

Issue #50

PBRN Week in Review | July 30, 2010

PBRN Grantees: 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

- **Public Health PBRN Webinar.** In response to numerous questions and requests for guidance, the National Coordinating Center (NCC) has invited Dr. Robert Hood of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) to address the topic of practice-based research and the IRB process at the upcoming quarterly webinar. With Dr. Hood's leadership as Assistant Director of the Office of Public Health Research, FDOH became the first public health department to receive full accreditation of its human research protection program in March 2008. Dr. Hood is a member of the Ethics Subcommittee of CDC's Advisory Committee to the Director and a site visitor for the Association for Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs. His research interests include public health ethics, research ethics, and environmental ethics.

Note...

- The webinar date is changed to **Tuesday, August 17**, 2:00-3:30 pm ET.
- In tailoring his presentation to Public Health PBRNs, Dr. Hood has invited network participants to submit questions, concerns, issues, dilemmas, etc. related to practice-based research and the IRB. Please send those to the [NCC](#) to aggregate into one document by Wednesday, August 11.

- **PBRNs at NACCHO.** Round II PBRN representatives presented a research-related session at the recent 2010 NACCHO conference in Memphis. In an interactive session with over 30 attendees, network members from **Connecticut, Florida, Ohio and Minnesota** gave an overview of their PBRNs and then led small group discussions of the challenges and opportunities of research at local health departments. Participants identified challenges as academic relationships, department structure, shifting priorities, the absence of a school of public health, and identifying research questions of interest to both practitioners and researchers. Opportunities cited included leveraging universal potential, access to academic partners and technical assistance, workforce development, and evidence based decision-making. Feedback from attendees indicated the session provided a clearer understanding of practice-based research and ways to get involved. [Presentation link](#).

Activities on the Horizon

- **Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC).** Public Health PBRN representatives **Nancy Winterbauer (FL), Karen Hartfield (WA) and Angela Dearing (KY)** will present work in quality improvement at the MLC's 2010 Open Forum: A National Conference of Leaders in Public Health Quality Improvement. Slated for September 15-17 in Washington DC, this is the MLC's final open forum culminating five years of work in QI and accreditation. Glen Mays will moderate.

- **Call for Abstracts: Modeling for Public Health Action.** CDC's Preparedness Modeling Unit invites abstracts for 20-minute presentations at its 2010 Conference on Modeling for Public Health Action. The conference is designed to "promote the exchange of information and ideas about modeling uses to shape public health action" to an audience of public health practitioners, policymakers, and researchers. **Abstracts are due September 15, 2010.** [More about the conference and Call for Abstracts.](#)
- **Quick Strike Research Funds (QSRF).** *Time is running short to submit QSRF ideas!* The initial submission should be a one-page description of the proposed research. Send to publichealthpbrn@uams.edu. If the summary shows promise, the network will be invited to submit a 3-5 page proposal describing: (1) how the project will meet a current or emerging need for which quick (time-sensitive) research results will be useful for a larger practice or policy action; (2) the research questions of interest; (3) data and methods to be used; and (4) a brief budget with narrative.
- **Washington State Public Health Conference.** An abstract from the **Washington PH PBRN** was accepted for presentation at the state public health conference. **Karen Hartfield, Hanne Thiede, Betty Bekemeier, and Anthony Chen** will present the 90-minute session entitled "Practice-Based Research Networks: The Washington State Experience" on October 10, 2010.
- **American Public Health Association (APHA).** The following abstracts have been accepted for presentation at APHA:

New!

- ◆ "A Participatory Approach to Planning for Regional Public Health Services in Massachusetts" **Justeen Hyde (MA PH PBRN)**
- ◆ "Changes in Public Health Programs over Time...and How They Relate to Disparities in Mortality" **Betty Bekemeier (WA PH PBRN)** and colleagues
- ◆ "An Innovative Service Learning Program for MPH Students: Applying Problem-Based Learning in Community Settings" **Karen Hartfield (WA PH PBRN)**
- ◆ "Closing the Quality Chasm in Public Health: Lessons from Practice-Based Research Networks" (**National Coordinating Center**)
- ◆ "Accelerating Evidence-based Management in Public Health: Results from the First Two Years of PBRN Research" (**National Coordinating Center**)

New Resources and Activities in Research and Practice

WEBINARS

- **Social Determinants of Health.** A record audience of over 3,000 participants registered for last week's webinar on effective communication about social determinants of health. Hosted by RWJF and Grantmakers in Health, presenters shared highlights of four years of research and best practices in choosing words, using data, and understanding how various audiences "hear" social determinants messages. The recorded webinar, presentation slides and messaging guide for *A New*

Way to Talk about the Social Determinants of Health are available at this [link](#). (Of interest... the term "social determinants" did not resonate with any audience in the study!)

CONFERENCES

- **Training in Social Network Analysis.** A [workshop](#) focusing on the tools and techniques of social network analysis is scheduled for September 23-24 in Sacramento. Hosted by the UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center, the event will include both instruction and research presentations. Space is limited for this no-fee workshop, so priority will be given to participants from CTSA institutions. Register before September 9.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Balancing Public Health Funding Priorities.** Note this coverage in [The New York Times](#) regarding funding allocations among public health issues such as obesity and tobacco use. Federal and foundation resources are discussed, including RWJF.
- **H1N1 Policy Barriers.** The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officers (NACCHO) have completed assessments of the legal and non-legal policy barriers encountered by state and local public health officials in addressing H1N1. [ASTHO report](#). [NACCHO report](#).
- **Health Department Accreditation.** An opinion piece entitled “Looking Back from the Future: Connecting Accreditation, Health Reform, and Political Opportunities” authored by NC PH PBRN's Ed Baker is in The Management Moment column of the July/August 2010 issue of the [Journal of Public Health Management & Practice](#). Baker highlights the need for adequate resources for all local, tribal, and state public health agencies to be fully accredited by 2020.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Deadline!

- **RWJF Request for Ideas.** In viewing a group photograph, most people will look first for their own image and then for others they know. Similarly, when RWJF and UWI Population Health Institute released their first round of *County Health Rankings* earlier this year, most people probably looked first for their own counties and then for familiar comparisons. But then what? In preparing for the 2011 release, RWJF created the online [Community Health Action Forum](#) to gather suggestions for ways communities can put the data to work. Specifically, comments are sought on "what motivates communities to take action, and what types of tools, training and assistance you believe can help communities address the many factors that affect health—action that can ultimately improve health outcomes." The forum is open through **Friday, August 6**.
- **National Health Security Strategy, Biennial Implementation Plan.** Earlier this year, *PBRN Week in Review* noted work on the nation's first health security strategy. A draft implementation plan for coordinating the various participants' activities and resources over the next two years is available for [public comment](#) until Wednesday, August 25.

Recent Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

- **A Framework for Improving Public Health Preparedness System.** In a recent article in [Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness](#), McCabe and colleagues propose a solution to one critical obstacle to achieving preparedness for high-quality, system-based emergency response: the

absence of a universal framework and common language. The investigators propose that constructs associated with the familiar term "ready, willing, and able" may be used for a standardized approach among the widely varying participants in the public health emergency preparedness system. Steps also are outlined for advancing the discussion of development of quality standards, measures, guidance, and even a national accreditation program.

- **Primary Care PBRNs.** The July-August issue of the [Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine](#) contains its annual emphasis on PBRNs. Articles include research results from networks, an examination of PBRN evaluation tools, an exploration of motivating factors and benefits of network participation, and more. Though some characteristics of various professions' PBRNs do not translate easily among one another, all can benefit from the collective work.

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The Coordinating Center maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) for and grant awards to Public Health PBRNs. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated. PH PBRNs are asked to help keep the awards list up to date by notifying the Coordinating Center of funding received.

NEW IN THIS COLUMN...

- **PHSSR Research Opportunity.** The Center for Public Health Systems and Services Research has issued a [Call for Proposals](#) from junior investigators who are interested in working on the development of topical white papers that will help the field's funders craft a research agenda for the next five years. The four areas of interest are (1) quality improvement, (2) structure and organization of health departments, (3) methodology, and (4) workforce issues. A one-page description of the applicant's qualifications, proposed timeline and approach to the work as outlined in the CFP is due **Wednesday, August 11.**
- **Pilot Research in Preparedness Systems.** The University of Minnesota: Simulations and Exercises for Educational Effectiveness (U-SEEE) has issued its annual call for proposals for innovative pilot projects in public health preparedness systems research that includes simulations and exercises as educational or training methods. Eligibility is quite broad, although new researchers receive preference. Three projects are selected for the one year, \$15,000 awards. Details, including a video on developing a proposal, are [linked here](#). **Application deadline: September 14, 2010.**

*New
Deadline!*

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED IN THIS COLUMN...

- **Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure.** CDC is accepting applications to its "Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure for Improved Health Outcomes" five-year cooperative agreement program. The program includes a non-competitive base funding component and a competitive "enhanced" funding component. Applicants must be state health departments and others designated as eligible in the [Funding Announcement](#). Public Health PBRNs may want to discuss opportunities for partnership with appropriate applicant organizations. **Application Deadline: August 9, 2010.** [Link to recorded technical assistance information sessions.](#)

- **Health Issues of Women and Girls.** The Office of Women's Health seeks proposals for evidence-based projects targeted to health issues that adversely affect women and girls in the applicants' communities. Support is available for a one-year Phase I planning effort by community coalitions and a five-year Phase II implementation stage competitively awarded to successful Phase I grantees. [Link to information](#). **Application deadline: August 13, 2010.**
- **Occupational Safety and Health Education (T42).** CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) invites grant applications for Education and Research Centers (ERC) focused on occupational safety and health training and research training. NIOSH is mandated to provide an adequate supply of qualified personnel to carry out the purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the ERCs are one of the principal means for meeting this mandate. ERCs are academic institutions that provide interdisciplinary graduate training and continuing education in the core occupational safety and health areas of industrial hygiene, occupational health nursing, occupational medicine residency, occupational safety, and other closely related occupational safety and health fields. Research and research training are integral components of ERCs, thus ERC scientists conduct peer reviewed, investigator initiated research on issues related to the National Occupational Research Agenda. [Funding Announcement](#). **Application deadline: September 10, 2010.**
- **Health Disparities Research.** NIH is accepting R01 applications for funding of innovative research addressing health disparities. The approaches and aims are quite broad, although the [announcement](#) states, "the research should take into account the characteristics of health systems and health seeking behaviors that propagate disparities." The research focus may include racial/ethnic minorities, low income, rural and other health disparity populations. **Application deadline: September 29, 2010.**
- **Scholars in Health Policy Research.** RWJF is accepting applications to its *Scholars in Health Policy Research* program. Applicants should have earned a doctoral degree in economics, political science or sociology after January 1, 2006 or have completed degree requirements by July 15, 2011. Preference is given to applicants who have not worked extensively in health or health policy research. Up to nine individuals are selected each year for two-year fellowships at one of three universities to develop creative thinkers in health policy who will make important research contributions to the field. **Application deadline: October 13, 2010.** [More information](#)
- **RWJF Rapid-Response Call for Proposals.** [Active Living Research](#) is an RWJF national program supporting research to inform policy and environmental strategies for increasing physical activity and preventing obesity in children and adolescents, particularly among those at highest risk. With characteristics similar to the Public Health PBRN Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF), this CFP seeks proposals for "opportunistic, time-sensitive studies on emerging or anticipated changes in physical activity-related policies or environments. Rapid-response grants are expected to accelerate progress toward policy and environmental strategies to prevent and reduce childhood obesity. For maximum impact, studies should be completed in as short a time frame as realistically possible, and results disseminated using methods designed to reach local, state or national decision-makers in time to help inform key policy decisions." **Deadline:** Awards made on a **rolling basis**. A Letter of Intent is required and will be accepted until July 1, 2011.

Comings and Goings...

- **Mary Jo Knobloch** is leaving her position as project manager of the **Wisconsin PH PBRN** to join the UWI School of Medicine and Public Health as program officer for the Wisconsin Partnership Program. **Nancy Young**, Executive Director of the Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc. will provide project management until the vacancy is filled. Thank you for your work, Mary Jo!
- **Lee Thielen** has stepped down as executive director of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO)/The Public Health Alliance but is continuing some of her other public health work, including the Multi-State Learning Collaborative. Bon voyage, Lee, and thank you for inaugurating the **Colorado PH PBRN**.
- **Lisa VanRaemdonck**, former program manager of CALPHO (and the **CO PH PBRN**), has been named executive director. PBRN program colleagues can look forward to continuing to work with Lisa.
- **Aylin Drabousky** has joined the **Ohio PH PBRN**, known locally as the Ohio Research Association for Public Health Improvement (RAPHI), as project coordinator. Aylin (pronounced Eileen) has a broad background in research, community outreach, and health communication. Welcome, Aylin!

Upcoming Key Dates

Aug 10:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
New Date! ➤ Aug 17:	Public Health PBRN Quarterly Webinar 2:00-3:30 ET
Aug 19:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 ET
Sep 8:	National Advisory Committee Conference Call 1:00–2:00 ET
Sep 14:	Round I PBRN Monthly Conference Call 11:30-12:30 ET
Sep 16:	Round II PBRN Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 ET
Nov 6-10:	2011 APHA Annual Meeting in Denver

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