

Issue # 62

## **PBRN Week in Review | Jan 17 2011**

**PBRN Grantees and Affiliates:** 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](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) or 501-551-0106. Newsletter archives are available [here](#).

### **Notable PBRN Activities**

➤ **Prevention Research Centers and Public Health PBRNs.** CDC's Prevention Research Centers and the RWJF Public Health PBRNs have numerous similarities in approach and research priorities. The first formal opportunity to compare organizations and interests occurs with a webinar on Thursday, January 20, from 2:00 to 3:15 pm ET. All PH PBRNs are encouraged to take advantage of this exchange, since fruitful collaboration may result whether or not a PRC is located in the same state. Affiliate member PH PBRNs are invited to participate as well. Contact the [PH PBRN Coordinating Center](#) if you have not received a WebEx invitation.

➤ **New Funding for PH PBRN Research.** The PH PBRN National Coordinating Center has released a Request for Proposals for rapid response, time-sensitive research studies designed to produce evidence about the effectiveness and impact of quality improvement, accreditation, and public reporting strategies in public health settings. Eligible applicants for Quality Improvement Quick Strikes (QIQS) are Public Health PBRNs that received core funding as RWJF program grantees or that completed registration as program affiliates by Friday, January 14, 2011.

Up to three awards of \$25,000 for smaller projects and up to two awards of \$50,000 for larger projects ranging from three to nine months may be funded. A Q&A conference call will be scheduled for the week of January 24, and the date and time will be confirmed as soon as possible. The application deadline is February 11, 2011.

➤ **Public Health Activities and Tracking (PHAST) Update.** The PHAST study is moving ahead with retrospective data collection. PHAST conference calls have focused on the need for **retrospective** LHD services data related but not limited to: *Maternal/Child Health, Environmental Health, and Communicable Disease Control*. These domains of practice appear to include some of the most comparable, existing data across PBRN states and health departments. Discussions have been helpful not only for the PHAST study but also for PH PBRN states involved in organizing complementary ideas, data and resources. Networks should plan to send the most retrievable data by January 28, 2011. PHAST staff will compile, transform, and link data together into a comparable data set for preliminary analyses.

Data collected from PBRNs have included:

- o budget data (expenditure and revenue) per LHD activity or service
- o water /foodborne outbreak investigation data
- o WIC clients served data
- o general activity and services data

- ◆ **AcademyHealth Courses.** A reminder of learning opportunities! The Public Health PBRN Coordinating Center and AcademyHealth are working together to offer access to some of the most popular AH courses at no cost to PH PBRN participants. Four courses are offered per quarter and may be viewed as often as desired. Networks are encouraged to invite partners to utilize the courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation. Current sessions are:

#### **Winter Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs**

- § Intro to HSR Methods Seminar Series
  - Part I: Evidence-based Practice
  - Part II: Quality and Performance Measurement
- § The GRACE Principles: Comparative Effectiveness and HSR
- § Methods Matter: Correlation and Causation in PHSSR
- § Paper vs. Speech vs. Poster: Different Formats for Communicating Research

Be sure to respond to AH requests for feedback after participating in courses!

### **Activities on the Horizon**

- ◆ **PH PBRN Research at Preventive Medicine 2011.** The previously mentioned opportunity to reach stakeholders at the American College of Preventive Medicine annual meeting, [Preventive Medicine 2011](#), is finalized. On Thursday, February 17, a luncheon panel featuring RWJF and PH PBRN speakers will explore advances in PHSSR occurring through the PBRNs and will highlight applications in the context of health reform implementation. Many thanks to National Advisory Committee Chair Michael Caldwell for his key role in this effort.
- ◆ **PERRCs Presentation.** Several PH PBRNs have university partners that house Preparedness and Emergency Response Centers (PERRC) and hold potential for collaboration in preparedness research. An interactive session involving the PERRCs at [CDC's 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit](#) in Atlanta may be of particular interest. Entitled "Assessing Public Health System Preparedness to Strengthen Capacity, Adaptation, Response, and Resilience," this session will be Wednesday, February 23, from 1:30-3:00 pm. The summit is February 22-25.
- ◆ **NIH Conference Presentation.** A panel proposed by Julie Marshall (CO PH PBRN), Betty Bekemeier (WA PH PBRN), and Rebecca Wells (NC PH PBRN) has been accepted for presentation at the [NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation](#). The conference is March 21-22 in Washington DC with the theme Policy and Practice. The panel is entitled "The Science of Public Health Practice: Using PBRNs to Conduct Implementation Research in Public Health Settings."

### **Calls for Abstracts/Proposals/Presentations/Review**

- ◆ **NACCHO Annual 2011.** The [Call for Sharing Session Proposals](#) is open for the NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference, July 20-22, in Hartford, Connecticut. According to conference guidelines, proposals submitted for the research track should feature the following:
  - ◆ Research studies in which LHDs played an important role as a research partner
  - ◆ Research studies that have important practice or policy implications for LHDs

- ◆ Demonstrations of how LHDs have applied research findings in their agencies
- ◆ Practice-relevant research using NACCHO's Profile data

**Proposals due: January 21.**

- ◆ **APHA 2011 Annual Meeting.** The APHA [Call for Abstracts](#) is open. Scheduled from October 29 through November 2 in Washington, DC, the 2011 Annual Meeting theme is "Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies." Deadlines for abstracts range from February 7 to 11, depending upon the entity within APHA.
- ◆ **2011 Annual NALBOH Conference.** The [Call for Presentations](#) is open for the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) 19th Annual Conference scheduled for September 7-9 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Proposals are sought on the topics areas of governance and leadership, board development, public health policy, and public health priorities for 60-minute breakout sessions, two-hour interactive workshops, and posters of model practices. Due date: March 1.

## Resources in Research and Practice

### REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ **CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report — United States, 2011.** This [report](#) is the first in a series examining health disparities in the United States. It documents health disparities at the national level highlighting progress and challenges in achieving health equity while emphasizing the need for better data.
- ◆ **County Health Rankings.** Two new tools are available on the [County Health Rankings](#) website. Check out the feature allowing *all* of a county's measures to be compared side by side with one or two other counties within the same state. Also, for an individual measure, counties now are sortable by z-score.

The near-term webinar schedule for utilizing County Health Rankings data is:

Jan 18 - *Rankings* 101

Jan 25 - Putting County Health *Rankings* into Action

Jan 27 - *Rankings* Methodology

Feb 15 - *Rankings* 101

Feb 23 - Putting *County Health Rankings* into Action

Times for all webinars: 3-4 pm (E); 2-3 pm (C), 1-2 pm (M), 12-1 pm (P)

- ◆ **IOM Report: Measurement in Public Health.** The IOM's new report on measurement for public health improvement is featured on the cover of [Modern Healthcare](#) and includes quotes from a number of colleagues and stakeholders.

To begin showing improvement in the health of communities, states, and the nation as a whole, "the health system" must be measurable. One of three major topics being examined by the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Public Health Strategies to Improve Health, measurement is the focus of a report released this week that "recommends changes in the processes, tools, and approaches used to gather information on health outcomes and to assess accountability." [For the Public's Health: The Role of Measurement in Action and Accountability](#) may be downloaded as a four-page Report Brief that highlights the committee's seven recommendations or the full

report (uncorrected proofs of the forthcoming book) that provides the richly referenced supporting evidence for each recommendation.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

- **Academic Health Departments.** The Council on Linkages is establishing an Academic Health Department (AHD) learning community to facilitate communication among those interested in developing, sustaining or expanding an AHD. A workgroup has taken the initial steps of exploring topics, format and desired outcomes for the learning community and has developed a [concept paper and bibliography](#). A [web page](#) for the AHD learning community also has been created. The workgroup requests PH PBRN feedback on the documents and encourages sharing the links with partners. Suggestions are invited and may be addressed to [Kathleen Amos](#), who also can provide more information about the initiative.

### New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Public Health Professionals as Policy Entrepreneurs.** In a recent [article](#) in the *American Journal of Public Health*, Craig and colleagues used Multiple Streams Framework to analyze the factors that brought an important public health issue into the policy spotlight and resulted in comprehensive legislation.
- **Preventive Services without Cost Sharing.** A recent [Health Policy Brief](#) in *Health Affairs* examines the importance of preventive services, the expansion of access to those services required by the new law, and the pros and cons of expanding access to screening and other tests that might increase costs without necessarily improving health outcome.
- **Social Determinants of Health.** Six articles and a collection of commentaries in a [supplement](#) to the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation discuss the recommendations of the Commission to Build a Healthier America to address the social determinants of health. Of particular interest to PH PBRNs will be a [commentary](#) by Scutchfield and Howard of Kentucky that discusses the role of public health departments in addressing sociological determinants of disease and an [article](#) by Braveman and colleagues that explores methodological issues.

### Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The Coordinating Center maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to Public Health PBRNs. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). Under this CFP, three types of awards are available:
  - ◆ Round 6 research grant full proposals due March 10;
  - ◆ Rapid-Response award concept papers accepted until August 2; and
  - ◆ RWJF *New Connections* grants through *Healthy Eating Research* concept papers March 10.
- **NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research [PA-11-063](#)**  
Translating Basic Behavioral and Social Science Discoveries into Interventions to Improve Health-Related Behaviors (R01)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement "seeks highly innovative Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to translate findings from basic research on human behavior into effective clinical, community, or population-based behavioral interventions to improve health. Specifically, this FOA will support interdisciplinary teams of basic and applied biological, behavioral and/or social science researchers in developing and refining novel behavioral interventions with high potential impact to improve health-promoting behaviors (e.g., healthy dietary intake, sun safety, physical activity, or adherence to medical regimens), and/or reduce problem health behaviors (e.g., smoking, tanning or physical activity or alcohol or substance use, abuse or dependence)."

Key Dates: Application due February 5.

Next cycle: Letter of Interest due May 5 and application due June 5, 2011

- ◆ **Funding for Post-Docs and Junior Faculty.** Applications are being accepted for the [2011 Pfizer Fellowships](#). Clinical and research fellowships are available in various areas, including global health, health disparities, and public health, for post-docs and junior faculty in medicine, osteopathy, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.

Key Dates: The application deadline is February 11. Awards will be announced April 15, and funding begins July 1, 2011.

- ◆ **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals are accepted online on a rolling basis. Details about the solicitation and the application process are [linked here](#).

## Career Opportunities

- ◆ **PHSSR Faculty Search.** The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is seeking candidates for a tenure-track, open-rank faculty position in the Health Policy and Management Department to advance its research program in public health systems and services research. Candidates should have a successful record of research relevant to the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services or the ability to develop such a record. For more information contact [gpmays@uams.edu](mailto:gpmays@uams.edu).

## Key Dates

<b>Jan 20</b>	PRC – PH PBRN Webinar   2:00-3:15 ET
<b>Feb 8</b>	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call   11:30-12:30 ET
<b>Feb 17</b>	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 ET
<b>Mar 8</b>	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call   11:30-12:30 ET
<b>Mar 17</b>	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 ET
<b>April 10-12</b>	2011 Annual Grantee and NAC Meetings in Lexington
<b>April 12-14</b>	2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington