

Issue # 71

## **PBRN Week in Review | Mar 25, 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/Announcements**

- ◆ **Evidence-Based Practice Webinar.** The Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2011 from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. ET. We invite you to extend this invitation to your network partners and other interested members of your PBRN. We encourage participants to share connections where possible. The webinar's topic is Evidence-Based Practice and Policy. The presenter for this webinar will be Ross C. Brownson, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology at Washington University and co-director of the Prevention Research Center, both in Saint Louis. This presentation will provide an overview of the principles of evidence-based approaches in public health. It will include both the scientific basis for evidence-based approaches as well as the practical challenges of implementation. The learning objectives are to:
  1. Understand the definition of evidence-based public health;
  2. Explore various types and quality of evidence;
  3. Explore the uses of various tools and resources;
  4. Review the barriers to evidence-based approaches; and
  5. Understand how we can increase the uptake of evidence-based practices in public health.

Please take a moment to [register](#) for the event. We are looking forward to your participation.

- ◆ **Webinar Updates CDC Officials on PHSSR and PBRN Progress:** This week leaders in the PHSSR enterprise and in the Public Health PBRN Program briefed federal public health officials via a CDC-wide webinar organized by RWJF and the CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS). The Affordable Care Act charges CDC with expanded federal roles in stimulating and supporting PHSSR to inform policy and practice. The webinar on March 23 was designed to help CDC officials understand recent progress in the PHSSR field, priority research needs, and the roles being played by the Public Health PBRNs in expanding the volume and quality of research in this field. Speakers included CDC OSTLTS Director Dr. Judy Monroe, also a member of the PBRN National Advisory Committee; RWJF Senior Program Officer Dr. Debra Pérez; NCC director Glen Mays; and University of Kentucky professor Dr. Douglas Scutchfield, also an affiliate with the Kentucky Public Health PBRN.

- ✦ **Quality Improvement Quick Strike Awards.** Congratulations to the networks selected to receive a *Quality Improvement Quick Strike (QIQS)* award through the Public Health PBRN Program, which is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Competition for the funding was stiff with 14 proposals submitted. The grantees and the titles of their projects are

Florida. *The County Health Rankings: Impact on Public Health Systems and Services*

Georgia. *Multi-County Health Department Quality Improvement Collaboratives*

Minnesota. *The Science of Quality Improvement in Public Health Departments: Developing a Logic Model and Taxonomy for Methods, Techniques and Results*

Missouri. *Investigating the Impact of Accreditation on the Development of a Quality Improvement Philosophy in Missouri's Local Health Departments*

Nebraska. *Identifying Effective Quality Improvement Strategies for Nebraska's Regional Public Health Departments*

- ✦ **North Carolina Blossoms with Practice-Based Research:** The NCC's Glen Mays was in North Carolina last week to meet with leaders in the NC Public Health PBRN and also UNC's CDC-funded Preparedness Research Center. These meetings revealed an exciting array of practice-based research initiatives underway in North Carolina facilitated through the PBRN. As just one example, the network has used its Research Implementation Award as a base to secure a larger competitive research award from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to study the effects of policy changes related to delivery of MCH services in North Carolina. Additionally, the NC PBRN is embarking on an initiative to expand the scope and scale of its research network by reaching out statewide to public health practice agencies and to other university settings with research expertise relevant to PHSSR.

- ✦ **PHAST UPDATE** from principal investigator Betty Bekemeier: "The PHAST (Public Health Activities and Services Tracking) study team has continued to work with the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) at the University of Washington. We have been busy mapping NACCHO profile data as well as some retrospective data from participating PBRN states. The spatial mapping process is exciting and challenging. We are currently mapping variation of practice/service delivery relative to "need" in a particular area. We hope to show some of this work at the Keeneland conference in April.

"The PHAST staff has also been in the process of brainstorming and working on proposals for potential large and small-scale grant funding. We have written a few small grant proposals in hopes of setting up a way to collect prospective data from participating PBRN states. For larger grants, we will engage participating states during the annual PBRN meeting at Keeneland to discuss further research strategies and potential options for securing additional resources for PHAST states.

"As a reminder, we are still collecting retrospective data. If you have new data, please send it in as soon as you are able."

- **PBRN Research at NIH’s Dissemination & Implementation Science Conference:** Research underway within the public health PBRNs helped to inform the NIH’s ongoing foray into delivery system scholarship at the NIH’s fourth annual meeting on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Policy and Practice held in Bethesda, MD this week. Scholarly research on D&I processes in health has become a growing priority for NIH and other federal health agencies as the U.S. strives to realize greater health impact and value from its investments in health research. A full 90-minute session at the conference on March 21 was devoted to work of the Public Health PBRN Program and featured Research Implementation Award (RIA) studies underway by the PBRNs in Washington, Colorado, and North Carolina. Dr. Julie Marshall of the University of Colorado described work underway by the Colorado PBRN to examine the formation and operation of local community coalitions charged with implementing evidence-driven policy and environmental strategies for chronic disease prevention in Colorado. Dr. Betti Bekemeier of the University of Washington profiled a study underway through the Washington PBRN to examine the role of evidence in informing decisions by public health officials in response to the economic downturn and resulting budget cuts for public health services. Dr. Rebecca Wells of UNC-Chapel Hill presented preliminary results from the NC PBRN’s study examining the effects of a state policy change that reduces local health department responsibilities in delivering evidence-based maternal support services for high-risk families. The NCC’s Glen Mays began the session with an examination of how public health PBRNs function as mechanisms for evidence production, dissemination, and implementation in public health settings using results from the 2010 Round I PBRN network analysis. PBRN presenters had a packed room of attendees and colleagues studying D&I issues across the continuum of health services. The PBRN D&I session complemented a range of other scientific sessions at the conference, including perspectives from new NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research director Dr. Bob Kaplan, AHRQ director Dr. Carolyn Clancy, NCI senior scholar Dr. Russ Glasgow, and Washington University professor Dr. Ross Brownson (PBRN National Advisory Committee member).
  
- **PBRN Research at the 2011 APTR Meeting:** The work of the Public Health PBRNs featured prominently at one of the nation’s leading forums for prevention research and training this past week. Prevention scholars from across the U.S. convened in Washington, DC on March 18-19 for the 2011 meeting of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). Dr. Scott Frank of Case Western University, one of the leaders in Ohio’s Public Health PBRN, organized a scientific session that examined recent progress in public health services and systems research (PHSSR) and the contributions being made by PBRNs. Dr. Frank’s presentation showcased the multiple research methods being used in Ohio’s PBRN to elucidate the “black box” of public health practice, and drew analogies to the progress made in primary care research through PBRNS over the past two decades. NCC director Glen Mays profiled several prominent avenues of inquiry within the PHSSR field, including research on organizational structure and financing, and noted the expanding roles of PBRNs in advancing these lines of research. The session was moderated by Dr. David Gregorio of the University of Connecticut, a contributing scholar within Connecticut’s public health PBRN. The session as well attended and contributed directly to the meetings’ overarching theme of realizing greater synergy among prevention research, practice and policy. Other speakers at the meeting included Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh, Institute of Medicine president Dr. Harvey Fineberg, Trust for America’s Health executive director Dr. Jeff Levi, and the University of Wisconsin’s Dr. Patrick Remington (a member of the PBRN National Advisory Committee).

- ✦ **Dissemination Opportunity.** PBRNs that have research findings ready for dissemination are strongly encouraged to consider the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* as a venue. Findings from QIQSs and QSRFs are especially suited for the *MMWR* in that they are intended for rapid impact. Publishing in the *MMWR* will not preclude publication later in a peer-reviewed journal. Every piece submitted to the *MMWR* must have a CDC sponsor and, if possible, a state health agency sponsor. The NCC will be happy to assist in facilitating the CDC connection and advising on the appropriateness of the *MMWR* as an avenue for dissemination. Please visit the CDC [website](#) to review instructions for *MMWR* contributors.

## Activities on the Horizon

- ✦ **PH PBRN Program Assessment Underway.** We appreciate everyone who has completed the online needs assessment and who has participated in a follow-up interview. The data will enable the NCC to better support the good work of the PBRN networks. We look forward to sharing the findings of the assessment – at the Annual Grantee Meeting next month.
- ✦ **Keep Us in the Loop!** Please remember to include the NCC on all reporting of dissemination products to RWJF, by cc'ing the [NCC](#). Keeping abreast of PBRN dissemination via presentations at national, regional, and state meetings; written reports, webinars, research briefs, journal articles, as well as web-based communication channels, will enable the NCC staff to more effectively support all the networks and spread the word about their accomplishments. **The NCC also needs a copy all of the PBRNs' 2010 annual reports.** Thanks!
- ✦ **Agenda Items for PH PBRN Annual Grantee Meeting.** The Annual Grantee Meeting is set for Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, in Lexington in conjunction with the Keeneland Conference. The Annual Grantee Meeting is a prime time to collaborate and learn about a wide array of topics germane to public health practice-based research or the broader field of public health systems and services research (PHSSR). We want to have a good mix of meeting formats and subjects to optimize these one and a half days together. Please send your suggestions to the [NCC](#) about session formats (e.g., presentation, small group) and topics as soon as possible.
- ✦ **PH PBRN Research Panels at the Keeneland Conference.** The PH PBRN NCC has reserved two panel sessions for Round I and Round II Grantees to present RIA, QSRF, or small-scale projects' preliminary research findings at the 2011 Annual Keeneland Conference on Wednesday, April 13. The NCC has compiled all abstracts submitted by interested PBRNs and has organized the PH PBRN Grantee research panels based on common themes across networks. The times and presenters for the panels are listed below. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Coordinating Center](#).

### Wednesday, April 13

#### **PH PBRN Research Panel 1 • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Scientific Session 3.A**

**Moderator: Glen P. Mays, PhD, MPH**

Washington-Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MSN, MPH

New York-Chris Maylahn, MPH

Colorado-Julie Marshall, PhD

North Carolina- Dorothy Cilenti, DrPH, MPH, MSW

## **PH PBRN Research Panel 2 • 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. • Scientific Session 4.A**

**Moderator: Michael Caldwell, MD**

Florida- Michael Morris MPH MPA CPH

Massachusetts-Justine Hyde, PhD

Ohio-David Bruckman, MS, MT(ASCP)

Wisconsin- Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN

- **PH PBRN Program Keeneland Conference Exhibit.** The 2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference will begin Tuesday, April 12 and continue through Thursday, April 14, in Lexington, Kentucky. Join other researchers, practitioners and policymakers there and share innovative ideas on how to improve the public health system. If you will be at Keeneland, be sure to visit the PH PBRN Program Exhibit. The exhibit will be located in the Thoroughbred Pre-function space at the Lexington Convention Center.
- **AcademyHealth Methods Course Offerings for PH PBRN Grantees and Partners.** Don't forget to take advantage of these new opportunities for learning! The NCC and AcademyHealth have arranged for the PBRN grantees, affiliates and network partners to access, at no cost, some of AcademyHealth's most popular methods courses for health services research (HSR) and PHSSR. Course offerings change every quarter, so don't miss this opportunity to learn from some of the leading lights of HSR and PHSSR! You may access the courses at your convenience and view them as often as you like. We encourage you to invite your PBRN partners to watch the webinars and consider scheduling sessions for group participation. If you did not receive, or need another copy of, the email with course descriptions and access instructions, contact the [NCC](#). Or view the [AcademyHealth Professional Development Catalog](#) for a comprehensive list of training opportunities.

### **Winter Quarter Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs – Available through April 3:**

- Intro to HSR Methods Seminar Series, Part I: Evidence-based Practice
  - Intro to HSR Methods Seminar Series, 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
- **PBRN Research Publication Opportunities.** The Coordinating Center is in discussions with several leading journals in PHSSR and HSR about the possibility of a special issue or theme issue dedicated to research from the PBRNs. Details will be forthcoming, but manuscripts likely would need to be ready for submission by May or June 2011. We encourage networks to consider what findings they may have ready to disseminate, and let us know any thoughts you may have on content, timing, venues, etc.

## **Public Health PBRN Leaders' Presentations**

Do you have an upcoming presentation at a conference or other venue that features your PBRN's work with the *Public Health PBRN Program*? [Let us know!](#) Recent and coming events that put public health practice-based research in the limelight:

#### ➤ **Keeneland Conference**

- ◆ Colorado PH PBRN's Lisa N. VanRaemdonck, MPH, MSW will be on a panel entitled: The Political Implications of Accreditation, Regionalization, and County Health Rankings.
- ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN Quick Strike project, "A Systematic Method to Document Population-Level Nursing Interventions in an Electronic Health System," will be presented by Dr. Mary Jo Baisch.
- ◆ Florida PBRN co-principal investigator Bill Livingood will present findings of the network's study of county health department leaders' perceptions of funding for essential services.
- ◆ Ohio PH PBRN Quick Strike project, "Variation in Enforcement of the Ohio Smoke-Free Work Place Act by Local Health Departments," will be presented by David Bruckman.
- ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN project, "Local Health Department Financial Practices and Outcomes during Economic Challenging Times," will be presented by Susan Zahner.
- ◆ Wisconsin PH PBRN's "Public Health Systems and Services Research Inventory" will be presented as a poster.

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

- **Health Impact Project.** A [Call for Proposals](#) (CFP) has been issued for the *Health Impact Project: Advancing Smarter Policies for Healthier Communities*, a collaboration of RWJF and The Pew Charitable Trusts. This CFP is for organizations that wish to undertake a health impact assessment as a way to demonstrate their value in policymaking. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and must be completed within 18 months. Up to eight projects will be awarded. Deadline for brief online proposals: June 1, 2011 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- **Call for Policy-Relevant PHSSR Findings:** Will your research produce evidence regarding the effectiveness and value of investments in the public health system? Several Public Health PBRNs are studying related issues such as uses of funding streams, responses to economic shocks, and efforts to reconfigure delivery systems for improved capabilities and efficiency. As your network gathers early findings and preliminary evidence, please let the NCC know so that we can help you think through dissemination opportunities with policymakers. There are some very effective vehicles for rapid release of early findings that will not preclude subsequent opportunities for publication of scientific articles. Send us a quick [email](#) with your updates.

## **Resources in Research and Practice**

### **PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND TOOLS**

- **County Health Rankings.** The 2011 [County Health Rankings](#) report will be released on March 30. The Rankings report is a collection of 50 state reports that rank every county according to health outcomes and health factors. Public health practitioners can use the rankings report to appraise the health in their communities and the changes that have taken place over the last year. The County Health Rankings are a part of the Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) project which is a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.
- **National Healthcare Quality & Disparities Reports.** The 2010 National Healthcare [Quality](#) & [Disparities](#) Reports have been released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Although the reports focus on clinical care, there are lessons for Public Health.

- ◆ **The association of changes in local health department resources with changes in state-level health outcomes.** An article in the April issue of [American Journal of Public Health](#) by Paul Erwin, Sandra Green, Glen Mays, Thomas Ricketts, and Mary Davis describes the results of a retrospective cohort study, utilizing information obtained from the 1997 and 2005 National Association of County and City Health Officials surveys, in which they examined the relationship between local health department (LHD) resource levels and health outcomes. Results of the study demonstrated a statistically significant (P=.037) association between increases in LHD expenditures and decreases in infectious disease, and a statistically significant (P=.014) association between increased staff and decreased cardiovascular disease mortality.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ **“What Shapes Health?” Webinar.** A panel discussion on Social Determinants of Health will be held Thursday, March 24, 2011, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET. The panel of experts will consist of Paula Braveman, M.D., M.P.H., University of California, San Francisco; Susan Egerter, Ph.D., University of California; San Francisco, Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. David Williams, Ph.D., professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard University, will serve as moderator. Visit the RWJF website for more information about the [webinar](#) and [registration](#).
- ◆ **Midyear Meeting.** The American Public Health Association (APHA) will have its first-ever Midyear Meeting in Chicago, Ill., June 23-25, 2011. The theme for the meeting is *Implementing Health Reform – A Public Health Approach*. Visit the website for a full description of the [meeting](#) and [registration](#). **Early-Bird Registration Deadline is April 15! Advanced Registration Deadline: May 20.**
- ◆ **Prevention Research Centers.** The Prevention Research Centers (PRC) 2011 Annual Conference will be April 11-14, 2011 in Atlanta, GA. Please visit the [website](#) for more information and registration.
- ◆ **NEW Analysis of Social Networks Webinar Series.** AcademyHealth is offering a new three-part webinar series on social network analysis taught by Robert Hanneman, Ph.D. The three sessions are:
  - 1) Analysis of Social Networks Part I: The Network Perspective and Network Data  
Thursday, March 31, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (ET).
  - 2) Analysis of Social Networks Part II: Basic Network Analysis  
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (ET).
  - 3) Analysis of Social Networks Part III: Beyond the Basics  
Thursday, April 28, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (ET).Please contact [PH PBRN NCC](#) if you are interested in these seminars or have any questions.
- ◆ **Webcast: 12th Annual Ned E. Baker Lecture.** “Using Social Marketing to Strengthen Public Health Policies.” March 31, 4:00-5:30 p.m. ET. Please visit [NALBOH](#) for more information and to register.

## Funding Opportunities and Announcements

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

- ✦ **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Healthy People 2020 Action Project.** Twenty awards of up to \$35,000 will be administered for projects that highlight multi-sector collaboration and employ Healthy People 2020 concepts. Please contact the U.S. Health and Human Services for more [information](#) and to apply for this funding. **Deadline: April 1, 2011.**
- ✦ **Public Health Law Research (PHLR) Program.** The 2011 [Call for Proposals](#) – Round 3 from the PHLR program has been released, with \$2.85 million available. The PHLR Program is a national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. **Deadline for receipt of brief proposals: April 20, 2011 (3 p.m. ET).**
- ✦ **AHRQ Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Service.** AHRQ has made \$4.5 million available to fund three research centers with a focus on one of the following programmatic areas: patient safety, health equity, or health care system implementation. The project period is for three years with a \$1.5 million annual budget for each year. For more information, click on [RFA-HS-11-005](#). **Deadlines: Letters of intent: April 29, 2011 and applications: May 23, 2011.**
- ✦ **HRSA Affordable Care Act – Public Health Training Center (PHTC) program.** This program will provide funding for a four-year project period. Estimated total program funding is \$6.5 million with an award ceiling of \$650,000. Please view the funding announcement, [HRSA-11-142](#), for more information. **Deadline: May 23, 2011.**
- ✦ **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced their joint support for round two of the Digging into Data Challenge, a grant competition designed to encourage cutting edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Final applications will be due June 16, 2011. Further information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website.
- ✦ **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). The **Rapid-response award concept** papers are due **August 2**.
- ✦ **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

- ✦ **APHA Public Health Fellowship.** Applications for the APHA Public Health Fellowship in Government for 2012 are now being accepted. APHA is looking for candidates with strong public health credentials who wish to spend one year in Washington, D.C., working in a congressional office on legislative and policy issues such as health, the environment or other

public health concerns. The deadline for submission is **April 4, 2011**. For more information, please go to this [link](#).

## Key Dates

<b>April 10-12</b>	2011 Annual Grantee and NAC meetings in Lexington
<b>April 13</b>	Round I and Round II Grantees Keeneland Conference Research Panels
<b>April 12-14</b>	2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington
<b>April 26</b>	Evidence-Based Practice and Policy webinar!   2:00 p.m. ET
<b>May 19</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>June 12-14</b>	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting
<b>June 16</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>July 20-22</b>	NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY Affordable Care Act.** President Barack Obama's sweeping health-care reform law marked its first birthday on Wednesday March 23. So what do you get for a law for its birthday, anyway? Best wishes for a healthier U.S.A., one and all!

