenue to examine the public health system's current and potential roles in addressing health disparities and underlying social determinants of health, as well as ways to mitigate inequities in service delivery. PBRNs may apply for funds to support a junior investigator from an underrepresented population group to accelerate the tempo of existing research and/or to develop new lines of research related to health disparities. Four awards of up to \$100,000 each to be used over 18 months are available.
- ◆ *Advancing Methodology* (Methodology Supplement) offers networks an opportunity to address limitations in commonly used PHSSR approaches by developing and applying novel research designs and/or measurement and analytic techniques to ongoing projects. Two awards of \$50,000 each to use over 18 months are available.
- **Research Capacity Supplements:** This RFP provides opportunities for grantees to expand an existing small-scale study or to develop a new line of research that augments ongoing projects. The new or expanded effort should be designed to produce actionable knowledge about the causes and/or consequences of geographic variation in service delivery, quality, and/or outcomes in public health practice. Collaboration with one or more PH PBRNs and senior researcher(s) is a required strategy. Program grantees that have not implemented large-scale research projects are eligible to apply for the \$100,000 awards.

Activities on the Horizon

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- **PBRN Research Journal Theme Issue:** Will your PBRN have research results ready to submit for publication later by mid-August? The NCC is negotiating with the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* for a theme issue on public health PBRN research findings, and need a provisional assessment of the volume and type(s) of research studies that may be included. If you are interested in this publication opportunity, please send to us **by July 8 a provisional title and short abstract** describing the nature of the research article, including a brief summary of the data and analytic methods to be used in the paper.
 - **Developing the PHSSR Research Agenda.** Great strides are being made in the effort to develop an updated national research agenda for PHSSR, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other major public health stakeholders. At the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting last week, Drs. Debra Pérez and F. Douglas Scutchfield gave an update on this important initiative and solicited input and discussion from attendees representing the larger field of health services research. A similar discussion forum is planned for the NACCHO Annual Meeting in July to garner input from public health practitioners.

Important Developments in Practice and Policy

- ✦ **At Last, a Strategy:** On June 16, the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council announced the release of the *National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy*, a plan to increase the years of healthy life that Americans enjoy through a coordinated and comprehensive set of actions for government and private-sector stakeholders to undertake. Authorized by the Affordable Care Act, the National Prevention Strategy recognizes that good health requires not just excellent medical care, but also smart policy and environmental strategies to maintain safe and healthy conditions and enable healthy choices. The plan was developed by the National Prevention Council, which comprises 17 federal agencies having policy authority over actions that potentially influence human health. PBRNs could play valuable roles in studying the implementation and impact of these strategies at community levels.
- ✦ **From Categorical to Coordinated Funding Mechanisms:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced last week the availability *of approximately \$40 million for state and territorial health departments to strengthen and coordinate actions to prevent chronic diseases* and promote health across categorical prevention program areas. Created by the Affordable Care Act, the program will fund coordinated approaches to planning, implementation, and evaluation across program areas for heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and arthritis. PBRNs could play valuable roles in studying the implementation and impact of this [new funding mechanism](#).

Public Health PBRN Presentations

Keep Us in the Loop! Do you know of recent or upcoming presentations, reports, publications, etc. that feature the work of your PBRN or its members? Remember to submit these products to RWJF following the [Electronic Submission Guidelines](#), copying the [NCC](#).

- ✦ **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 an event known for its interactive learning sessions, this will be 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.* Three PH PBRN Round II grantees will share on findings from early studies and how this research was utilized to build their networks and develop research agendas that were relevant to public health practitioners.
Moderator: Matt Stefanak (Ohio)
Speakers: David Gregorio (Connecticut), Bill Livingood (Florida), and Julie Myhre (Minnesota)

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- ✦ **PBRN Research Rapid Dissemination through *MMWR*:** Does your network have some early data or preliminary findings from a research project that have important implications for public health practice and policy? The CDC publication, the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, provides an excellent vehicle for rapid and widespread dissemination of this information to the

public health field. If you share your concept for an article with the NCC, we can assist in crafting the submission. Early release of findings through *MMWR* typically does not preclude publication of final results in peer-reviewed journals.

- **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 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

- **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.** Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-November 2. [Registration](#) for the meeting and housing are now open. 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, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **New IOM Report on Using Law to Improve Public Health.** The latest IOM [report](#), “For the Public’s Health: Revitalizing Law and Policy to Meet New Challenges,” was released this week. Several of the recommendations have particular relevance for PHSSR and Public Health PBRNs. For example, recommendations 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 elucidate new research needs and opportunities that Public Health PBRNs could pursue. Members of the IOM committee that issued this new report include Dr. David Fleming of Public Health Seattle-King County and the Washington Public Health PBRN, Dr. Les Beitsch of Florida State University and a collaborator in the Florida Public Health PBRN, and Glen Mays of the NCC.
- **Health Economics Research Priorities at NIH.** Now available is the [report](#) summarizing a meeting convened by NIH last month to articulate research priorities in health economics relevant to health system reform.
- **Full Report from NACCHOs on Job Losses and Program Cuts Now Available.** In March, NACCHO released a preliminary report on its recent national survey of local health departments, demonstrating that continued budget cuts undermine the ability of LHDs to protect the health of the communities they serve. The final report, “Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: Findings from January 2011 Survey and 2010 National Profile

Study,” provides a more in-depth look at the data, showing how these cuts vary by state, LHD size, and LHD governance structure. An added feature, “Stories from the Field,” illustrates the impact of these cuts at two LHDs. More information is available at the [NACCHO](#) website.

- **Brief on Improving Patient Care Quality and Safety.** This recently released [brief](#) addresses issues surrounding the need for continual improvement in the quality of health services, safety, and costs. While noting strides that have been made, the brief conveys a sense of urgency for building a health care system less susceptible to errors and that “delivers better care.” The brief is one of many health policy briefs produced by the RWJF-supported *Health Affairs* journal. The briefs are available for download or email alerts.

RELATED RESOURCES

- **New Translational Research Awards.** Two universities engaged in PHPBRN activities – University of Kentucky and University of Minnesota -- have received NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards to support the translation of scientific discoveries into real-world clinical and community settings. Congratulations! We hope these awards will open new opportunities for translational research involving the PHPBRNs.

WEBINAR

- **Climate Change and Public Health.** The fourth and final webinar of the series, “Climate Change: Mastering the Public Health Role,” will be aired June 29, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. ET. The series is hosted by APHA. [Registration](#) is free and required.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **A Framework to Guide QI Improvement in Public Health.** In the April issue of *Health Affairs*, PHSSR finance expert Peggy Honore´ and colleagues describe two recent reports from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that provide key concepts and a framework to guide quality improvement (QI) efforts in public health. Honore´ serves as the director of the Public Health Systems, Finance, and Quality Program for HHS, which in 2008 convened the HHS Public Health Quality Forum to address the lack of a coherent plan to improve quality in the U.S. public health system. The two reports – the outcome of two years of work by the forum – provide 1) a consensus definition of quality in public health, 2) nine aims (i.e., attributes or characteristics) to target in order to improve quality of the public health system, and 3) six priority areas (based on three criteria: impact, improvability, and practice variability) intended to serve as drivers for QI in public health.

According to the article, the intent of the public health QI definition, aims and priorities is to “create synergy to achieve common goals for improvement,” including uniformity in development and evaluation of QI programs, research, and agendas, as well as goal-setting on the local, state, and national levels. The forum’s next steps will be to create measures for the QI aims and priority areas.

The article can be accessed [here](#). Click on the links for the two reports: [Consensus Statement on Quality in the Public Health System](#) and [Priority Areas for Improvement in Public Health](#).

- **From NACCHO: Resources for Addressing Health Inequities through Public Health Practice.** In July, the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) will make available an [online learning community](#) for public health practitioners to foster greater

understanding of injustice as the root of health inequities, and the connection to public health practice. This free resource is one of several offered by NACCHO on the topic, among them the [anthology](#), *Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice: Theory to Action*, edited by Richard Hofrichter and Rajiv Bhatia. It includes a chapter by Connecticut PBRN leaders Elaine O’Keefe and Jennifer Kertanis, along with colleague Baker Salsbury, about the development, testing, and use of a tool to measure social determinants of health.

Transitions

As announced in recent PHPBRN conference calls, the NCC’s Glen Mays will be transitioning to the University of Kentucky College of Public Health this fall to occupy the F. Douglas Scutchfield Endowed Professorship in Health Services and Systems Research. Rest assured that the work of the Public Health PBRN Program will continue uninterrupted as NCC operations move to a new home base in Kentucky. Of course, connections and collaborations with the many great colleagues in Arkansas also will continue unabated.

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.

NEW LISTINGS

- **Healthy People Community Innovations Project.** John Snow, Inc. (JSI), as part of a contract with U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, has released an RFP for the Healthy People Community Innovations Project. Up to 170 projects will be funded, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. A conference call for prospective applicants will be held on Monday, June 27. More details are available at [Healthy People 2020 RFP](#). Application deadline: August 5.
- **Advancing HIV Prevention through Transformative Behavioral and Social Science Research.** NIH R01 grant [FOA RFA-MH-12-080](#). Open date and letter of intent due date: December 6. Application due date: January 6, 2012.
- **Spatial Uncertainty: Data, Modeling, and Communication (R03).** NIH [FOA PA-11-240](#). Open date: September 16 Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.
- **Spatial Uncertainty: Data, Modeling, and Communication (R21).** NIH [FOA PA-11-239](#). Open date: September 16 Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.
- **Spatial Uncertainty: Data, Modeling, and Communication (R01).** NIH [FOA PA-11-238](#). Open date: September 05 Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.
- **Minority Women Special Emphasis Notice (SEN):** AHRQ Announces Interest in grants focused on [Health Issues of Minority Women](#). NOT-HS-11-013.

- **Health Care System Redesign Special Emphasis Notice (SEN):** AHRQ Announces Interest in Career Development (K01, K02, K08) Grants focused on [Health Care System Redesign](#). NOT-HS-11-006.
- **Priority Populations Special Emphasis Notice (SEN):** AHRQ Announces Interest in [Priority Populations Research](#). NOT-HS-11-014.
- **NIH/PEPFAR Collaboration for Implementation Science and Impact Evaluation.** NIH R01 grant [FOA RFA-AI-11-003](#). Application due date: July 7.
- **Obesity Policy Research.** NIH [FOA](#) Obesity Policy Research Evaluation and Measures (R01). Expiration Date: January 8, 2013. Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.
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PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **Public Prevention Health Fund: Community Transformation Grants.** These grants are a key piece of the ACA that are yet to be implemented through the Public Prevention Health Fund and represent an important expansion of the nation's investment in evidence-based, cross-cutting public health work. The reach, implementation and impact of these new programs will need to be evaluated. Public health PBRNs should keep an eye on the emerging programs as excellent PHSSR opportunities.

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." Application deadline is July 15.

- **Building Capacity and Research Infrastructure.** The NIH has released a [Request for Applications](#) for the NIMHD Endowment Program for Increasing Research and Institutional Resources Capacity. According to the RFP, "the purpose of this program is to build capacity and research infrastructure and to facilitate minority health and health disparities research at eligible institutions, but not to directly support the research projects itself." Total program funding is \$15 million. The deadline for letters of intent is June 28. The application deadline is July 28.
- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). Concept papers for rapid-response awards 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

July 8	PBRN Research Journal Theme Issue Abstract Due
July 20	Quarterly Webinar
July 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011, Hartford
July 21	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Aug 18	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Sept 15	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Oct 20	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Oct 29-Nov 2	APHA Annual Meeting 2011, Washington, D.C.

Happy Independence Day! The Next Newsletter Will Be After July 4.

