

Issues #36 & 37

PBRN Week in Review | Jan 29 & Feb 5, 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 Activities

- **PBRN Webinar to Feature QI Authority.** On Wednesday, February 17 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm ET, the PBRN Quarterly Webinar will host Bill Riley, Associate Professor of Health Policy & Management and Associate Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Riley will discuss the design of research studies to test the impact of quality improvement (QI) interventions in public health practice settings using examples from his own research. Widely recognized for his expertise in public health QI research, Riley is Project Manager for RWJF's *Public Health Practice: Evaluating the Impact of Quality Improvement* program. Among Riley's most recent publications is the current QI research-focused issue of [Journal of Public Health Management and Practice](#) for which he served as guest editor and an author. Include your network partners in this great learning opportunity!
- **Round I Evaluation Activity.** The social network analysis process being used to track changes in the structure and function over time of the program's PBRNs has moved into the pilot testing phase. Members of Hometown Health groups in Arkansas, county and regional collaboratives with comparable network structures to PBRNs, are completing the web-based questionnaire and will participate in telephone interviews early next week to discuss their experiences with the survey. Along with pilot testing and related analysis are the following dates/events:

February 9	Monthly phone conference to review administration
February 12	Pilot process complete
February 15	Final draft of piloted survey to Round I networks for comment
February 17	Networks return comments
February 22	Survey link and letter sent to participants
- **Research Implementation Awards (RIA).** Supplemental funding awards for Round I large research projects are scheduled to begin February 15. Note deadlines for submitting the signed Letter of Agreement, as well as the other details specified for timely funding.

Reminder to Round I Grantees: Remember that RIAs are not official until Foundation award letters are in hand. NCC and grantees will work together with our program communication officer to announce the awards at the appropriate time. Local news releases must have Foundation approval and should not precede the Foundation's announcement.

Watch for features on the RIA projects in upcoming issues of *PBRN Week in Review!*

- **The Results are In!** More than 900 people from 48 states and the District of Columbia voted in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Year in Research polling for the top articles in Foundation-funded health services research of 2009. Among those selected as the five most influential research articles is the work of Glen Mays and Sharla Smith (National Coordinating Center) that examined geographic variation in public health spending. The Foundation invites discussion of the themes and articles chosen and not chosen using their [Health Reform Blog](#). Deemed most influential are:
 - Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons with Severe Alcohol Problems;
 - What Newly Licensed Registered Nurses Have to Say About Their First Experiences;
 - A Closer Look at the Economic Argument for Disease Prevention;
 - Association Between School Food Environment and Practices and Body Mass Index of U.S. Public School Children; and
 - Geographic Variation in Public Health Spending.

Activities on the Horizon

- **PBRN Annual Grantee and NAC Meetings.** The excitement is building for the first assembly of all twelve networks! Plans are underway for making the most of our time together at the Annual Grantee Meeting, and we want your input as the agenda is developed.

Guidelines for making travel arrangements will be distributed in the next few days, including use of the RWJF designated travel agent. Please wait to make your flight arrangements until you receive these instructions.

Both cohorts of networks will present at the Keeneland Conference. NCC will schedule conference calls to assist with planning and coordinating these presentations.

- **2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit** - February 18 in Atlanta. Mary Davis will present results from the **North Carolina PBRN** study that helped public health practices prepare for last fall's wave of H1N1 flu. The study was supported by the RWJF Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF) for PBRNs. [Link to conference information](#).
- **Wisconsin PBRN Kick-Off Meeting** – Friday, February 26. Presenting by teleconference, Glen Mays will open the meeting with an overview of the national program and the importance of practice-based research in public health.
- **National Emergency Management Summit** - March 3. Research findings shared at APHA generated such interest that **Mays** and **Angela Dearing** (**KY PBRN**) will present again at this conference in DC, also accessible online ([conference information](#)). Kentucky's study of lessons learned from communication among public health and other health professionals during the H1N1 outbreak of spring 2009 also was supported by the RWJF Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF).

- **Texas Public Health Association** – April 21, 2010. Mays will give a teleconference presentation on practice-based research.
- **Ohio Combined Public Health Conference** – May 12, 2010. Glen Mays will lead a session on the development and future of public health PBRNs at this annual meeting of the state’s public health professionals’ organizations. The **Ohio PBRN** will take advantage of this opportunity to showcase practice-based research and continue developing statewide participation in the network.

Related Research and Practice Activities

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

New!

- **NACCHO** is including its *first* public health research track at the 2010 Annual Conference in Memphis from July 14-16. Here is an exceptional opportunity to share practice-based research experiences with one of our most important audiences: local health department professionals! NACCHO seeks proposals for presentations in three sessions:

- ❖ Research at Local health Departments
- ❖ Practice-Based Research Using NACCHO’s Profile Data; and
- ❖ Applying Research Evidence in Local Health Departments.

Details and instructions are [linked here](#). **Proposals are due Sunday, February 28, 2010.**

- **APHA has extended several deadlines** for abstract submissions for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Here are new dates for a few sections frequented by PBRN constituents:

New Dates!

- ❖ Feb 11 Community Health Planning and Policy Development
- ❖ Feb 10 Epidemiology
- ❖ Feb 12 Health Administration
- ❖ Feb 11 Health Informatics Information Technology
- ❖ Not all deadlines have been extended so [check this link](#) for your meeting of interest.

The Coordinating Center will submit at least one abstract for PBRN presentations. We want to make a good showing in Denver, home of the **CO PBRN!**

- **AcademyHealth Interest Groups’ Calls for Papers.** *PBRNs: Are you attending AcademyHealth?* If you are interested in working together on a panel for the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting, send your ideas to the NCC and we will draft an abstract. Respond quickly! **Abstracts are due February 15.** [See details here.](#) The PHSR meeting is June 29-30 immediately following the Annual Research Meeting. Our **MA PBRN** friends are on hand in Boston to add local flavor to the conference experience!

CONFERENCES

- **Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness.** NACCHO, ASTHO and CDC are co-sponsoring the one-day workshop "High-Priority Tools for Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness," on February 16 to coincide with the 2010 annual Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta. Public health practitioners will discover ways “to improve use of their public health laws to address influenza outbreaks and other, all-hazards public health emergencies.” Registration and additional information are [linked here](#).

- **NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation: Methods and Measurement** will be in Bethesda, MD on March 15-16, 2010. [Conference Registration](#) Deadline: February 12, 2010.
- **Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)**. The CCPH annual conference will be May 12-15, 2010 in Portland, Oregon. This is one of the earliest and best-known gatherings for community-based participatory research interests. For more information, [visit this link](#). Deadline for early registration is February 23.

COURSES

- **Methods Courses**. Plan to enhance your methodological toolkit in March by participating in a live webinar series on methods for public health research. These AcademyHealth offerings will focus on two important methods in public health and HSR -- [case studies](#) on March 11 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm ET; and [multilevel modeling](#) on March 25 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm ET. PBRNs – we are working on group registration. Please notify Elaine Wootten in the NCC if you would like to register.
- **Using Public Health Data**. If members of your network use or would like to use public health data in their professional decision-making but may not have taken related training courses, a seven-week, online mentored course is available. “Demystifying Data: Accessing, Using, and Interpreting Data in Public Health” is scheduled from February 22 through April 11, 2010, for a fee of \$135. For more information, including registration for the course offered by the Michigan Public Health Institute, [click here](#).
- **CBPR Training**. “Community-Based Participatory Research: A Partnership Approach for Public Health,” is a new interactive training module that serves as an introductory course for this important knowledge base for public health PBRNs. The instructors in this *free* course use examples from their partnership projects in the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center. To order the course, which is available to download or on CD, go to [this link](#).

NEW LITERATURE

- **Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions**. The *Guide to Community Preventive Services*, a resource for evidence-based public health research, has been updated with recent findings related to [worksite health promotion](#) interventions.
- **Screening for Obesity in Children and Adolescents**. In the last issue, we reported publication of US Preventive Services Task Force’s revised recommendations and related evidence for clinicians screening children for obesity in the February [Pediatrics](#), at [AHRQ’s website](#), and in the [Guide to Clinical Preventive Services](#). Public Health PBRNs that partner with primary care PBRNs or community providers may be especially interested in the findings released a few days later of two RWJF-sponsored studies examining best practices for encouraging primary care physicians to screen and treat childhood obesity. In addition to their results that also are published in [Pediatrics](#), the researchers enhanced the American Academy of Pediatrics’ [website](#) with useful information for health professionals, families and communities, including state-specific policies and projects.
- **State-level School Policy and Youth Obesity**. In the January 2010 issue of *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Nanney and colleagues examine linkages between states’ school obesity prevention policies and youth obesity. The [article](#) is available free.

Update...

PUBLICATIONS

- ***The 2009 Influenza Pandemic: Selected Legal Issues.*** The Congress Research Service (CRS) has released a Report for Congress summarizing various legal issues related to the H1N1 Influenza outbreak. Many of these matters also may interest public health practitioners and researchers. View the report [here](#).
- ***The National Health Security Strategy.*** HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently released the nation's first comprehensive strategy for protecting people's health during a major health incident. Read the [report](#) to see what constitutes a "health incident" and how the strategy will be applied.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

- **PHAB Seeks Input.** During the beta test of the public health accreditation program, PHAB will seek health department feedback into various documents and processes. Three documents are open for review at the PHAB web site [linked here](#).

Funding Opportunities

New!

- **Prevention Research Center Funding.** PBRNs with PRC partners will be especially interested in CDC's PRC funding "to support comparative effectiveness research on innovative public health strategies or interventions that assess the impact of policy and environmental interventions." Applicant eligibility is limited to existing CDC PRCs ([see announcement](#).)
Examples of innovation include (but are not limited to) adaptations of established health promotion or disease prevention interventions that have not previously been tested; testing of strategies or interventions in settings or populations (such as minorities or people with disabilities) that have not previously been the target for such interventions; testing novel combinations of adapted interventions; or testing traditional and nontraditional research designs (e.g., comparison of unplanned natural experiments using surveillance-based data).

Key Dates: [Pre-application Webcast](#) February 17, 2010, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm EST
Letters of Intent are required and due February 22, 2010.
Applications due on or March 22, 2010.

**Coming
Soon!**

- **RWJF Public Health Law Research (PHLR).** PHLR will issue its second CFP on February 10. Get the details on the program [web site](#).
- **Obesity Prevention Research.** RWJF's *Active Living Research (ALR)* program has released calls for proposals aimed at preventing obesity in children and youth through policy and environmental strategies that increase physical activity and decrease sedentary behaviors. This round emphasizes strategies to reach children at greatest risk for obesity and those living in lower-income and under-resourced communities. *New Connections* grants, administered by the *ALR* program, are a part of the CFP. Details linked [here](#).
- **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 **February 12, 2010**. Glen Mays is on the academic advisory board for this fellowship and can answer questions.

**Deadline
Extended!**

- **NIH Obesity Policy Research: Evaluation and Measures at the Community Level.**
 - ❖ R01 [Announcement](#): Research grants ([About R01](#)) Due February 5
 - ❖ R03 [Announcement](#): Small research grants ([About R03](#)) Due February 16
 - ❖ R21 [Announcement](#): Exploratory/developmental grants ([About R21](#)) Due February 16

- **NIH School Nutrition & Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors & Weight Outcomes.**
 - ❖ R01 [Announcement](#) R03 [Announcement](#) R21 [Announcement](#)

- **Communities Creating Healthy Environments.** RWJF has issued a CFP for Round II of *Communities Creating Healthy Environments: Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Safe Places to Play in Communities of Color*. [Link to announcement](#) for eligibility, matching requirements, and key dates, including regional information sessions. **Deadline:** Brief proposals due February 25.

- **Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) Research (U01) Grant.** CDC's EHS-Net grant aims to strengthen environmental health service programs through a network of environmental health specialists. Note the specifics regarding eligible applicants. Deadlines: Letter of Intent due by February 12, 2010; application due by March 15, 2010. [Announcement](#)

- **Community Action for A Renewed Environment Program (CARE).** The EPA has issued a RFP for its CARE program. Read the [full announcement](#) to note the two types of efforts supported, the atypical application processes, and the entities eligible to apply for this highly competitive funding. **Deadline** for application: March 9, 2010.

- **RWJF and the Pew Charitable Trusts** have an open Call for Proposals on their collaborative [Health Impact Project](#). Letter of interest required; full proposal by invitation.

Upcoming Key Dates

February 9:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
February 17:	Round I and II Quarterly Webinar 2:00 – 3:30 ET
February 18:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00 – 2:30 ET
March 9:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
March 18:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00 – 2:30 ET

Next Issue: Week of February 19, 2010
(No newsletter on Friday prior to Presidents' Day Weekend)