

Issue #85

PBRN Week in Review | July 22, 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

- **July Conference Call.** The PH PBRN National Coordinating Center, grantees and affiliates conducted the monthly phone conference on Thursday, July 21, 2011 from 1:00-2:30pm ET. Grantees from the Kentucky PH PBRN, Dr. Angela Dearing and Dr. Richard Ingram, presented their Research Implementation Award (RIA) finding on “Community Outreach and Change for Diabetes Management”. The aim was to evaluate the extent to which organizational quality improvement strategies influence the adoption and implementation of evidence-based interventions as identified in the Community Guide to Preventive Services. Change facilitation was used to promote improvement in existing Diabetes Self Management Education services delivered to adults enrolled in Diabetes Centers of Excellence in six local health department sites.

Using Social Network Analysis to Understand PBRNs. During the call, we discussed the rationale and logistics for mounting a social network analysis survey with the Round II Public Health PBRNs. A similar effort was implemented with the Round I networks last year which provided some very valuable baseline data on network composition, structure, and patterns of interaction. Affiliate PBRN networks can also join in this activity and learn from the data. Networks were very eager to participate in this study. During the call, Ohio, Nebraska, New York, and Missouri agreed to participate. Round II networks please email us at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu, if your network is interested in participating in this study.

- **View the Best of ARM.** Some of the most popular sessions from the 2011 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) are now available for viewing on the [ARM website](#). These recordings and materials are accessible only to registered participants and will be available for viewing until Sunday, September 19. Please note: the following three key public health sessions sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are freely open and available to the public, including those who are not registered participants, for viewing.
 - [IOM Report on Measuring Health Methodological Implications](#) - **Glen Mays**, Director PH PBRN NCC as a presenter. ([slides](#))
 - [New Directions: The Public Health Systems and Services Research Agenda](#) - **F. Douglas Scutchfield**, University of Kentucky PH PBRN, ([slides](#)) and **Debra Perez**, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as presenters

- [Emerging Findings in Public Health Systems and Services Research- Debra Perez, RWJF](#)

- **Minnesota Back To Work.** After a 20 day shutdown, Minnesota state government was gradually moving back in business on Thursday. State services resumed a day after legislators passed, and Governor Mark Dayton signed into law, a \$35.7 billion, two year budget on Wednesday.

More than 20,000 of the state's 36,000 employees had been furloughed, and among those were the members of the PH PBRN lead agency, the Office of Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health. 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."

Activities on the Horizon

- **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.

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.

- **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

SPREAD
THE
WORD!

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 by September 15.

- ✦ **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.

Related Practice and Research Developments

- ✦ **PHSSR Research Agenda Setting.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Kentucky National Coordinating Center for PHSSR (NCC PHSSR) are inviting you to participate in the vetting process by via the [IDEASCALE Survey](#). Before taking the survey and sharing your comments, download a copy of the [research agenda](#) and the [recent issue brief](#). The survey will be open for 90 days.
- ✦ **New Environmental Public Health Tracking Data:** Notices of Intent to award Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding to twenty four states and local health departments under the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program were announced last week, including many states with Public Health PBRN activity. This new surveillance capacity promises to enrich the data sources available for PHSSR and PBRN research. The anticipated award date is August 1st. For more information, see the [Federal Register](#) website.
- ✦ **Economic Focus.** The CDC's new logo now includes "Saving Money Through Prevention." This is an important signal of shift in focus in the current economic climate. "CDC 24/7 Saving Lives. Protecting People. Saving Money Through Prevention."

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

- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **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.

Call for Abstracts

- ◆ **2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit.** [Registration](#) is now open for the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit. Abstracts are now being accepted for the following: Pre-Conference, Workshops or Trainings (2, 4, and 8 hours), Interactive Panel Sessions (90 minutes), Informal Sharing Sessions (45 minutes), and Poster Presentations. [Learn more about submitting an abstract.](#) Abstracts must be submitted by Friday, August 19, 2011 at 11:59 PM, EDT.

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.
- **2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit.** The [PHP Summit](#) in Anaheim. February 21-24, 2012.

REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Insurance, Contraception, and IOM.** A new [report](#) from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) provide [various recommendations](#) regarding preventive health services for women that should be added to the services that health plans will cover at no cost to patients under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). One of the controversial recommendations is that insurers should cover contraception, including emergency contraception. This controversial recommendation has made big news since the report's release.
- **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

- **Evidence Links Increases in Public Health Spending to Declines in Preventable Deaths:** In the August 2011 issue of [HealthAffairs](#), Glen Mays and Sharla Smith article examining whether changes in spending by local public health agencies contributed to changes in the rate of community mortality from preventable causes of death will be published. This study found that mortality rates fell between 1.1 percent and 6.9 percent for each 10 percent increase in local public health spending. A very nice example of an innovative PHSSR study using a unique panel dataset. For access to the online before print version, click [here](#).
- **SNA and QI.** Danielle Varda takes social network analysis to a new level by demonstrating how incisive questions about collaborative relationships can yield data that can be applied to strengthen those ties – and ideally result in better outcomes for public health practice. Her study is featured in the March/April 2011 issue of *Public Health Management and Practice*.

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.” Although Public Health PBRN networks themselves are not likely to be eligible for this grant, this will be an excellent dissemination vehicle for PBRN research – especially studies that address implementation of evidence-based practices, financing, and resource allocation decision-making. 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. This is an excellent funding vehicle for PBRN research projects that examine organization, financing, and delivery of MCH services – and public health systems research is specifically named as a priority in this FOA. Estimated total program funding is \$2,600,000. Application submission Deadline: September 7.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **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 application deadline is **July 28**.

NOTE
DATE

- **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

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.