

Issue #88

## **PBRN Week in Review | Aug 12, 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](mailto:publichealthpbrn@uams.edu) or (501) 551-0106. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

### **Notable PBRN Activities**

- **PH PBRNs Respond to RFP.** In late May, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) limited to grantees and affiliates of the *Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks* program. Known as the Research Acceleration and Expansion (RACE) series, three categories of supplemental funding gave networks the opportunity to submit proposals for expanding the scope and accelerating the pace of research conducted within their PBRNs. The categories included enhancing diversity and health disparities research; supporting methodological advancements; and capacity expansion through network collaboration.

Ten proposals were received in response to the RFP, distributed among the three categories. Finalists will be notified by August 19 and should be prepared to submit formal responses to comments, questions, and/or revisions within a few days.

- **Network Welcomes New Member.** **Aylin Drabousky**, Network Coordinator of the **Ohio PH PBRN**, gave birth to seven pound, five ounce Mabel early Wednesday morning, August 10. PI Scott Frank reports that, true to form, Aylin worked until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and delivered Miss Mabel a few hours later. Congratulations to all!
- **More Proud Partners.** The Duval County (Florida) Health Department, lead organization of the **Florida PH PBRN**, was recently announced as the second place winner in the Public Health Foundation's (PHF) "*I'm Your Community Guide!*" contest. Duval County won this honor by "increasing 4:3:1:3:3:1 series immunization rates among their two-year-old population by 15 percent in two years using Community Guide vaccination recommendations. The promotion was designed to identify model practices for implementing the evidence-based task force recommendations outlined in the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* (Community Guide)."

### **Activities on the Horizon**

- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The AcademyHealth Summer Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through **September 30**. Invite network partners to take these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:
  - Best Practices in Designing and Analyzing Internet Surveys for HSR
  - Analysis of Social Networks Part I: The Network Perspective and Network Data (First in the series)

- Applied Propensity Score Analysis I
- Multilevel Modeling: A Public Health Methods Webinar

- ✦ **Special Issue of *Leadership in Public Health* Devoted to PH PBRN Research.** The University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health is dedicating an upcoming issue of the journal, *Leadership in Public Health*, to the work of the Public Health PBRNs and the interplay between practice-based scholarship and leadership in public health. Editor Lou Rowitz tells us that the issue is in production and we should have a publication date soon. Stay tuned!
- ✦ **Updating the PHSSR Agenda.** Great strides are being made toward updating the PHSSR national research agenda through an effort sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other major public health stakeholders. Researchers and practitioners have contributed through sessions at AcademyHealth and NACCHO, and you are invited to participate in the vetting process via the [IDEASCALE Survey](#). Before taking the survey and sharing your input, download a copy of the [research agenda](#) and the [recent issue brief](#). The survey will be open until **August 31**.

Vetting  
Process  
Info!

## Research Dissemination Opportunities

- ✦ **Call for Presentation Abstracts -- 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit.** Abstracts are being accepted for Interactive Sessions, Workshops, Informal Sharing Sessions, and Posters. ★ [Abstract Guidelines](#). Abstracts must be submitted by **Friday, August 19** at 11:59 PM, EDT. The [2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit](#) will be in Anaheim from February 21 through 24.
- ✦ **Call for Publication Abstracts – QI Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes.** HRSA, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* are accepting abstracts for a theme issue entitled Evidence for Informing the Next Generation of Quality Improvement Initiatives: Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes. [Guidelines for abstracts](#) and details about the theme issue are available online, and **abstracts are due September 1**.

## Related Practice and Research Developments

- ✦ **New Health Research Funding.** A new quasi-governmental research program created by the Affordable Care Act – The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute – soon will begin issuing funding opportunities in the area of comparative effectiveness research, and PHSSR is included in its scope of funding priorities. The research funding authorized by ACA for this institute is expected to reach a steady state of more than \$600 million annually after a few years of ramp-up, promising a serious enhancement to the nation’s translational health research enterprise. Recently, PCORI released a working definition of PCOR along with descriptions of initial pilot projects for funding, and invited public comments on both of these entities. While PCORI is heavily focused on patient care, its mission includes studying *prevention* as well as treatment options, and comparing *delivery system* innovations as well as clinical interventions. This leaves the door open for PHSSR oriented studies – perhaps even studies that offer head-to-head comparisons of the health impact of prevention vs. treatment strategies. **PCORI is soliciting public comments through September 1** and *it is important for them to hear from the PHSSR community* about the significance of studying the comparative effectiveness of public health interventions and delivery systems – not just “sick care” strategies. Recall the recent [JAMA commentary](#) by noted public health scholar and LA County Health Department staffer

Input  
Needed

Steve Teutsch on comparative effectiveness research and public health. Please visit the [Center for PHSSR](#) website for more information on [background](#) and [rationale](#). Submit your comments to PCORI through their [website](#).

- **The X Prize for Health Innovations to Close Evidence Gaps.** AcademyHealth is sponsoring a competition for researchers to join with practitioners and others to develop new interactive applications that translate data into useful information that can improve health and health care. The winning team receives \$5000 and a chance to present their applications at the Annual Research Meeting and the National Health Policy Conference. Submit an outline of your idea by August 15 to receive consultation and help with the next stage of the competition called the [Relevant Evidence to Advance Care and Health \(REACH\) Challenge](#). PH PBRNs could make great incubators for these kinds of innovations.

## Public Health PBRN Presentations

**Keep Us in the Loop!** Do you know of recent or upcoming presentations, reports, publications, etc. that feature the work of your PBRN or its members? Remember to submit these products to RWJF following the [Electronic Submission Guidelines](#), copying the [NCC](#).

- The **MA PH PBRN** will be presenting at the APHA Conference. J. Hyde, J. Waggett, B. Mills, L. Fried and G. Wilkinson will be presenting their paper, “Catalysts of Organizational Change: What Sparks and Maintains Interest in Regional Approaches to Public Health Service Delivery?”

## Resources in Research and Practice

### CONFERENCES

- **NALBOH Conference.** 19th Annual [NALBOH](#) Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 7-9.
- **APHA Annual Meeting.** Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-November 2. [Registration](#) for the meeting and housing are now 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.
- **2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit.** [PHP Summit](#) in Anaheim, February 21-24, 2012.

### REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Community Health Centers.** NCHS has released a report, [Community Health Centers: Providers, Patients, and Content of Care](#). This report uses data from the 2006-2008 National Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys (NAMCS) to compare patient and encounter characteristics outlining the role of different types of providers in health centers.
- **Obesity Threatens America's Future.** A [report](#), published in July, outlines 2008-10 national and state obesity rates. There is a discussion on health indicators, policies, barriers to and recommendations for addressing the epidemic.
- **PHSSR Spins in the Blogosphere.** Some of the more influential health policy bloggers have begun to take notice of the research happening in the PHSSR field and its potential to inform

health policy. Does this mean we have arrived? Check out a few recent posts by former legislator [Paul Gionfriddo](#) and by the bloggers at [The Incidental Economist](#) commenting on public health spending and the debt ceiling debates.

- **Public Health Newswire.** APHA has launched a new online portal resource for current news and events on the top issues affecting public health. This portal is a resource for participating in discussions, sharing your opinions, and getting involved. Visit the [Public Health Newswire](#) homepage for more information.

#### WEBINARS

- **Accreditation, Performance Standards & MAPP.** The first installment of the Public Health Agency & Systems Improvement Webinar series will be August 23 from 2:00-3:00 pm ET. To participate in the webinar: 1) RSVP via email: [Ljohnson@nnphi.org](mailto:Ljohnson@nnphi.org) 2) [Click Here to Connect to Web](#) 3) Dial 800-273-7043, code 8422006 to connect to audio. Visit the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) [website](#) for more information.

### New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **More evidence on accreditation:** PHSSR scholar **Mary Davis** and colleagues have a new article out in [AJPH](#) that describes North Carolina's experience to date with local health department accreditation. The study identifies common facilitators and barriers encountered by departments in seeking accreditation, and the benefits that accredited departments have experienced to date. In addition to Mary, several of the study's authors work within the **North Carolina Public Health PBRN**, including **Ed Baker** and **Brittan Wood**.
- **National Health Spending Projections.** In the [August issue](#) of *Health Affairs*, Keehan and colleagues provide a model for projecting health spending trends at various time intervals, by sector, payer group, etc. to 2020 to examine how health care dollars may be spent as a result of the ACA.

### Transitions

- In the next few weeks, Glen Mays will begin the transition to the University of Kentucky College of Public Health to occupy the F. Douglas Scutchfield Endowed Professorship in Health Services and Systems Research. The work of the Public Health PBRN Program will continue uninterrupted as NCC operations move to a new home base in Kentucky. Of course, connections and collaborations with the many great colleagues in Arkansas also will continue unabated.

### 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

- **A Mention from Mays.** A reminder to PH PBRNs with doctoral students collaborating in research projects that these students can pursue dissertation funding to support their research activities. The three biggest and best federal sources for doctoral students pursuing HSR and PHSSR research projects are [NIH NRSA](#) awards (F-31s), [AHRQ's](#) R36 awards, and [NSF's](#)

[Dissertation Research Improvement awards](#). And of course, the University of Kentucky [National Coordinating Center for PHSSR](#) offers dissertation support through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The eligibility criteria and deadlines vary -- November for AHRQ, December for NIH, January for NSF, UK yet to be announced. I strongly encourage my students to pursue these types of awards -- they are absolutely the best way to start extramural funding and the road to becoming an independent investigator. Most other research funding opportunities require an established track record of funding and relevant publications, but these only require great ideas, strong research plans and supportive mentors and research environments--like those that can be found in Public Health PBRNs. Boarding the funding train is always easiest while it is stopped at the first station!

#### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

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

#### Key Dates

<b>Aug 18</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Sept 15</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Oct 20</b>	Monthly Conference Call   1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
<b>Oct 29-Nov 2</b>	APHA Annual Meeting 2011, Washington, D.C.