

Issue # 66

PBRN Week in Review | Feb 15, 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 or (501)551-0106. Newsletter archives are available [here](#).

Notable PBRN Activities/Announcements

- **Public Health Agencies Demonstrate Value of QI.** Public health leaders and scholars convened last week in sunny Phoenix, Arizona to share findings and lessons learned from projects supported under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Building the Evidence Base for QI initiative. With leadership and support from Bill Riley at the University of Minnesota (and the **MN PH PBRN**), the 13 projects in this initiative provided powerful illustrations of how QI strategies can be used to streamline delivery processes, reduce waste and inefficiency, improve staff and client satisfaction, and enhance the delivery of evidence-based public health practices. *Public Health PBRN Program* leaders at the meeting included Bill Livingood with the Duval County Health Department (**FL PH PBRN**) and colleagues in the **Washington** and **Ohio PH PBRNs** and the **South Carolina** and **Maryland affiliate PH PBRNs**. Glen Mays of the PH PBRN Coordinating Center dropped in to suggest ways of scaling up and spreading the impact of QI in public health through collaboration with PBRNs and the larger PHSSR research community. He also noted opportunities for using the measures and data collection strategies developed through these QI projects for a wide array of PHSSR research projects. Public Health PBRNs are encouraged to get in touch with the leaders of these innovative QI projects to capitalize on opportunities for collaborative research.
- **Interested in "Bundling?"** Have you developed an abstract from your PH PBRN research to submit for the 2011 APHA Annual Meeting? Would you be interested in bundling your abstract with other PBRN abstracts to create an entire session devoted to PBRN research? If so, let us know and submit your abstract to the Health Administration Section by the February 18 deadline. Given the size of the APHA meeting, this bundling strategy will give Public Health PBRN presentations greater visibility and make it easier for audiences to find your session. If you would like to be included in this bundled session, send an email to the [National Coordinating Center](#).
- **PBRN Research Publication Opportunities.** The Coordinating Center is in discussions with several leading journals in our field 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.

- **Welcome Colleagues! Sarah Lampe, MPH**, has joined the **Colorado PH PBRN** lead agency, the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO), as the project manager. Sarah brings a wealth of public health experience to the organization, including work in community development, infectious disease control, and global health. Prior to joining CALPHO, she was research coordinator for the Colorado Center for Community Development. There she directed a multi-site research grant to evaluate the effects of the built environment on health behaviors and weight in children and developed evaluation plans for built environment projects across the state of Colorado. Sarah is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Colorado School of Public Health where she earned a Master of Public Health degree with an emphasis in Community and Behavioral Health.
- **Anh T. Nguyen, MSPH**, has joined the **Nebraska PH PBRN** as lead analyst. Anh is a health data analyst and a doctoral student in the Department of Health Services Research and Administration at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, where she is actively involved in research and development project design, methods, analysis and interpretation on a variety of health services and policy projects. Anh earned a Master of Science in Public Health degree from the Colorado School of Public Health, and her primary research interests are health services delivery, access, and utilization. Anh assumed the PBRN role previously filled by Sara Roberts, who is now with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- **PH PBRN Communications.** Does your Public Health PBRN have its own newsletter? If so, please add the [National Coordinating Center](#) to your e-subscriber list so that we can keep up with your latest goings-on! Have a web page? Please send a link to us! We do not want to miss a thing!

Activities on the Horizon

- **PBRN Monthly Conference Calls.** The Round II PBRN Grantees monthly conference call is scheduled for Thursday, February 17 from 1:00-2:30 pm ET.
- **NIH Conference.** The 4th Annual [NIH Conference](#) on the Science of Dissemination & Implementation will be held March 21-22, 2011 in Bethesda, Maryland. The National Coordinating Center is happy to inform you that we will have a PBRN panel at this meeting!
- **PH PBRN Grantees.** In the coming weeks, the NCC will be requesting your participation in two brief assessments (on-line survey, structured interview) about your research activities and specific needs and interests. The findings will be used to enhance the *Public Health PBRN Program* and will be discussed at the grantee meeting in Lexington. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Coordinating Center](#).
- **PH PBRN Research at Preventive Medicine 2011 Meeting.** NAC Chair Michael Caldwell, noted PHSSR leader Doug Scutchfield, RWJF Senior Program Officer Debra Pérez, Ohio PH PBRN co-PI Scott Frank, and National Coordinating Center Director Glen Mays will comprise the luncheon panel for a February 17 presentation at [Preventive Medicine 2011](#), the American College of Preventive Medicine annual meeting. In this significant opportunity to reach stakeholders, the panel will explore advances in PHSSR occurring through the PBRNs and will highlight applications in the context of health reform implementation. A PH PBRN booth in the exhibit hall will feature handouts summarizing network research studies.

- **PERRC Summit.** Several PH PBRNs have university partners that house Preparedness and Emergency Response Centers (PERRC), which 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 ET. The summit is February 22-25.

Public Health PBRN Leaders' Presentations

Do you have an upcoming conference presentation or speech that features your work with the *Public Health PBRN Program*? [Let us know!](#)

- **Keeneland Conference.** Bill Livingood will present findings of the Florida Public Health PBRN study of county health department leaders' perceptions of funding for Essential Services.
- **Multi-State Learning Collaborative QI Symposium.** PBRN National Coordinating Center Director Glen Mays, PhD, MPH, was one of the presenters at the Multi-State Learning Collaborative QI Symposium on February 9, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Calls for Abstracts/Proposals/Presentations/Review

- **Call for Policy-Relevant PHSSR Findings:** With Congress back in session to consider difficult questions about discretionary federal spending, and with state legislatures convening across the country to respond to continuing budgetary squeezes, there is growing demand for evidence regarding the effectiveness and value of investments in the public health system. Several Public Health PBRNs have research underway that speaks to these issues, including 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 from related projects, please let the Coordinating Center 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.
- **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 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

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

- **Cross-Jurisdictional Relationships in Local Public Health.** Former NACCHO Director Patrick Libbey was commissioned by RWJF to conduct an environmental scan, research and report on collaborative relationships among health departments. He has authored an executive summary of the project's preliminary report. The [report](#) is available on the RWJF website.

- **Workplace Wellness Programs Can Generate Savings.** A recent [article](#) in *Health Affairs* by Katherine Baicker and colleagues describes their meta-analysis of the literature on costs and savings associated with workplace disease prevention and wellness programs. This study found that medical costs fall by about \$3.27 for every dollar spent on wellness programs and that absenteeism costs fall by about \$2.73 for every dollar spent.
- **Federal Initiative Increases Community Preparedness.** A recent [article](#) in *Health Affairs* by Christopher D. Nelson and colleagues describes the evaluation of the Cities Readiness Initiative, a federal program to improve communities' capacity to dispense medications rapidly during emergencies.
- **Evidence that Consumers are Skeptical about Evidence-Based Health Care.** A recent [article](#) in *Health Affairs* by Kristin L. Carman and colleagues examines consumers' beliefs, values and knowledge about what policymakers prescribe as evidence-based health care. This study found that most consumers do not understand terms such as medical evidence or quality guidelines. The authors believe the gaps in knowledge and misconceptions point to serious challenges in engaging consumers in evidence-based decision-making.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT

- **Training on Impact Evaluation Using Randomized Trials.** The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab is partnering with NIH to offer a two-day training, March 21-22, that will focus on how to incorporate rigorous impact evaluation methodologies into operations and implementation research. This [workshop](#) is not part of the 4th Annual NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation and requires a separate application process.
- **Profile of Local Boards of Health Launched.** In January 2011, the Profile of Local Boards of Health was launched online. We urge you to make sure that the chairperson of your local board of health completes the survey to ensure that your board is represented in the only national profile of local boards of health. Researchers, policymakers, boards of health, NALBOH staff, and partner organizations use these data to develop programs and set priorities. Input from all local boards of health is critical to ensure an accurate picture of local boards and that the latest, most accurate information is available for agenda setting and program development. The profile provides information on board composition, duties and responsibilities, training needs, and accreditation. For more information, visit www.nalboh.org. This project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- **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 may be addressed to [Kathleen Amos](#), who also can provide more information about the initiative.

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:

- ◆ **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 pm ET).
- ◆ **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 are due March 10, 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

- ◆ **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

Feb 17	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 pm ET
March 19	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 pm ET
April 10-12	2011 Annual Grantee and NAC meetings in Lexington
April 12-14	2011 PHSSR Keeneland Conference in Lexington



The next newsletter will be published after Presidents' Day.