

Issue #83

PBRN Week in Review | July 8, 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

- **PH PBRN Quarterly Webinar.** The Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET. Please share this invitation with your network members.

Discussion Leader: Edward L. Baker, M.D., M.P.H., Research Professor at University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health in Chapel Hill

Topic: "Finding the Middle Way in Practice-Based Research"

Overview: Practice-based research networks may approach selection of a research question from one of two perspectives. Researchers may be oriented toward a particular research interest and will set forth a study design to pursue that interest. Practitioners may be more oriented toward identifying research needs related to the issues and concerns faced in practice. Using the experience of the **North Carolina Practice-Based Research Network**, we will discuss specific situations from each perspective and review what happened. Out of these and related experiences, North Carolina has formulated a "Middle Way" which holds promise for the conduct of future public health systems and services research. The Middle Way involves a series of steps designed to guide research toward greater impact on policy and practice.

- **PH PBRN Hosts NACCHO Pre-Conference.** The **CT PH PBRN** invites PBRN colleagues to a dynamic NACCHO pre-conference session on health equity on July 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hosted by the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, lead organization for the CT PH PBRN, the session includes experts from across the country who have made social justice the cornerstone of their public health careers. Connecticut's unique Health Equity Index, a powerful tool linking local data on community conditions with health outcomes, also will be demonstrated. Please contact Eileen Kehl at ekehl@cadh.org or 860-727-9874 for more information. You can also visit the [event website](#) for more information, to register for the conference, and/or to book rooms at conference rates.
- **Disruption and Opportunity.** Minnesota state government largely shut down at midnight on July 1 when the Democratic governor and majority Republican legislature reached an impasse without a budget to begin the new biennium. As of early Wednesday afternoon, July 6, the two sides were still about \$1.4 billion apart. More than 20,000 of the state's 36,000 employees have been furloughed, and among those are members of the PH PBRN lead agency, the Office of

Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health. [A judge's ruling](#) determined the core functions that would continue operating with temporary funding and limited personnel. In the public health arena, those included newborn screening, vaccine distribution, core laboratory capacity, public health emergency response, birth and death certificate issuance, WIC, facility security, incident command, and support for critical services. Some of those services continue because of federal funding requirements, as noted in the ruling. The shutdown is having a trickledown effect in public health and other areas, because without state funds, some county health departments cannot operate at full strength.

As the Public Health PBRNs have experienced through the H1N1 outbreak and the nation's economic woes, these unexpected, unfortunate, unwelcome situations can bring opportunities to learn through research. The state government shutdown in Minnesota presents another natural experiment with potential to yield invaluable information well beyond its borders, for as [Reuters](#) points out, the parties there "echo differences in Washington and several other states where Democrats and Republicans differ over plans to close budget gaps."

- ✦ **New IOM Report on Childhood Obesity.** The latest IOM [report](#), "Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies," was released in June. The report outlines how children's activities and behaviors can be better shaped by childcare centers, preschools, pediatricians offices, federal nutrition programs, and other facilities and programs. Members of the IOM committee that issued the report include Alice Ammerman, PH PBRN national advisory committee member.
- ✦ **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, remember to submit these to RWJF by following its electronic submission process. RWJF asks that these products be submitted 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 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 PH PBRN Research.** 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!

Activities on the Horizon

- ✦ **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 in June, 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 this month 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 in June 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

- **Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes Special Theme Issue.** HRSA, NIMHD/NIH, and the [Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved \(JHCPU\)](#) have announced a call for abstracts for a Special Theme Issue of *JHCPU*: Evidence for Informing the Next Generation of Quality Improvement Initiatives: Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes. The publication

date for this special theme issue of the *JHCPU* is scheduled for August 2012. Abstract Submission Deadline September 1..

- **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.** A new 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.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Local public health resource allocation decision making.** In the July-August issue of *Public Health Management and Practice*, Nancy Baum and colleagues report findings of their 2008-09 national survey of more than 600 local health officials. Their analysis considers a host of agency characteristics; quantifies processes used in allocation decisions; and poses some interesting questions for further research.
- **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

➤ **CDC-RFA-CD11-1102: Promoting Health Policy and Disease Prevention**

For more information, and to access the FOA CDC-RFA-CD11-1102 and the application package:

- Visit: <http://www.grants.gov/>
- Select: “Apply for Grants” (left menu bar)
- Select: “Step 1: Download a Grant Application”
- In the field marked “Funding Opportunity Number” insert **CDC-RFA-CD11-1102** and click “Download Package”. **The application due date is August 01.**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED 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 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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 p.m. local time of applicant organization.
- **Obesity Policy Research.** NIH [FOA](#) Obesity Policy Research Evaluation and Measures (R03). Expiration Date: January 8, 2013. Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 p.m. local time of applicant organization.
- **Obesity Policy Research.** NIH [FOA](#) Obesity Policy Research Evaluation and Measures (R21). Expiration Date: January 8, 2013. Application due date: [standard dates](#) apply, 5:00 p.m. local time of applicant organization.
- **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. Letters of intent were due 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 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011, Hartford
July 21	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Aug 3	Quarterly Webinar 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.