

Issue #9

PBRN Week in Review | March 20, 2009

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

Notable Activities this Week

- ***Work at the Coordinating Center:*** This week at the Coordinating Center we have been preparing for the PBRN grantee and advisory committee meetings at Keeneland, finalizing the individual state TA survey results, developing a TA request form and getting it on the website, working with RWJF on plans for the Round II PBRN Call for Proposals, and keeping an eye out for PBRN funding opportunities.
- ***PBRN Grantee Meeting @ Keeneland:*** Our in-person meeting of PBRN grantees will commence with lunch at noon on Tuesday April 7. Our formal meeting agenda will start at 1pm and include:
 - A review of the program's long-run vision, mid-range objectives, and near-term milestones and upcoming activities. How do we fit within the larger portfolio of research on public health systems and services research?
 - An interactive session to identify strategies for attracting and especially retaining public health agencies and practitioners within research networks. How to keep everyone coming back for more?
 - An interactive session to identify barriers and creative solutions for developing viable research projects within public health agencies. How to balance the needs for practicality and rigor? For opportunity, observability and relevance?
 - A field report from the world of primary care PBRNs: representatives from the Kentucky Ambulatory Network will discuss their developmental history and operations, and describe plans for collaboration with the emerging public health PBRN in the Bluegrass State. What lessons can we learn from the world of practice-based primary care research?
 - Discussion of technical assistance needs within the PBRNs and mechanisms for fulfilling these needs. What do network leaders and participants think they need to know and do? What do they really need to know and do? How to deliver on these perceived and real needs?

- Discussion of initial research and evaluation priorities for the PBRN program as a whole, with a focus on activities and studies that grantees can undertake collaboratively across networks.
 - Time for individual networking and discussions with members of the PBRN national advisory committee and national coordinating center.
- ***At the Keeneland Conference:*** On Wednesday, April 8th, a panel of PBRN grantees will present on the organization, interests, current activities, and future plans of the inaugural class of public health PBRN sites. The panel members are listed below, and we hope that any other participants or stakeholders in these PBRNs will attend the session and be on hand to answer questions or provide thought-provoking comments at this session. The PowerPoint slides will be posted on the website after Keeneland, and any grantee can use them to talk about this multi-organizational initiative.

Panel on Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks:

Lee Thielen, BSFS, MPA	Colorado PBRN (CPBRN)
Angela Dearing, MD	Kentucky PBRN (K-PHBeN)
Justeen Hyde, PhD	Massachusetts PBRN (MPBRN)
Rosemary L. Summers, DrPH	North Carolina PBRN (NCPBRN)
Karen Hartfield, MPH	Washington PBRN (WPBRN)

Moderator: Glen Mays, PhD, MPH

PBRN Coordinating Center

New on the Website www.publichealthsystems.org/pbrn

- Join the PBRN Grantees region of the website by clicking on the link below:
<http://www.publichealthsystems.org/pbrn/1445/49969>

This ***PBRN password protected page*** is intended for use by PBRN Grantees and their research and practice partners. Grantees can access phone conference and webinar documents and agendas, schedules of upcoming meetings, weekly PBRN newsletters, and technical assistance information. A quick registration will allow access to this area.

Recent website updates also include the PBRN Grantees Activity Calendar and background documents.

- **UPDATE!** Technical Assistance requests forms and the consultant database are expected to be active in the next week.

New in the Journals

- National Advisory Committee member **Patrick Remington** is among the authors of an article published this week in *Preventing Chronic Disease*. PBRNs will be

interested in this description of the health department-university partnership model used to develop and implement evidence-based cancer control programs and policies in Wisconsin. The current issue is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/>.

Activities on the Horizon

- 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 will be sending 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/interestgroups>. Results will be presented at the *AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting* (see below). The PBRN Coordinating Center is represented on this methods council, so let us know if you have issues to raise or requests to make of this new body.
- AcademyHealth’s preliminary conference agenda is available at <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/agenda/index.htm>. The conference is June 28-30 in Chicago.
- Don’t forget about the *Special Interest Group Meeting on Public Health Systems Research* scheduled at the end of the AcademyHealth conference June 30 and July 1 in Chicago. There is currently a call for student scholarships to attend this meeting, and a call for nominations for the Article of the Year in public health systems research. All the information is at: <http://www.academyhealth.org/interestgroups/phsr/2009.htm>
- **Think about it!** Each PBRN report on last week’s conference call mentioned a type of communication/data gathering effort with and among public health practices. Submit an abstract for a poster presentation at The National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media. **The deadline is March 23**, and abstracts that address the skills and competencies needed by public health practitioners are sought. According to their website, the abstract submission process has been “enhanced” this year to accommodate three types of abstracts: (1) *research and evaluation*; (2) *theoretical*; and (3) *practice/program based*. *Panels that engage participants across different sectors are encouraged*. See details at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthmarketing/NCHCMM2009/>.

Key Upcoming Dates

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

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

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

May 20: Quarterly Webinar - 2:00-3:30 ET; 1:00 CT; 12:00 MT; 11:00 PT.

Funding Opportunities for Public Health Systems Research

- RWJF officially announced its new program focus area on public health law that will open new opportunities for research on the design, implementation, and impact of public health law and policy. Public Health Law Research will be managed by the **Beasley School of Law** at Temple University and will be led by Temple law professor Scott Burris, an internationally recognized expert on the influence of laws on public health. According to Burris, the research funded through the program will seek to answer fundamental questions such as how laws influence health and health behavior; which laws have the greatest impact, and whether current laws can be made more effective through better implementation or revision. The funding also will support efforts to improve scientific methods for studying the impact of laws on health. **The first Call for Proposals will be issued in early spring.**
- 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. Thus far, the email traffic is not unbearable. **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 has released a new 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.
LOI Date: March 23, 2009
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. Their announcement reads: “Through the State Giving Program, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better. The Foundation has

four areas of focus: Education, Health and Wellness, Environmental Sustainability and Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity. Deadline: April 17, 2009

More specific grant information is available at:

<http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8169.aspx?p=8168>

- A new National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) was recently announced. The partnership between CDC, NIH and RWJF is intended to synergize the efforts of the three organizations and have an impact on obesity more quickly by addressing the efficiency and effectiveness of obesity research. The website is www.nccor.org.
- 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 are anticipated. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome. Visit www.wtgrantfoundation.org/ for complete program guidelines. Letters of inquiry are due by May 12, 2009.
- A new program announcement from the National Institutes of Health looks particularly well suited for practice-based research in public health. *Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health (R21)*. This 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: March 27, 2009



(Pssst!!! - I was hanging out near an Arkansas newspaper on Monday and look who I saw! – Fly on the Wall)

4W • MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

**Glen Mays, 38,
Little Rock, 2:40.07**

For many runners, a marathon time of 2:40 would be a career highlight. For Glen Mays, it represented "survival."



Glen Mays

Mays, a UAMS associate professor and chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management, won the 2004 Little Rock Marathon with a time of 2:34.33.

"I'm probably not in as good a shape as I had been in prior years, so I was just looking to stay in there and survive," Mays said.

Mays was running with the Little Rock Roadrunners Club, and finished behind group leader Hillary Kogo. Kogo said he was "dying out there." His time was a very healthy 2:29.20.

— *Chris Givens*

Included with the consent of the
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
but not necessarily that of Glen Mays.