

Issue #86

## **PBRN Week in Review | July 29, 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**

SPREAD  
THE  
WORD!

- **PH PBRN Quarterly Webinar.** The Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar is scheduled for next Wednesday, August 3 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET. 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.

**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 Session at NACCHO 2011.** Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks from three states presented results of their recent work to local public health officials at their annual meeting on July 21 in Hartford, Conn.

David Gregorio from the **Connecticut PH PBRN** presented results of Quick Strike research examining how local health departments are responding to state government funding formula changes designed to encourage shared services and regionalization. Intended to answer the question of whether "right-sized" regionalization/shared services among local health departments can be achieved through centralized fiscal policy, local health officials responding to the survey acknowledged some potential benefits of regionalization but were skeptical of the state's policy to restrict per capita funding.

Representing a team of academic and practice-based researchers from the **Florida PH PBRN**, Bill Livingood shared results of a self-assessment by leaders in Florida's 67 county health departments about how the Ten Essential Services are funded in their agencies and their capacity to meet Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards. Many health departments, ranging from 30% to 98% depending on the service, reported complete or almost complete capacity to meet PHAB Essential Service Standards.

Julie Myhre from the **Minnesota PH PBRN** discussed their recent descriptive study of authority, structure and change in that state's local health departments. Exploring such questions as the level of authority of Minnesota's 75 local health directors to lead their agencies, the study found that many health directors lacked the basic authority to initiate communication with their local elected officials.

Facilitated by Matt Stefanak from the **Ohio PH PBRN**, the panel was the latest in a series of NACCHO sessions aimed at including local public health professionals in discussions of the real-time, relevant research efforts and results underway in practice contexts.

- **PHAST update.** The Public Health Activities and Tracking (PHAST) study is well underway! It's a huge job to clean, understand, and combine data across states and gather and link exactly what's needed to do some analyses. They have been focusing on 5 annual years of data in maternal/child health (MCH) services and expenditures among LHDs in 3 states (CO, WA, & FL) for now, and WIC to start with. They have also been linking our data with national NACCHO, census data, and other variables and we hope to have some initial MCH-related findings this summer! (As we do some initial analyses, however, they are setting themselves up with models and processes that will make it easier to examine different kinds of services and data you have sent them more easily in the future.) They have also received some additional small amounts of money to help us support us in expanding our number of PBRN states and services. Unfortunately, the large federal grant they geared up for writing didn't end up being posted, but they are looking for other opportunities and have also worked on proposals with other interested PBRN states.

Ten PBRN states have sent data. If you have not heard from them in a while, they're not neglecting you, but getting better at knowing how to handle these data! Please let Betty Bekemeier [bettybek@uw.edu](mailto:bettybek@uw.edu) know if you have study ideas you would like to discuss and pursue with them.

- **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

## 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.

- ✦ **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 was held this month at the NACCHO Annual Meeting to garner input from public health practitioners. You are invited to participate in the vetting process 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.

Vetting  
Process  
Info!

## Related Practice and Research Developments

- ✦ **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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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

- **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.
- **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.

## 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

- **New Series on Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science,** AHRQ has released a new series on “Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science.” In 2004, AHRQ launched a series of reports on quality improvement strategies, tools, and processes aimed at reducing gaps in quality in a number of areas, including hypertension, diabetes, coordination of care, and other topics. This new series of reports continues the focus on improving the quality of health care with the goal of applying and advancing the state of the science for improving the health care system for the benefit of all patients. Select to read about the new series of [reports](#).
- **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.

## 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.
- **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.

### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED 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 is 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.
- ✦ **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>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.