

Issue #89

PBRN Week in Review | Aug 19, 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

- **August Research Web Conference.** Early results of a QI Quick Strike study examining Florida's 67 county health departments' (CHDs) use of the County Health Rankings (CHR) were presented by Bonnie Sorenson and Nancy Winterbauer for the **Florida PH PBRN** on the monthly web conference. With an overview of the study design and conceptual framework serving as a backdrop, Winterbauer described results of formative research with two focus groups and eight individual interviews of CHD officers about their expectations, resources, community partner involvement, media coverage, and definitions of "successful" use of the rankings. The study team is developing an online survey to distribute to the 67 CHDs, and conference participants discussed possible approaches to the domains of characterizing community coalitions and contextualizing CHR outcomes. Case studies that include key informant interviews with LHD staff and community members, assessment of media coverage, and other contextual data are still to come as part of this examination of the use and possible impact of the County Health Rankings in Florida.

Bonita "Bonnie" Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A., is Director of the Volusia County Health Department in Daytona Beach and practice co-PI of the project.

Nancy Winterbauer, Ph.D., M.S., M.A., is the project's research co-PI. Winterbauer recently joined the faculty of the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine Department of Public Health where she continues her leadership in practice-based research.

Up Next... Betty Bekemeier presents research for **Washington PH PBRN** on September 15.

- **Speak Up for PHSSR Priorities.** Three important opportunities are at hand for shaping the research agenda, priorities, and resources for public health services and systems research.
 - ◆ First, comments on the national **PHSSR** research agenda are being accepted through **August 31**. [IdeaScale](#) provides the mechanism for your input, and background documents are available for reference.
 - ◆ Second, the **Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)** is soliciting comments on the draft definition of PCOR and their initial set of research priorities until **August 31**. While PCORI is heavily focused on patient care, its mission also includes studying *prevention* and treatment options, and comparing *delivery system* innovations and

clinical interventions. This leaves the door open for PHSSR oriented studies, but they must hear from stakeholders the research most important to fund. Submit comments to PCORI at their [website](#).

- ◆ Third, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund supports exceptionally innovative programs that are inherently high-risk but have the potential for high-payoff by catalyzing research across all of NIH and the health research continuum. New ideas for Common Fund programs are identified annually by internal and external scientists and stakeholders. NIH is soliciting input on these ideas to help shape new programs for 2013. This is an ideal vehicle for seeking NIH support for PBRN research related to public health services and systems research, so make sure that NIH hears your voice. As an example, one of the topics addressed by last year's Common Fund involved research on the economics of prevention. Submit your comments until **September 14** at <http://commonfund.nih.gov/strategicplanning>.

Activities on the Horizon

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** 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
 - Applied Propensity Score Analysis I
 - Multilevel Modeling: A Public Health Methods Webinar

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Call for Publication Abstracts – QI Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes.** HRSA, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* are accepting abstracts for a theme issue entitled Evidence for Informing the Next Generation of Quality Improvement Initiatives: Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes. [Guidelines for abstracts](#) and details about the theme issue are available online, and **abstracts are due September 1**.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Is Evidence Always Enough?** The September issue of *Preventing Chronic Disease* features a section entitled “Ethical Issues in Interventions for Childhood Obesity.” While Public Health PBRNs are not intervention focused, per se, this series brings to light important considerations also illustrated in the Florida QI Quick Strike presentation this week...what seems compelling evidence to those of us in public health may not be significant enough alone for policymakers and stakeholders who balance competing perspectives. How can networks approach translation and dissemination of research results from the viewpoints of their various audiences?

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](#).

- The **MA PH PBRN** will be presenting at the APHA Conference. J. Hyde, J. Waggett, B. Mills, L. Fried and G. Wilkinson will be presenting their paper, “Catalysts of Organizational Change: What Sparks and Maintains Interest in Regional Approaches to Public Health Service Delivery?”

Resources in Research and Practice

REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **BRFSS Data.** Additional BRFSS data and maps for 2010 have been released. The [SMART BRFSS data](#) is available at the metropolitan, micropolitan, and many county levels from 2002 through 2010, and [BRFSS maps](#) provide a visual element to enhance understanding of the data. As web conference participants saw and heard in the Florida presentation (page 1), LHDs, policymakers, and other stakeholders may react to data by denying its accuracy, minimizing its prevalence, or ignoring its existence. Multiple data sources in various formats are important to the well-stocked toolkit.
- **PHAB Report.** *Evaluation of the PHAB Beta Test: Brief Report*, which includes recommendations and revisions to the accreditation process, standards and measures, is available on the [organization’s website](#).

WEBINARS

- **Accreditation, Performance Standards & MAPP.** The first installment of the newly expanded Public Health Agency & Systems Improvement Webinar series will be August 23 from 2:00-3:00 pm ET. The webinar panel will discuss what many public health practitioners and researchers probably have been wondering...how are all of these related but somewhat distinct efforts such as accreditation, quality improvement, community health assessment, improvement planning, MAPP going to come together? More [webinar](#) info.

CONFERENCES

- **NALBOH Conference.** 19th Annual [NALBOH](#) Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 7-9.
- **APHA Annual Meeting.** Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-November 2. [Registration and hotel info.](#) [APHA general meeting info.](#)
- **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.** [PHP Summit](#) in Anaheim, February 21-24, 2012

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

- **A Mention from Mays.** A reminder to PH PBRNs with doctoral students collaborating in research projects that these students can pursue dissertation funding to support their research activities. The three biggest and best federal sources for doctoral students pursuing HSR and PHSSR research projects are [NIH NRSA awards\(F-31s\)](#), [AHRQ's R36 awards](#), and [NSF's Dissertation Research Improvement awards](#). And of course, the University of Kentucky [National Coordinating Center for PHSSR](#) offers dissertation support through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The eligibility criteria and deadlines vary -- November for AHRQ, December for NIH, January for NSF, UK yet to be announced. I strongly encourage my students to pursue these types of awards -- they are absolutely the best way to start extramural funding and the road to becoming an independent investigator. Most other research funding opportunities require an established track record of funding and relevant publications, but these only require great ideas, strong research plans and supportive mentors and research environments--like those that can be found in Public Health PBRNs. Boarding the funding train is always easiest while it is stopped at the first station!
- **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

Key Dates

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| 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. |