

Issue #79

PBRN Week in Review | June 3, 2011

PH PBRNs: Please circulate relevant information to network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or (501) 551-0106. [Newsletter archive](#).

Notable PBRN Activities

- ◆ **RFPs for Public Health PBRNs.** Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) limited to *Public Health PBRN Program* grantees and affiliates were released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® (RWJF) on Friday, May 27. Together the RFPs are known as the Research Acceleration & Expansion Supplement Series and are aimed at enhancing the pace and scope of current research.

Administrative Supplements: Within the Public Health PBRN Administrative Supplements RFP are two opportunities for grantees and affiliates to broaden research in response to external developments that have varying effects on public health delivery systems and the populations they serve.

- ◆ *Expanding Diversity, Addressing Disparities and Social Determinants of Health* (Diversity and Disparities Supplement) provides PBRNs an avenue to examine the public health system's current and potential roles in addressing health disparities and underlying social determinants of health and equity and mitigating inequities in service delivery. PBRNs may apply for funds to support a junior investigator from an underrepresented population group to accelerate the tempo of existing research and/or to develop new lines of research related to health disparities. Four awards of up to \$100,000 each to be used over 18 months are available.
- ◆ *Advancing Methodology* (Methodology Supplement) offers networks an opportunity to address limitations in commonly used public health services and systems research (PHSSR) approaches by developing and applying novel research designs and/or measurement and analytic techniques to ongoing projects. Two awards of \$50,000 each to use over 18 months are available.

Research Capacity Supplements: The "Capacity Supplement" allows PH PBRNs to expand an existing small-scale study or to develop a new line of research that augments ongoing projects. The new or expanded effort should be designed to produce actionable knowledge about the causes and/or consequences of geographic variation in service delivery, quality, and/or outcomes in public health practice. Collaboration with one or more PH PBRNs and senior researcher(s) is a required strategy. Program grantees that have not implemented large-scale research projects are eligible to apply for the \$100,000 awards.

Lead organization contacts should have received an email with a link to the RWJF online proposal system and additional details. Send an email to the [NCC](#) if your PBRN did not receive an email invitation.



- **AcademyHealth Meetings.** Please let us know who among your active network members plans to attend AcademyHealth in Seattle. The WA PH PBRN is coordinating a dinner meeting for network attendees on Tuesday, June 14, immediately following the PHSR IG reception. A tentative headcount is needed for facility planning. *Please send names of possible attendees to the [NCC](#) as soon as possible.*
- **Colorado PH PBRN and Physical Activity Promotion.** The Physical Activity Policy Research Network, a CO PH PBRN partner, has been funded for a national study on the work of coalitions and collaboratives doing physical activity promotion. The project would include social network analysis using PARTNER software. The findings of the project would inform physical activity policy work of coalitions across the nation. The network requests nominations of local coalitions or collaboratives to take part in the project. To obtain a description of the project and nomination form, contact Sarah Lampe at (303) 861-4995.

Activities on the Horizon

- **National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems 2011 Wave.** A third wave of the National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems (NLPHS) will be conducted in summer 2011 through the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research at the University of Kentucky in collaboration with the Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Data collected will be linked with the 2010 NACCHO Profile Survey as well as the 2010 Survey of State Health Agencies conducted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Among its many benefits for research, policy and practice, the 2011 NLSPHS will provide a broad view of how public health delivery systems are responding to the economic downturn as well as to the initial implementation of health system reform under the federal Affordable Care Act.
- **NAC Conference Call.** The NAC quarterly conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET. Networks are invited to submit items to be placed on the agenda for discussion by sending an [email](#) to the NCC. We look forward to hearing from you!
- **Upcoming Quarterly Webinar.** The topic for the July 20 webinar will be in accord with network members' suggestions and presenter availability. Send ideas to the [NCC](#).

QSRF
Proposal
Deadline
Soon

- **QSRFs Available.** PH PBRNs have until July 1 to propose QSRF studies. The required one-page proposal should explain the research questions and how the study will address a time-sensitive public health practice or policy issue. If the brief proposal shows promise, a three- to five-page proposal will be requested.
- **Research Manuscripts.** PH PBRNs intending to submit a manuscript for publication in a theme issue, likely *AJPM*, should plan to have it ready for submission to the journal by late August. If a network's authors would like the NCC to review a draft, please build this into your timeline. NCC review will not be required.

- ◆ **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The AcademyHealth Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through June 30. Invite network partners to take these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:
 - ◆ Causality in Health Services Research
 - Part I: Introduction to Causal Concepts
 - Part II: Estimation Techniques for Causal Modeling
 - ◆ Do You Really Want to Test Whether Two Populations are Equal? The Science of Equivalency Testing
 - ◆ Introduction to Case Studies: A Public Health Methods Webinar

Public Health PBRN Presentations

Do you know of an upcoming presentation that features your PBRN's work or its members? [Let us know!](#)

- ◆ **NACCHO Annual 2011.** Join the nation's local health officials at the NACCHO Annual 2011 in Hartford, Connecticut, July 20-22. With the addition of a research track to a program known for its interactive learning sessions, this is a great opportunity for public health practice and research colleagues to explore new ideas, examine strategies, and plan for the future. Don't miss the panel of four PH PBRN representatives:

- ◆ *Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy*

Moderator Matt Stefanak (Ohio), David Gregorio (Connecticut), Bill Livingood (Florida), and Julie Myhre (Minnesota)

- ◆ **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group.** The Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting following AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting is rife with PH PBRN representation! Look at the three panels announced thus far...

Translating Systems Research for the Field

Tuesday, June 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

An Assessment of Response to the Release of the 2010 County Health Rankings

Bridget Booske, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

- ★ Co-PI for a Research Implementation Award study

Applying Scientific Research Methods to Law: Demonstrating Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

Patricia Sweeney, University of Pittsburgh

- ★ NAC member

Public Health Spending by Non-Governmental Organizations

Patrick Bernet, Florida Atlantic University

- ★ Network participant

Variability in Practices for Investigation, Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases of Public Health Significance among Washington State's Local Health Jurisdictions

Hanne Thiede, Public Health-Seattle and King County

★ PH PBRN researcher presenting on the network's small-scale research project

Implications of Social Network Analysis for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Moderator: **Danielle Varda**, University of Colorado, Denver

★ Network participant and researcher

The Local Public Health System: Building a Model through Social Network Analysis

Paul Erwin, University of Tennessee

★ Director of affiliate PH PBRN

Determinants of Research Implementation and Translation Processes in Public Health Settings: Evidence from Network Analysis with PBRNs

Glen Mays, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

★ Director of NCC

What Works? Best Practices for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Moderator: **Mary V. Davis**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

★ Network researcher

Discussant: **Barry Kling**, Chelan-Douglas Washington Health District

★ PHAST study team member

Process Analysis in Local Health Departments: Using QI Methods to Identify Failure Modes

William Riley, University of Minnesota

★ Co-PI for a Research Implementation Award study

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- ✦ **Science of Community Engagement.** The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) has issued a [Call for Papers](#) focusing on the science of community engagement for a special issue of the journal, *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. The call specifically invites PBRN contributions and prioritizes papers that are collaborative and co-authored by community members. The deadline for submitting papers is Monday, August 1.
- ✦ **Integrating Primary Care and Public Health.** The *American Journal of Public Health* and the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* are planning a joint issue addressing the question: "How do we improve population health and promote health equity through the effective integration of primary care and public health?" The multi-agency [Call for Papers](#) seeks submissions in the areas of science, education, practice, and policy and especially invites submissions co-authored by professionals in the public health and primary care fields. Manuscripts are due by August 1.

Resources in Research and Practice

CONFERENCES

- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.** AcademyHealth recently released its [meeting agenda](#), which indicates that multiple sessions each day with overarching themes of public health, organizational performance and management, health care workforce. Several quality topics will appeal to PH PBRN practitioners and researchers. Methods workshops in health services research are available at all skill levels. The ARM is June 12-14 in Seattle.
- **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting** in Seattle, June 14-15. [Registration](#) is open.
- **APHA Midyear Meeting** in Chicago, Illinois, June 23-25. The theme for the meeting is *Implementing Health Reform – A Public Health Approach*. Learn more about the [APHA Midyear Meeting](#).
- **NACCHO Annual 2011** in Hartford, Conn., July 20-22. [Registration](#) is open.
- **NALBOH Conference.** 19th Annual NALBOH Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 7-9. For more information and to register for this event, please visit the [website](#).
- **APHA Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 2. [Registration](#) for the meeting and housing are open. Learn more about the [APHA Annual Meeting](#).
- **NASHP Conference.** The [National Academy for State Health Policy](#) (NASHP) Annual State Health Policy Conference is October 3-5 in Kansas City, Missouri.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Public Health Pathogen-Food Combinations Burden.** A [report](#), funded by RWJF, has been released that examines foodborne pathogens with the highest disease burdens and the top 10 foods most commonly contaminated by them.
- **Decade's Top 10 Public Health Achievements.** On May 19 the CDC announced the top 10 public health achievements of the first decade of the 21st century. The achievements include controlling infectious diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis, doing a better job of fighting tobacco use, improving motor vehicle safety, and reducing heart disease and death. Others include improvements in vaccine-preventable diseases, better maternal and infant health, better cancer prevention, improved occupational safety, and aggressive steps that have led to fewer childhood lead poisonings. Read more in [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).
- **PHSSR Progress Report.** RWJF has published [Strengthening the Performance and Impact of Public Health Departments: A Progress Report](#) highlighting the work of the University of Kentucky, NACCHO, ASTHO, and NALBOH in building the field of PHSSR.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

- **PHF Wants to Know...** Have you used the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* to address public health challenges in your community? Enter the ["I'm Your Community Guide" Contest](#) from the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and be eligible for a \$1,000 conference scholarship and other prizes. Entries must be received by June 10. Access the *Community Guide* online at www.thecommunityguide.org.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **Racial disparities in H1N1 vaccination rates.** Lori Uscher-Pines and her colleagues used national, cross-sectional survey data to investigate vaccination rate differences for racial and ethnic groups and offered possible explanations for the variation. The [study](#), which appeared in the May 12 online edition of the *American Journal of Public Health*, has implications for public health practitioners in how they address barriers to vaccine uptake.
- **Update on state public health agencies' structures and functions.** Florida PBRN researcher Leslie Beitsch and colleagues in 2007 conducted a national survey of the services and organizational structures of state health departments, comparing findings to those of a similar survey done in 2001. Their [article](#) appeared in the May 12 online edition of the *American Journal of Public Health*.
- **Agency rulemaking in improving population health.** Jennifer L. Pomeranz, who is with Legal Initiatives at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Yale University, provides a possible template for multi-state studies about variations in delegated public health authorities on the state and local level and how agency rulemaking can be exercised to intervene on serious public health problems. She discusses the advantages and limitations of agency rulemaking and provides two case studies on menu labeling initiatives in Massachusetts and New York. Her [article](#) appeared in the May 12 online edition of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The NCC maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to its networks. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

NEW LISTINGS THIS WEEK

- **Building Capacity and Research Infrastructure.** The NIH has released a [Request for Applications](#) for the NIMHD Endowment Program for Increasing Research and Institutional Resources Capacity. Total program funding is \$15 million. The deadline for applications is July 28.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).** According to the [FOA](#), "priority topic areas for projects include: 1) information and communications technologies to increase access to care, 2) policies or initiatives to increase the supply of rural healthcare practitioners and/or the use of paraprofessionals or peer-led health services to supplement existing healthcare services, 3) strategies to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care, and 4) translational and trans-disciplinary research linking the social determinants of health and health disparities that is innovative, rigorous and well-grounded in an appropriate theoretical framework." Application deadline: June 8.
- **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced a grant competition designed to encourage cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website. Final application deadline: June 16.

- **HHS Preparedness.** CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program](#). Note eligibility requirements and opportunities for collaboration. Application deadline: June 17.

- **Public Prevention Health Fund: Community Transformation Grants.** Community Transformation Grants are a key piece of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) still to be implemented through the Public Prevention Health Fund. An important expansion of the nation's investment in evidence-based, cross-cutting public health work, its reach, implementation and impact need to be studied in PHSSR and perhaps through the work of the PH PBRNs.

According to the [announcement](#), "the purpose of the program is to create healthier communities by: 1) building capacity to implement broad evidence- and practice-based policy, environmental, programmatic and infrastructure changes... and 2) supporting implementation of such interventions in five strategic areas aligning with Healthy People 2020 focus areas. "
Applications due: July 15.

- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). Rapid-response award concept papers are due August 2.

- **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

Key Dates

June 12-14	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle
June 14-15	AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting, Seattle
June 16	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
July 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011, Hartford
July 21	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Aug 18	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET