

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 PBRN Activities

Following along recent Annual Grantee Meeting discussions, two exciting programs announced this week will continue to delve into public health practice research needs and strategies ranking high on the PH PBRN agendas.

- **Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar (May 19, 2-3:30pm EDT).** Many PBRNs are studying the issues surrounding adoption, implementation, and impact of evidence-based practices in public health. In a webinar entitled “The NACCHO Toolbox and NACCHO Model Practices: Opportunities for Advancing Research on Evidence-Based Practices,” Gina Todorovich and Maggie English will describe two initiatives that may be used to facilitate and shape these lines of research. The NACCHO Toolbox and the NACCHO Model Practices provide inventories of recommended strategies used by public health agencies. Some of these strategies are research-tested, while others are highly regarded for their innovativeness but have less scientific evidence supporting their effectiveness. This webinar will suggest ways in which PBRNs may undertake new research to evaluate the adoption, effectiveness and efficiency of these strategies, as well as suggest ways in which PBRN research findings may be translated into new practice strategies for inclusion in these NACCHO inventories.
- **Special Public Health PBRN Webinar (June 8, 11:30am-1:00pm EDT).** “The Public Health Workforce Research Agenda: Opportunities for PH PBRNs” will follow up on our discussion in Lexington regarding workforce and the production chain for public health services. Carol Gotway Crawford, PhD, from CDC will give an update on CDC’s emerging workforce research priorities; Kristine Gebbie, DrPH (Dean of Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing) will discuss practice and policy needs from workforce research in public health; and Hugh Tilson, MD, DrPH (UNC Professor of Public Health) will describe newly emerging opportunities in workforce research. Glen Mays will moderate the panel with an eye toward PBRN research opportunities.

Activities on the Horizon

- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials: Annual CFO Conference** in Arlington, Virginia on May 11, Glen Mays will present on research to document return-on-investment in public health. And then, on to visit PBRN colleagues in Ohio...

- **Ohio Public Health Combined Conference** in Columbus – May 12, 2010. 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.
- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM)** in Boston, June 27-29. Registration open until June 22. [Link to AcademyHealth website.](#)
- **AcademyHealth Pre-Conference Methods Seminars:** [Link to more information](#)
 - Friday June 25, 1:00-7:30 p.m.
 - Qualitative Analysis
 - Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - Measurement Techniques and Perspectives on Quality Improvement
 - Pragmatic Trials in Comparative Effectiveness Research:
 - Propensity Score Analysis
- **AcademyHealth Public Health Systems Research Interest Group** meets June 29-30. To register and read more about this RWJF-sponsored meeting, [click here.](#)
- **NACCHO Annual Meeting** in Memphis, Tennessee, July 14-16, 2010. Lee Thielen (CO PBRN) and Glen Mays will present on practice-based research, and a panel of Round II PBRN representatives also are on the research track program to share their experiences. [Link to more information.](#)

Related Research and Practice Activities

DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH PLANNING

- **Communities Putting Prevention to Work.** CDC is providing additional funding for BRFSS baseline and follow up data collection to state health departments where communities receiving the Communities Putting Prevention to Work awards are located. Since Public Health PBRNs are located in ten of the 30 states with funded communities, networks may want to explore in advance any opportunities for cross-network comparison. While this funding only can go to state health departments to use for these specific communities, categories of data, and given time periods as outlined in the [announcement](#), networks can be part of the discussion. The PBRN states and communities are:
 - CO – Tri-County Health Department (Obesity)
 - FL – Miami-Dade County (Obesity) and Orange County (Tobacco)
 - KY – Louisville Metro DOPH (Obesity)
 - MA – Boston Public Health Commission (Obesity and Tobacco)
 - MN – Minnesota DOH (Minneapolis and Olmstead Counties – Obesity)
 - NE – Douglas County Health Department (Obesity)
 - NY – NY City DOH (Obesity and Tobacco)
 - OH – Hamilton County of Public Health (Obesity)
 - WA – Seattle-King County (Obesity and Tobacco)
 - WI – Wisconsin DHS (LaCrosse and Wood Counties – Obesity, and Great Lakes Inter- Tribal Council - Tobacco)

WEBINARS

- **Public Health Informatics.** NACCHO has two webinars in May related to informatics and local health departments (LHD).

- **NACCHO's Local Community Information Network Demonstration Project Webinar**

May 12, 2:00-3:00pm EDT

An opportunity to learn from the results of two sites in a demonstration project about LHD involvement in health information exchange (HIE) and developing the social capital needed for implementing information. [Register for the webinar.](#)

- **How LHDs across the Country Use Informatics: Results of the 2010 NACCHO Informatics Needs Assessment**

May 26, 2:00-3:00pm EDT

Compare the informatics capacity and needs of LHDs in your PBRN, region or state to others as NACCHO shares the results, implications and uses of its two-stage informatics needs assessment. [Register for the webinar.](#)

NEW REPORTS

- **Healthy Communities, Obesity Prevention and the Law.** Public Health PBRNs interested in how states may be using laws to address obesity will find helpful this research report from the National Conference of State Legislatures. Funded by RWJF, [Promoting Healthy Communities and Preventing Childhood Obesity: Trends in Recent Legislation](#) provides an overview of a wide variety of state legislation enacted in 2009.

NEW LITERATURE

- **Choosing an Intervention.** Providing programs with the greatest impact on health while getting the most value from limited resources is an everyday challenge in public health, particularly where both the disease and response systems are complex as in cardiovascular disease (CVD). In the April 2010 issue of *American Journal of Public Health*, Hirsch and colleagues describe a system dynamics simulation model they developed for a county health department in Colorado to evaluate possible impacts of various intervention strategies. [Link to abstract.](#)
- **Editorial.** In the May 6, 2010 *New England Journal of Medicine*, Assistant Secretary for Health Koh reflects on earlier iterations of the Healthy People initiative and looks ahead to what we can learn as the 2020 agenda is established. [Free access at this link.](#)
- **Typology of Public Health Delivery Systems.** Available in the March 2010 issue of *Milbank Quarterly* are results of recent work by Mays, Scutchfield, Bhandari and Smith to test a method for classifying and comparing public health delivery systems based on organizational structure. [Link to abstract](#) of “Understanding the Organization of Public Health Delivery Systems: An Empirical Typology.”
- **Public Health Labs.** A supplement to the May/June 2010 *Public Health Reports* entitled “Public Health Laboratories” features a broad range of topics related to our laboratory system.

A critical, too often overlooked component of the public health system, the labs at various levels may make great network partners to PBRNs. [Link to supplement.](#)

PBRN Colleagues in the News

- **The Champions are Coming!** The Massachusetts Public Health Association has given its highest honor, the Paul Revere Award, to **Harold Cox**, Associate Dean of Public Health Practice at Boston University and **co-PI of the Massachusetts PBRN**. He was recognized for his work in strengthening ties between the academic and practice communities, improving training opportunities for public health professionals, and improving emergency response among hospitals, nursing homes, and emergency response teams.

Upcoming Key Dates

May 11:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
May 19:	Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar 2:00-3:30 ET
May 20:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 ET
June 8:	Special Public Health PBRN Webinar 11:30-1:00pm ET (This is the Round I monthly conference call time slot.)
June 17:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 ET

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