

Issue #91

## **PBRN Week in Review | Sep 16 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**

- **PH PBRN September Research Conference.** With their 2010 Research Implementation Award (RIA) project, the Washington State PH PBRN took advantage of the unfortunate opportunity to examine factors influencing public health practice leaders' decision-making during a financial crisis. Co-investigators Betty Bekemeier and Anthony Chen presented their results to PH PBRN conference participants this week. Analyzing existing data for changes in the number of services provided by each of the 35 local health jurisdictions (LHJ) in 2008 and 2009, investigators found wide variation in how many types and in which types of services were cut, even when accounting for urban/rural settings. Through a series of semi-structured interviews with 11 of the practice leaders, eight themes emerged as the major factors that influenced prioritization of allocating funds to services. The two most influential factors in decision-making were: (1) maintaining legally mandated public health services, and (2) availability of financial resources, which included sources of and flexibility to use various types of funding. Though LHJ leaders recognized the value of using evidence as a basis for funding allocation decisions, they noted the challenges of limited workforce capacity to collect and analyze data and of choosing between directing resources toward providing services or making more effective use of data. A lively discussion among conference participants included the relationship of mandated public health activities to the evidence base, a variety of workforce capacity issues and the need for data and research that is accessible and relevant to practice.

Betty Bekemeier, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., is an assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Nursing where her focus is on public health systems research, particularly as it pertains to state and local health departments and public health nurses.

Anthony L-T Chen, M.D., M.P.H., is a family physician and Director of Health of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and a clinical associate professor in health services at the University of Washington School of Public Health. He is interested in community health planning and program development, quality and systems improvement, access to health care, cross-cultural medicine and cultural competency in health care.

The [WA PH PBRN](#) is based at Public Health-Seattle & King County.

**Up Next...** Justeen Hyde presents research for **Massachusetts PH PBRN** on October 15.

- **Stop by for an E-Visit.** The **NC PH PBRN** has a new [website](#)! Read about their research agenda, ongoing and completed projects, and upcoming seminar series on PHSSR and PBRNs.
- **New Contact Info.** Glen Mays has settled in to his new digs at the University of Kentucky. His new contact information is:

Glen P. Mays, M.P.H., Ph.D.

F. Douglas Scutchfield Endowed Professor in Health Services and Systems Research  
University of Kentucky College of Public Health

121 Washington Avenue, Room 204

Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0003

Phone: 859-218-2029

[glen.mays@uky.edu](mailto:glen.mays@uky.edu)

Staff at the Coordinating Center at the University of Arkansas continue to provide support to grantees and affiliate networks as the program completes its move to Kentucky over the next couple of months.

## Activities on the Horizon

Note  
Date

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The AcademyHealth Summer Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs are available for a couple more weeks, until **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
- **Cohort II and Affiliate PBRNs Social Network Analysis Study.** The **Cohort II and Affiliates SNA study is underway.** The timeframe agreed upon to field the instrument is September 23 through October 31. If you have not sent a list of your network's active participants to the [PBRN Coordinating Center](#), please do so as soon as possible!

Note!

- **PHSSR Session at APHA 2011.** This session has been moved to a larger room! Deadline to register has passed but check with [Rebecca Brown](#) *now* to see if space is available. On Saturday, October 29, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm ET, "Translating PHSSR to Practice" will provide an opportunity for public health researchers and practitioners attending APHA to work together addressing the challenges of translating research results to practice. Among the familiar names on the program are NAC Chair Michael Caldwell, Ohio PH PBRN Co-PI Matt Stefanak and Tennessee affiliate PH PBRN leader Paul Erwin.

## New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **PH PBRN Researchers.** The September issue of *American Journal of Public Health* includes several articles written by and/or of interest to network participants.
  - ◆ Mary Davis, Brittan Wood and Ed Baker of the **North Carolina PH PBRN** are among the authors of "[Informing the National Public Health Accreditation Movement: Lessons from North Carolina's Accredited Local Health Departments.](#)" The voluntary national accreditation program established by PHAB was patterned after systems in place in several states, including North Carolina.

- ◆ Bridget Booske, a **Wisconsin PH PBRN** researcher, co-authors the article, "[US Opinions on Health Determinants and Social Policy as Health Policy](#)," which examines public opinion related to determinants of health. Their findings are interesting and significant to public health professionals who may take for granted that "a broad array of social, political, and economic factors affect health" and serve as an important reminder that public opinion influences policy. Several PH PBRNs have active projects or strong interests in social determinants of health. (Ed. Note: RWJF's work "[A New Way to Talk about Social Determinants of Health](#)" is essential to this research topic.)
- ◆ Note the article "[Using Geographic Information Systems to Match Local Health Needs with Public Health Services and Programs](#)," by PHSSR-familiar names Jacobson, Lurie, and others. This work will sound familiar to the PH PBRNs participating with Bekemeier and team in the PHAST study – using GIS and spatial methods to map the reach and the gaps of LHDs and their services.

## Resources in Research and Practice

### REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **NACCHO Releases 2010 Profile Report.** NACCHO is pleased to announce the availability of the *2010 National Profile of Local Health Departments* (Profile) report. With a response rate of 82%, the 2010 Profile study is the most up-to-date source of information about local health departments (LHDs) in the United States and will be useful to a broad audience including practitioners and policymakers at the local, state, and federal level; researchers; the media; and the public. The 2010 Profile report provides a comprehensive picture of LHD governance, finance, workforce, and activities and services, including those related to emergency preparedness, quality improvement, accreditation, access to health care services, advocacy and information technology. For more information on the Profile study, visit the [NACCHO profile website](#) to view the report or order a printed copy.

In addition to the printed report, the 2010 Profile data set is now available for researchers interested in conducting additional analyses. The data sets from previous Profile studies also available and have been among the most frequently used data sets for public health systems research. The codebook and form to request this data are available on the [website](#). The 2010 Profile study was made possible through the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- **Performance Standards and Accreditation.** The first national accreditation system for public health departments had its public debut this week. Read about the event on [RWJF's New Public Health blog](#) and more about the accreditation system at the [PHAB website](#). RWJF has collected at its website [tools and resources for health departments](#) to help with performance improvement and assist with accreditation preparation.

### CONFERENCES

- **APHA Annual Meeting.** Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-November 2. Advanced Registration ends September 23. [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
- **2012 PHSSR Keeneland Conference.** Lexington, April 17-19. Keeneland Conference [general information](#).

## 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

- **Junior Investigator PHSSR Awards Program.** The National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research has announced the 2011 [Call for Proposals](#) Dissertation and Junior Faculty Awards. The PHSSR Awards Program is open to doctoral candidates or junior faculty who received their initial appointment within the past 3 years. Up to 10 awards of \$10,000 each will be awarded. There will be an [applicant web conference](#) on Wednesday, September 28; registration is required. Deadline for proposals: October 13.
- **Incentives for Prevention.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund has released the following FOA for [Economic Research on Incentives for Efficient Use of Preventive Services \(R01\)](#). NIH plans to commit approximately \$1.6 million to fund approximately 4 awards with a project period maximum 5 years. Letter of Intent deadline: October 15. Application Deadline: November 15.

### 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. Most other research funding opportunities require a track record of funding and relevant publications, but these only require great ideas, strong research plans and supportive mentors and research environments--like those 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

<b>Oct 20</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET (MA PH PBRN)
<b>Oct 29-Nov 2</b>	APHA Annual Meeting 2011, Washington, D.C.
<b>Nov 17</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET (NE PH PBRN)
<b>Dec 15</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET (NC PH PBRN)
<b>April 17-19</b>	PHSSR Keeneland Conference 2012, Lexington