

Issue #33

PBRN Week in Review | Jan 8, 2010

PBRN Grantees: Please circulate relevant information to your network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the National Coordinating Center at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or 501-551-0106. Newsletter archives are available [here](#).

Notable Recent Activities

- **Network Analysis Research Plan.** PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) Staff are finalizing the research plan for the social network analysis process, one component of the overall evaluation of the Public Health PBRN Program. The revised survey instrument and case definition drafts will be reviewed in the January 12 phone conference with Round I PBRNs.
- **PBRN Fall 2010 Conference Opportunity.** The NCC is continuing to develop a proposal to submit to AHRQ's R13 conference grant program. This funding would provide another opportunity for an in-person PBRN meeting in the fall 2010, possibly to include related research networks that have strong scientific and geographic affinity with the public health PBRNs, such as PRCs, primary care PBRNs, and/or CTSA's. We welcome ideas and feedback on this concept!
- **Encore!** As a result of the APHA presentations on findings related to public health response to the spring 2009 H1N1 outbreak, two additional conference invitations have been accepted. **Glen Mays (NCC)** and **Mary Davis (NC PBRN)** are invited to present at the 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta from February 16-19 ([conference information](#)). **Mays** and **Angela Dearing (KY PBRN)** will present live and online at the National Emergency Management Summit in Washington DC from March 3-5 ([conference information](#)). The research results being presented are the result of Quick Strike Research Funds (QSRF) projects supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for PBRNs.

Activities on the Horizon

- **PBRN Annual Grantee and NAC Meetings.** Plans for the Annual Meeting format will be discussed in the January conference calls with Round I and Round II networks. The proposed plan is for the PBRN Grantee Meeting to begin on Monday morning, April 19, and conclude on Tuesday afternoon, April 20, just prior to the Keeneland Conference opening session. The NAC also would meet on Tuesday afternoon. This schedule allows the NCC and networks to work together longer but requires most grantees to travel to Lexington on Sunday evening.

Related Research and Practice Activities

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

- **AcademyHealth** is accepting abstracts for papers, posters, and panels through **January 14, 2010** for the Annual Research Meeting (ARM). New this year in the panel presentation category, proposals for round-table discussions in health services research or health policy will be

Deadline!

considered. The ARM is organized around *twenty themes* in health services research and policy. Calls in each category are quite specific, so [note the details at this link](#). The meeting will be held in Boston from June 27-29, 2010.

- **AcademyHealth Interest Groups (IG)** issue [separate calls for papers](#) for their meetings held in conjunction with the ARM. **All IG abstracts are due February 15, 2010**, including the Public Health Systems Research (PHSR) IG [detailed here](#). The PHSR meeting is June 29-30 immediately following the ARM. **Glen Mays, PBRN Coordinating Center**, is active in AcademyHealth and the PHSR IG and can provide additional information.
 - ❖ Two Calls for Papers | Two submission/review processes | Two deadlines
- **APHA** is accepting abstract submissions for the 2010 Annual Meeting. The conference theme is Social Justice: Public Health Imperative. **Abstracts are due February 1-5, 2010**. [Link to details](#).

CONFERENCES

- **NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation: Methods and Measurement** will be held in Bethesda, MD on March 15-16, 2010. [Conference Registration Deadline](#): February 12, 2010. “Researchers and evaluators who are interested in identifying opportunities and obstacles for dissemination and implementation research/evaluation are encouraged to attend this meeting. The goal is to engage in dialog, exchange ideas, explore contemporary topics and challenge one another to identify and test research designs, methods and measurement that will advance dissemination and implementation science.” Investigators may request 15-minute individual sessions with relevant NIH program staff to discuss research ideas. To request an individual session, submit a one-page abstract by January 29 following the instructions at the link above.

COURSES

- **Academy Health Research Methods Seminar**. Applied Propensity Score Analysis I: Rationale and Basic Techniques addresses the fundamentals of conducting propensity score analysis for health services research. **Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. ET**. [Click here for details](#) on faculty, cost, and registration.
- **CDC Crisis and Emergency-Risk Communication Course**. Hosted by HHS and CDC, this 1.5 day course is designed to give emergency preparedness professionals the tools to communicate with the public, media, and stakeholders during a public health emergency, including pandemic influenza. No registration fee and a few scholarships are available. Conference dates: February 1-2 in New Orleans. [Link to information](#)

WEBINARS

- **Building QI into Your Agency Culture**. On Thursday, January 14 at 2:00 ET, the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will host a 90-minute webcast on how to establish and conduct a quality improvement program as part of a health department’s culture. While aimed at state health departments, the material also is relevant to LHDs. Registration information is available at [this link](#).
- **Translating Research into Practice**. On Tuesday, January 26 at 2:00 ET, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) launches a new monthly series of cyber-seminars to involve researchers and practitioners in discussions of translating research into practice. The first session features the NCI

authors of the book, *Making Data Talk*, with their ideas about how researchers and public health practitioners can better communicate data to public audiences. Registration and more information are [linked here](#).

- **NACCHO Webcasts.** NACCHO's webcasts on QI and accreditation preparation topics are archived at their website. [Click here](#) to see the list of archived webcasts; viewing is free.
- **Complete the Streets!** The National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN) will host a webinar training entitled "Complete the Streets! Using Street Design to Create Healthier Communities" on January 12, 2010, at 1:00 pm ET. For more information, visit [this RWJF link](#).

NEW LITERATURE

- **Public Health and Mental Health.** The current *Preventing Chronic Disease* is a theme issue devoted primarily to mental health as a public health concern. NAC member **Wayne Giles** co-authors an editorial in the issue. NAC member **Patrick Remington** and colleagues report on their state report cards that give separate grades for health and health disparities. [Link to Table of Contents](#).

PUBLICATIONS

- [*The Health and Well-Being of Children: A Portrait of States and the Nation 2007*](#) published by HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau is now available online. To request a hardcopy, click on the title above and look for Order a Chartbook at the top of the webpage. National and state-level data on U.S. children are based on the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

- **PHAB Beta Site Visitors.** The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is looking for persons with extensive experience and knowledge of public health services delivery in state, local or tribal health departments to serve as site visitors to the 30 health departments participating as accreditation beta test sites. Site visitors will participate in a two-day training in Washington DC in March 2010; visits will be conducted April – June. [Site visitor selection criteria](#) and the [application form](#), due January 29, are linked here. Email questions to rwilcox@phaboard.org.

Funding Opportunities

- **PHSSR Junior Faculty and Doctoral Candidates.** The Center for Public Health Systems & Services Research (CPHSSR) at the University of Kentucky is hosting Round V of "Assuring the Future of Public Health Systems & Services Research (PHSSR)." Awards of \$10,000 are available to young investigators, and applicants are encouraged to propose research using PHSSR datasets from [NLM's Health Services Research Resources \(HSRR\)](#). [Click here](#) to link to calls for proposals for both the junior faculty and dissertation mini-grants and for more information. **Proposal Deadline: Thursday, January 14, by 3:00 p.m. ET.**

Deadline!

- **Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change.** RWJF has announced a national initiative to move disparities research beyond documentation and into the implementation of efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic differences in health care. The types of organizations and partnerships that are eligible to apply are more specific than usual. Web conference calls for

interested applicants are archived at the RWJF site. Brief proposals due February 4, 2:00 pm CT. [Link to CFP](#).

- **School Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors and Weight Outcomes:** NIH announced additional obesity policy research funding, this time with schools as a context. The agencies again offer three application mechanisms, depending upon the project size, time to completion, and stage of development, all with the same scientific scope. Applications are sought “to: (1) foster multidisciplinary research that will evaluate how policies (federal, state and school district levels) can influence school physical activity and nutrition environments, youths obesogenic behaviors (e.g., nutrition and physical activity behaviors), and weight outcomes; (2) understand how schools are implementing these policies and examine multi-level influences on adoption and implementation at various levels (e.g. federal, state, school district, and school); and (3) understand the synergistic or counteractive effect of school nutrition and physical activity polices on the home and community environment and body weight.”

- ❖ R01 [Announcement](#)
- ❖ R03 [Announcement](#)
- ❖ R21 [Announcement](#)

- **Obesity Policy Research: Evaluation and Measures.** Three NIH mechanisms are available to fund obesity policy research at the community level. The initiatives are related, and each announcement states, “The overarching goal of this FOA is to inform public policy and research relevant to (1) diet and physical activity behavior, and (2) weight and health outcomes of Americans.” All three announcements seek applications to: “(1) conduct evaluation research on obesity-related natural experiments (defined as community and other population-level public policy interventions that may affect diet and physical activity behavior), and/or (2) develop and/or validate relevant community-level measures (instruments and methodologies to assess the food and physical activity environments at the community level).”

- ❖ R01 [Announcement](#): Research grants ([About R01](#))
- ❖ R03 [Announcement](#): Small research grants ([About R03](#))
- ❖ R21 [Announcement](#): Exploratory/developmental grants ([About R21](#))

- **Tobacco Control RFA.** The National Cancer Institute recently released its State and Community Tobacco Control Policy and Media Research RFA soliciting cooperative agreement applications for research projects examining the effectiveness of state and community tobacco control policy and media interventions. According to the announcement, “focal areas include secondhand smoke policies, tax and pricing policies, tobacco industry marketing and promotion, mass media countermeasures, and community and social norms.” Additional information about the RFA [linked here](#). **Deadlines: Application due January 22, 2009**

Deadline!

- **RWJF and the Pew Charitable Trusts** have issued a Call for Proposals on their collaborative [Health Impact Project](#). Funding is available to support up to 15 health impact assessment (HIA) demonstrations with awards expected to range between \$25,000 and \$150,000, plus training, mentoring and technical assistance. Grantees will promote the use of HIAs, decision-making tools that assist policy-makers with recognizing health consequences of new policy and ways to incorporate health into the policy of other sectors. Letter of interest required; full proposal invited based upon letter of interest. No deadline; rolling submissions until all funding is obligated. The applicant web conference is archived at the project link above.

- **Implementation of Quality Improvement Processes.** AHRQ has announced the Agency’s interest in supporting grants to rigorously study the implementation of quality improvement strategies and provide generalizable scientific findings about the implementation of the quality improvement strategy, related organizational changes, and their impact. There is increasing evidence that success in achieving quality improvement goals is at least partially attributable to implementation processes and contexts and not just to the nature of the quality improvement strategy. More information is [here](#). The next application deadline is **January 25, 2010**.
- **Pfizer Fellowships in Public Health Research.** Pfizer offers career development awards for junior faculty pursuing careers in public health systems and services research. Research collaboration with state and/or local public health agencies is required. The [2010 announcement](#) is available online, and the application deadline is **January 31, 2010**. Glen Mays is on the academic advisory board for this fellowship and can answer questions.
- **Dissemination and Implementation of Evidence-based HIV Prevention.** NIH invites research to enhance the science of technology transfer, dissemination, implementation, and operational research for evidence-based HIV-prevention interventions in the United States. More information is [here](#). The next application due date is **February 5, 2010**.

Upcoming Key Dates

January 12:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30 -12:30 ET
January 14:	AcademyHealth Abstracts Deadline
January 21:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00 – 2:30 ET
January 30:	Round I PBRNs’ Annual Progress Reports to RWJF
February 1-5:	APHA Abstracts Deadline
February 9:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call
February 15:	AcademyHealth Interest Groups’ Abstracts Deadline
February 18:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00 – 2:30 ET

Next Issue: January 15, 2010