

Issue #84

## **PBRN Week in Review | July 15, 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](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) or (501) 551-0106. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

### **Notable PBRN Activities**

**July Conference Call.** The Kentucky PH PBRN will present research results during the Public Health PBRN monthly conference call on Thursday, July 21 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern. The call coincides with the NACCHO conference.

### **Public Health PBRNs at the NACCHO Annual 2011\***

**NACCHO Annual 2011.** Join the nation's local health officials for the NACCHO Annual 2011 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford from July 20 through 22. For a second year, the meeting features a research track in its program known for interactive learning sessions. It's a great opportunity for public health practice and research colleagues to explore new ideas and examine strategies for the future. This special section highlights the PH PBRN related activities at the meeting. ***Kudos to our colleagues at NACCHO for their work in putting on this terrific meeting!***

- **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](mailto: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.
- **NAC Members Speaking at Town Hall Meeting.** National Advisory Committee Chair **Michael Caldwell** and member **Judith Monroe** are two of the five federal, state and local government health experts participating in a Town Hall Meeting to provide an overview of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its current and potential impacts. Scheduled for Wednesday, July 20 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., the meeting will be facilitated by Caldwell. Monroe and other panelists' remarks will be followed by an open discussion of how conference participants can prepare their agencies and communities for the continued progressive implementation of the ACA.

## Sessions Related to Public Health Practice-Based Research

**Thursday, July 20**

10:00-11:30 a.m.

### **"Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy"**

Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks enable LHDs to collaborate with academic researchers to conduct rigorous, applied studies focused on the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services in real-world settings. Three Round II grantees from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Public Health PBRN program will share early results from their studies that address a current or emerging need for which quick research results are useful for practice or policy action. They also will describe how they leveraged early research to foster their networks and set research agendas relevant to practitioners in their states. This session builds on a NACCHO 2010 Annual sharing-session focused on PBRN development.

- ◆ Facilitator: **Matthew Stefanak**, MPH; Health Commissioner, Mahoning County District Board of Health & Co-PI, Ohio PH PBRN
- ◆ Speakers: **David Gregorio**, PhD; Director of Public Health Program, University of Connecticut, **CT PH PBRN**

**William Livingood**, PhD; Senior Research Scientist, Duval County Health Department, **Florida PH PBRN**

**Julie Myhre**, MS; Director, Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board, **Minnesota PBRN**

## Sessions including PH PBRN Members

**Thursday, July 20**

10:00-11:30 a.m.

### **"Contributing Factors to Successful Outcomes in Public Health Collaboratives"**

A major challenge facing state and local health departments is how to collaborate with other organizations, agencies, and groups to address goals in population health while effectively maximizing partners' resources. Today's public health efforts require multiagency partnerships between both governmental and nongovernmental sectors to achieve this mission. This research identifies factors that facilitate successful partnerships, barriers to successful partnerships, and common characteristics of public health partnerships. Findings will allow public health practitioners to prioritize resources and efforts to engage partnerships successfully in alleviating pressing public health dilemmas. The session will include software demonstrations.

- ◆ Facilitator/Speaker: **Danielle Varda**, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Denver, **Colorado PBRN**

## Sessions including PH PBRN Members, cont.

**Friday, July 22**

9:15-10:00 a.m.

### **"Setting the Agenda for Public Health Services & Systems Research—What Works?"**

Please join us for a networking and listening session on the national agenda for public health services and systems research. We want your feedback and ideas on the new agenda (still in draft form). Over the last six months, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, their contractor Altarum, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Coordinating Center for PHSSR have engaged practitioners, researchers and policymakers in four workgroups to define research priorities in four areas:

- Workforce
- Finance
- Organization and Structure, and
- Technology, Data and Methods

The workgroups have completed their work and we are now seeking review and comment from additional public health practitioners and researchers. We are scheduled to finalize the agenda by September. The purpose of the networking session is to obtain input from practitioners. There will also be information available on current and upcoming grants available to respond to this research agenda. After the session, you will be able to comment on the agenda electronically through the NCC PHSSR site [www.publichealthsystems.org](http://www.publichealthsystems.org).

**Friday, July 22**

10:00-11:30 a.m.

### **"Helping Local Health Departments Apply the Evidence Base of Public Health"**

The National Commission on Prevention Priorities (NCPP) has undertaken work to assess the value of selected interventions recommended in *The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide)*. LHDs are under pressure to improve services while facing smaller budgets. Applying the evidence base is required for accreditation and meeting national public health performance standards. *The Community Guide* is a compendium of evidence-based interventions that can help LHDs meet these expectations. The NCPP is adding additional useful information to *The Community Guide* that will allow LHDs to sort, compare, and select recommended interventions based on the needs and circumstances of their community.

- ◆ Speaker: **Michael Caldwell**, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health,  
Dutchess County Department of Health, Poughkeepsie, NY  
**Chair, PH PBRN National Advisory Committee**

#### ➤ **NACCHO Poster Session**

### **"Relationship between Health Services Providers and Community Health Outcomes"**

Evidence-based practice is a key factor in “moving public health forward,” especially when the public health community is undergoing a renaissance and a reaffirmation in its importance to public health. The relevance of this study is rooted in the opportunity to obtain more insight into the effectiveness of different formats of health services providers, collaboration among providers, and community health outcomes.

- ◆ **Rick Ingram, DrPH, Kentucky PBRN**  
**Robin Pendley, MPH, CPH, Kentucky PBRN**

➤ **Exhibits.** Stop by and visit the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation exhibitors (# 222) and the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research at exhibit # 325.

\* Session descriptions are from the [NACCHO 2011 Annual Conference Guide](#).

## Activities on the Horizon

➤ **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** Don't miss out! The AcademyHealth Summer Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through **September 30**. Invite network partners to take these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:

- Best Practices in Designing and Analyzing Internet Surveys for HSR
- Analysis of Social Networks Part I: The Network Perspective and Network Data (First in the series)
- Applied Propensity Score Analysis I
- Multilevel Modeling: A Public Health Methods Webinar

We want your input on upcoming AcademyHealth Fall 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](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) by September 15.

**PH PBRN Quarterly Webinar.** The Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2011 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. ET. The discussion leader details for the webinar are below and the discussants slides are attached. If you plan to attend, please take a moment to register for the event [here](#). We invite you to extend this invitation to your network partners and other interested members of your PBRN. We encourage participants to share connections where possible.

**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.

**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!

**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 next week to garner input from public health practitioners. (See session description at the top of Page 3.)

## 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](#).

## 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

**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 Childhood Obesity.** The IOM released a new [report](#), “Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies,” 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.

**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.

## 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](#).

## 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

**Effectiveness and Efficiency of Public Health.** CDC has released a [FOA](#) to support an “Initiative to Educate State and Territorial Officials about Increasing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Public Health System.” Total number of awards: 3 Estimated total program funding is \$750,000. Application Submission Deadline: August 8.

**Maternal and Child Health Research Program (MCHR).** HRSA has released a [FOA](#) to support applied research relating to maternal and child health services. Estimated total program funding is \$2,600,000. Application submission Deadline: September 7.

### 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. Letters of intent were due June 28. The application deadline is July 28.

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.**

**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.

**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. More details available at [Healthy People 2020 RFP](#). Application deadline: August 5.

**RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

## Key Dates

<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 3</b>	Quarterly Webinar   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Aug 18</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Sept 15</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Oct 20</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Oct 29-Nov 2</b>	APHA Annual Meeting 2011, Washington, D.C.