PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

PBRN Week in Review | April 3, 2009

PBRN Grantees*: Please circulate relevant information to your network members.* For additional information and suggestions for future items, please contact Elaine Wootten, wottenelaineb@uams.edu or 501-526-6628.

See you at the Keeneland Meeting!

Notable Activities this Week

- ***Keeneland Meetings are finally here!*** The Public Health PBRN Grantees and National Advisory Committee will convene in Lexington for meetings on Tuesday, April 7, preceding the main Keeneland Conference. The last page of the newsletter has overview agendas. On Wednesday, speakers from each PBRN will participate in a panel scheduled for 9-10am. ***For those of you staying over on Wednesday evening, we are organizing a PBRN group dinner*** to allow for additional opportunities for networking and discussion. Details at the meeting. What else can we say…*See you there!*

Activities on the Horizon

- ***What Would You Like to See at the Next PBRN Webinar?*** The second installment of our quarterly PBRN Webinar is scheduled for May 20. We invite your ideas about topics to cover at this next session. We will also use the recent TA survey and the advice of our National Advisory Committee to hone in on topics for this and future webinars.

- ***PBRNs at NACCHO.*** Congratulations! The PBRN learning session proposal entitled *Measuring the Value of Public Health through Practice-Based Research Networks* was selected for presentation at the NACCHO Annual Conference, July 29-31 in Orlando, Florida. The session thus far includes Harold Cox (MA), Lee Thielen (CO), David Fleming (WA), and Glen Mays (NCC). We invite other PBRN presenters to be a part of this learning session – let us know if you are interested and able to join. We will work together to flesh out the structure and content of this session during the coming months.

Related Research Activities

- **Opportunity for Input from the Public Health Community until April 30!** The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is holding a public review and comment period for the draft standards, measures and documentation guidance related to the voluntary national accreditation standards for state, local, and territorial public health departments. Revisions of the standards depend upon feedback from the public health community, and PHAB makes a variety of input mechanisms available on its website: http://phaboard.org.

- **The 2009 National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Annual Conference** will focus on the themes of "advancing health system reform and opportunities for building strong components of health promotion, improvement and disease prevention in national, state, and local efforts." Special attention will also be devoted to ARRA funding opportunities. The conference is in New Orleans from May 6-8. To learn more, see the preliminary agenda at the NNPHI website at http://www.nnphi.org/home/section/4/conferences. Several Keeneland attendees are part of NNPHI member organizations if you would like to know more about the conference.

- *Why don't they ask us?* The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute—NIH's home for much of the nation's chronic disease research—has issued a request for input as it designs a new research initiative to examine community-based childhood obesity prevention programs. This is a chance to have input on the design of this national research initiative and the types of studies to be funded. Why might PBRNs be interested in this opportunity? Networks that have partners interested in studying childhood obesity prevention may want to weigh in about the importance of studying the ***implementation and impact of these programs in real-world public health practice settings*** – the kinds of settings represented in PBRNs. Now that's translational research! What kinds of research questions should be asked? What types of settings should be studied? What types of interventions should be tested? What attributes of public health delivery systems should be studied for their ability to support and sustain the delivery of effective interventions? Here's your chance to weigh in ***before*** the research proposals are solicited, at:
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-09-122.html

- **Asking the producers and users of PHSSR.** The web survey mentioned here previously is now available, with responses due April 7! AcademyHealth—the nation's scientific home for health services research—has empanelled a ***PHSR Methods Council*** that will work to set priorities, standards, and research agendas for advancing **methodological rigor in the conduct of public health systems and services research.** As a first step, the council sent a brief web survey to the 1000+ members of the ***AcademyHealth Special Interest Group on Public Health Systems Research*** to examine methodological issues, current practices, and challenges faced in this field. If you are a member, look for the brief survey. If not, consider joining

the team: http://www.academyhealth.org/Communities/. Survey results will be presented at the *AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Chicago, June 28-30.*

Key Upcoming Dates

April 7 - ***PBRN Grantee Meeting*** held in conjunction with the Keeneland Conference, Lexington KY.

April 8 –While at the **Keeneland Conference**, plan to join us for the **PBRN Group Dinner** Wednesday evening at one of Lexington's storied eateries.

April 8-9: *Keeneland Conference on Public Health Systems and Services Research*. Lexington, KY. www.publichealthsystems.org/media/file/2009KCRegistrationFormPDF.pdf

May 12: *PBRN Monthly Conference Call* - 11:30-1:00 ET; 10:30 CT; 9:30 MT; 8:30 PT.

May *20: PBRN Quarterly Webinar -* 2:00-3:30 ET; 1:00 CT; 1*2:00 MT; 11:00 PT.*

June 28-30: AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Chicago. www.academyhealth.org

June 30-July 1: AcademyHealth Public Health Systems Research Interest Group Meeting, Chicago. There is currently a call for <u>student scholarships</u> to attend this meeting, and a call for nominations for the <u>Article of the Year</u> in public health systems research.   http://www.academyhealth.org/interestgroups/phsr/2009.htm

Funding Opportunities for Public Health Systems Research

- **Call for Proposals for Research on Public Health Law**! In the first round of funding, short-term, less-complex studies such as policy analysis or public health implications of specific laws or regulations will be funded up to $150,000 each for up to 18 months. Complex and comprehensive legal and public health studies including long-term analyses and in-depth evaluations will be funded up to $400,000 each for up to 30 months. The CFP and more detail about the program are available at http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/cfp_PHLR2009.pdf.

- **New NIH "GO" Research Opportunities Include Public Health Studies!** A recently-announced component of the NIH Recovery funds is the Research and Research Infrastructure "Grand Opportunities" or "GO" grants program. This funding is designated for biomedical and biobehavioral research projects that can benefit from significant 2-year funding with no expectation for renewal. According to the NIH announcement, research supported by this program "should have high short-term impact, and a high likelihood of enabling growth and investment in

biomedical research and development, public health, and health care delivery." GO grant key dates differ from other ARRA application dates, so be sure to check specific opportunities of interest. GO grant opportunities of participating NIH Institutes and Centers are posted at http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/ic_go.html.

- All the **NIH Challenge Grants** announced so far under the federal stimulus package can be found at **http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/**. Click on the link and subscribe to email updates if you so desire. We are finding that the individual NIH research institute web pages have more and clearer descriptions about their research priorities than does this web page. You may also want to keep an eye on the CDC, HRSA, and AHRQ web pages – and of course **www.grants.gov**

- **CDC Practice-Based Implementation Research**: CDC has released a FOA for R18 translational research projects that appears particularly well-suited for public health PBRNs, entitled, Translating Research to Protect Health through Health Promotion, Prevention, and Preparedness. Critical to CDC's mission is new scientific knowledge that can accelerate the translation of research findings into public health practice. Moving the best science into practice is essential to protect and improve health. To that end, the purpose of this FOA is to accelerate the translation of proven effective interventions into public health practice through implementation, dissemination, and diffusion research. Submission Date: April 21, 2009
  More information is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/CD09-001.htm

- Grantees may qualify for **Wal-Mart Foundation's** State Giving Program Grant in the areas of Health and Wellness and Workforce Development.
  Deadline: April 17, 2009. More specific grant information is available at:
  http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8169.aspx?p=8168

- The **William T. Grant Foundation** has issued a RFP for research "on the factors that affect policy makers' and practitioners' acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence. Grant awards ranging from $100,000 to $600,000 for direct and indirect costs for two to three years of work anticipated. Visit www.wtgrantfoundation.org/ for complete program guidelines. Letters of inquiry are due by May 12, 2009.

- **Systems Research for Population Health**: This NIH program announcement looks particularly well suited for practice-based research in public health. *Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health (R21).* The FOA solicits Exploratory/Developmental (R21) applications from institutions/organizations that propose to apply one or more specific system science methodologies to "policy resistant" public health problems and contribute knowledge that will enhance effective decision making around the development of and prioritization of policies, interventions, and programs to improve population health in the U.S. and abroad, especially where resources are limited and only a limited number of programs/policies/interventions can be implemented. Standard NIH submission deadlines apply. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-224.html

Next Issue: April 10, 2009

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

National Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Attendees: Public Health PBRN National Advisory Committee members
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation team members
Coordinating Center staff

8:30 am Breakfast, informal networking

9:00 am Progress Report Summary: Public Health PBRN Program

9:30 am Discussion of Technical Assistance Needs and Resources

10:30 am Cross--cutting PBRN Research and Evaluation Priorities

11:30 am Summary of Round II Call for Proposals Process

Noon **Lunch, introductions, informal networking**

Attendees: PBRN Grantees join for lunch

PBRN Grantee Meeting Agenda

12:30 pm Overview of the Public Health PBRN Program

1:00 pm Staying Power: Attracting and Retaining Practitioners in PBRNs

2:00 pm Lessons from a Primary Care PBRN

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm *In Vivo* Research: Developing Viable Studies in Public Health Agencies

3:45 pm Near-term technical assistance needs of PBRNs

4:30 pm Cross-cutting PBRN Research and Evaluation Priorities

5:15 pm Adjourn/informal networking

6:00 pm **Keeneland Conference Networking Reception**

7:00 pm **Keeneland Conference Opening Dinner**