

National Network of Public Health Institutes News

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Dear Members and Partners,

We are proud to announce our 6th annual conference, *Partnering for Public Health Systems Improvement*, will be held on May 21st-23rd, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Themes that will be addressed in the conference include: Identifying and Using Population-Based Health Data; Addressing the Obesity Epidemic with Innovative Approaches; Incorporating Health Information Technology into Public Health Practice; Developing Health Information Exchange Infrastructure. Information about adjunct meetings that will take place in connection with the conference can be found in the NNPHI Updates section of the newsletter.

The NNPHI conference planning committee is seeking abstracts for multiple sessions at the conference. Visit the NNPHI website to learn more about the abstract submission process (<http://www.nnphi.org/home/section/4/conferences>). Abstracts are due to An Nguyen at anguyen@lphi.org by March 19th, 2007.

The deadline to register for the conference is April 23rd, 2007. Register now by visiting: www.regonline.com/2007nnphiconference

For more information about the meeting, contact An Nguyen at anguyen@lphi.org

As always, we look forward to your feedback and future submissions to this newsletter. Please send all feedback, comments and submissions to kadams@nnphi.org.

NNPHI Updates



Fostering Emerging Institutes Project Activity

On January 16-18, representatives from the **Florida Public Health Institute, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** and **NNPHI** attended a site visit at the Michigan Public Health Institute. Michigan provided a detailed description of their core organizational activities and provided samples of organizational documentation. Program directors from each of the programmatic areas at MPHI provided information on their current projects as well as lessons learned in the creation of their programs. MPHI did a wonderful job of sharing the collective wisdom that has developed over the years as well as many practical tips for emerging institutes. Future collaborations between public health institutes as well as additional resources were discussed. Many thanks to Jeff Taylor and the staff at MPHI for making the visit a success!

FEIP Sessions at the NNPHI Annual Conference Mark your calendars! The Fostering Emerging Institutes Project will be holding pre and post meetings at the annual conference this year, May 21st- 23rd in New Orleans, Louisiana. The pre conference workshop (May 21st) is open to all representatives of an Emerging Institute (EI). In this workshop, participants will hear about the strategic vision of NNPHI, learn about how EIs are a part of that vision and how NNPHI plans to help EIs grow within a framework of sustainability. A work session on strategic visioning with individual activities and feedback will be held. The post conference meeting (May 23rd) is limited to **Matching Grant Recipients** and will mark the launch of Phase II of the Fostering Emerging Institutes Project. Register early; space in the pre conference workshop on May 21st is limited. For more information on registration, please see the NNPHI website.

For more information regarding the Fostering Emerging Institutes Project, please contact Erin Bertschy at ebertschy@nnphi.org or 504-301-9823.

National Public Health Performance Standards Project

Since late 2005, CDC and the NPHPSP partners have been engaged in updating the three NPHPSP instruments to ensure that the standards reflect current public health practice. The update activities also included some streamlining and other changes to make the tools more user-friendly. To ensure a practice-driven process, the updates were guided by work groups comprised of state health agency leadership, local public health officials and local board of health members.

The new versions of the three instruments have undergone limited field testing and are now being finalized. The CDC hopes to release the final approved versions later in 2007, pending OMB approval for data collection. The final draft versions (not for data collection purposes) will be available on the NPHPSP website in March 2007. The CDC encourages states, local jurisdictions, and boards of health to begin using these updated instruments for planning purposes.

The 2007 NPHPSP Annual Training Workshop is scheduled for June 26th and June 27th, 2007 (final location to be determined). This practical training will orient users to the revised instruments.

Multi-State Learning Collaborative II (MLC-2)

The National Network of Public Health Institutes in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation hosted the Kick-Off Meeting for the *Multi-State Learning*

Collaborative for Quality Improvement in the Context of Assessment or Accreditation Programs (MLC-2) in Cincinnati, OH on February 7-9th, 2007. Participants included five representatives from each of the 10 MLC-2 states: Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington states. Additional participants included representatives from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH), and representatives of two additional Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded initiatives focusing on quality improvement.

The *MLC-2 Kick-Off Meeting* introduced participants to the goals and expectations of the collaborative and provided them the opportunity to learn more about the existing assessment/accreditation work and proposed activities of the ten participating states. Additionally, participants were able to identify quality improvement techniques to be explored by the collaborative throughout the year and also had the opportunity to develop and strengthen a peer network and identify methods for collaboration throughout the year.

Prior to the MLC-2 Kick Off meeting, RWJF hosted the *Advancing Quality Improvement in Public Health* meeting that provided an overview of quality improvement in various public sectors and quality improvement approaches in public health.

MLC-2 Open Forum

NNPHI and the Public Health Leadership Society will host a 1.5 day forum for participants and applicants to the MLC-2. The forum will include updates on quality improvement efforts being undertaken in participant states as well as applicant states. The agenda for the forum may also include training sessions on specific quality improvement techniques. While the primary participants of the forum are representatives from the MLC-2 participant and applicant states, additional space for other interested parties is available on a limited basis and requires a registration fee of \$150.



National News

RWJF Makes \$115 Million Commitment to Improve Health Care in Communities

[Foundation to Expand Regional Quality Strategy](#)

The new \$115 million commitment will build on RWJF's national program *Aligning Forces: The Regional Market Project*, and concentrate more intensive resources to improve the quality across the continuum of care in targeted regions across the country. RWJF will work in up to 20 communities to improve the quality of health care by focusing more on coordinating care around the needs of patients, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in care.



NNPHI Member Headlines

Florida Public Health Institute

Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH, has been appointed the first Executive Director of the Florida Public Health Institute, Inc., a center of excellence for public health. Dr. Fox will lead the organization through partnerships to promote prevention and improve public health systems that maximize health and quality of life for the people of Florida. The Institute will also foster the development of research and education programs that improves the health of the public.

With his accomplished resume, which includes a high profile career in academia at the University of Miami and the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute and his policy work at the US. Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Fox's future goals for the Florida Public Health Institute are to implement a strategy for working with the other universities in Florida to strengthen the public health system and for each university to create a Public Health Master's Course. Each university would submit the Master's Course for accreditation as a part of their MPH program although the course would be taught jointly. He also would like to see the Florida Public Health Institute begin a process with partners inside and outside Florida to define what future public health workforce needs might be.

Health Policy Institute of Ohio

On Feb. 8, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) released an updated edition of the highly successful publication Ohio Medicaid Basics. Titled Ohio Medicaid Basics 2007, this report provides an easy-to-understand overview of Ohio's Medicaid program, including eligibility, key benefit packages, and financing and expenditures. Originally published in 2003 by the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati (who helped found HPIO), this publication was updated by HPIO in 2005. In the last two years alone, HPIO has distributed over 10,000 print copies of Ohio Medicaid Basics to state legislators, policy makers, and others with an interest in Ohio's Medicaid program, while the PDF of the publication has been downloaded an additional 95,000 times from HPIO's website. Because of this success, Ohio Medicaid Basics has been copied by health institutes and organizations in several other states.

To download a copy of Ohio Medicaid Basics 2007, go to <http://www.healthpolicyohio.org/publications/medicaidbasics.html>

Kansas Health Institute

KHI recently upgraded their website. Please visit the new website at <http://www.khi.org/>

Louisiana Public Health Institute

Louisiana Ushered in a Smoke-Free New Year

As of January 1, Louisiana became a smoke-free state with the enactment of The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act (Act 815). To help restaurants, schools, general businesses and local law enforcement agencies better understand and comply with Act 815, The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) and The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Louisiana (CTFLA) hosted Community Roundtables at locations statewide on January 22. This was an opportunity for organizations and businesses affected by this legislation to understand how to fully comply with the new law. Attendees received free "No Smoking" signs and implementation toolkits. To help raise greater awareness across the state about the Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act, TFL launched new television PSAs featuring different locations affected by the law. For more information about Louisiana's tobacco cessation initiatives, please click [here](#).

School-Based Health Centers SBHCs

School Health Connection, a program intended to develop and rebuild school-based health centers housed within metro New Orleans public schools, has expanded by granting funding to Riverdale High School, a school in Jefferson Parish. Primary and preventive care services offered include comprehensive physicals, sports physicals, immunizations, behavioral health screenings, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of clinical symptoms and conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, sexually transmitted diseases, and more. The development of SBHCs in multiple parishes is made possible by an \$8.7 Million W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grant Award to the Louisiana Public Health Institute to develop and coordinate School Health Connection.

To read more about the Louisiana Public Health Institute, please click [here](#).

Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc

In partnership with the NYS Department of Health, MHRA is about to embark on a citywide effort to increase the availability of low-fat/nonfat milk in small groceries in low-income neighborhoods. As part of this project, Health Promoters will visit bodegas throughout Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan to ensure that stores that participate in the WIC program understand the health benefits of drinking low-fat/nonfat milk; that they consistently maintain low-fat/nonfat milk on their shelves; and that they redeem low-fat/nonfat milk WIC checks appropriately. MHRA runs the largest WIC program in the State with 16 service locations and 45,000 clients. MHRA also trains, licenses and inspects more than 2,000 supermarkets and small grocery stores in New York City as well as Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island.

In partnership with the New York City AIDS Fund (NYCAF) of the New York Community Trust, MHRA has been hired to provide technical assistance to 14 new HIV prevention grantees. These are small community-based organizations providing services to high risk populations. Through FITA, its technical assistance arm, MHRA will conduct capacity building activities with grantees in order to prepare them to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs. FITA will replicate a model which originated with work with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and its HIV prevention contractors. FITA will conduct an assessment of each organization, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses in ten areas that represent basic elements required for sound program development, implementation and evaluation. A combination of individual and group TA and training will help NYCAF grantees develop their capacities to evaluate the outcome of their prevention interventions. FITA will work closely with MHRA's Research and Evaluation division on evaluation design and the creation of common indicators so that these programs can be evaluated both on their own and as a group.

New Hampshire Community Health Institute

Public Health Improvement Action Plan (PHIAP) news *Improving the Public's Health in New Hampshire Summit* On September 26, 2006 the New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services (DPHS) and the PHIAP convened 120 public health stakeholders from around the state to review the result of the New Hampshire's assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards and being work on the six strategic priorities identify by PHIAP.

Following the Summit, the PHIAP Advisory Committee met for the first time on February 3, 2006 to launch a performance improvement plan based on the results of

the October 2005 New Hampshire assessment of the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) and is continuing to oversee the planning process. For more info about the PHIAP and other initiatives, please refer to their newsletter.

Please click [here](#) to read the latest addition of [Healthy New Hampshire](#).

North Carolina Institute for Public Health

For news from the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, please go to the NCIPH website and retrieve the quarterly newsletter, IMPACT, at http://www2.sph.unc.edu/nciph/news/impact/feb07_cover.htm

Philadelphia Health Management Corporation

- On April 18, 2007, the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation will hold its 35th anniversary celebration in Philadelphia. PHMC anticipates a lively evening honoring the people and organizations that have helped PHMC grow and thrive over the past 35 years. Additionally, PHMC will commemorate its 35th anniversary with a "Future of Public Health" discussion series in 2007. Discussions throughout the year will include topics such as what natural disasters mean for the future of Philadelphia, what changing demographics will mean for the region's health, how technology and neuroscience will change the way we treat addiction, how infectious diseases will shape our region's future, how today's ever-evolving family dynamics will affect the future of Philadelphia's children, and the impact of communications technology on our health.

For more information, email brianna@phmc.org.

- The National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC), an association of nurse managed health centers in the United States and an affiliate of PHMC, has been intricately involved in Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell's debate around proposed health care reform. In January 2007, Governor Rendell unleashed a plan to bring health insurance to the more than one million Pennsylvanians who are left vulnerable and without care. The governor's plan to strengthen the ability of nurse practitioners to provide primary care as a strategy to increase access to care would allow PHMC's growing network of nurse- managed health centers to provide more Southeastern Pennsylvanians with comprehensive primary health care, family planning, disease management, and social services. According to NNCC, more than 141,000 nurse practitioners around the country currently are helping to fill the growing gap in primary health and preventive care.

Maine Center for Public Health

In April 2007, the Maine Center for Public Health will hold a statewide conference on "Reaching Vulnerable Populations in Public Health Emergencies". Our collaborators are Harvard School of Public Health and the Maine Center for Disease Control. Keynote speaker will be Hilary Styron, who currently serves as Director for the National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

In November 2006, researchers Marco Andrade and Amy Black of MCPH participated on a panel, "Evaluating Comprehensive Public Health Programs: Challenges and Successes Experienced in Using Participatory Approaches" at the American Evaluation Association annual meeting. Brenda Joly, formerly of the MCPH, also presented on behalf of Michele Polacsek of the Center.

Public Health Institute (CA)

Several positions available at <http://www.phi.org/about-employment-open.cfm>

Georgia Health Policy Center

Several positions available at <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwghp/employment.htm>

Kansas Health Institute

The Kansas Health Institute is seeking a Research Analyst / SAS Programmer to join a statewide Medicaid and SCHIP research program. Under supervision, the Research Analyst selects, formulates or applies methodologies, measurements, and data to develop, organize, analyze, and present results to team members, project leaders and others. The results of the analytical effort should enhance the research activity by providing quantitative insight. The specific area of expertise sought for this position is familiarity and experience with Medicaid claims and encounter data. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Louisiana Public Health Institute

Several positions available at <http://www.lphi.org/home/>

Maine Center for Public Health

The Maine Center for Public Health is seeking President and Chief Executive Officer to lead dynamic, growth-oriented organization. The Augusta-based 501c(3) nonprofit exists "to improve the health of Maine by increasing knowledge, influencing policy, and advancing high quality public health practice". Must have strong leadership experience in public health, a collaborative style, and proven management and fundraising abilities. Doctoral degree preferred (masters degree minimum), and at least seven years progressive leadership experience in non-profit organization or public sector. More information at www.mcph.org. EOE.

Michigan Public Health Institute

Several positions available at <http://www.mphi.org/careers.aspx#openings>

Philadelphia Health Management Corporation

Several positions available at <http://www.phmc.org/appview/default.asp>

**Funding Opportunities****CDC Assessment Initiative Project: Call for Manuscripts Addressing Community Assessment Health Impact**

Since 1992, CDC has provided funds through the Assessment Initiative project to improve the ways data are used to guide public health decisions and policies. Previously funded states have shared their experiences in applied data analysis, presentation techniques, policy development, and community health assessment processes and outcomes through publication in peer-reviewed journals, and at the Assessment Initiative annual conferences. Of particular interest are the effects of

on health status, health outcomes, health behaviors, or health-system changes, including changes in policies, practices, or infrastructure.

Scientists and program managers who are involved in community health assessment, including those from state and local health departments, federal agencies, community organizations, and universities, are encouraged to submit two-page proposals for articles to be included in this focus issue. Proposals submitted by state health departments currently and previously funded by the Assessment Initiative project will be given priority for acceptance.

The two-page proposals should be submitted to Nelson Adekoya by email (nba7@cdc.gov). Upon acceptance of the proposals, authors will be invited to develop manuscripts. Manuscripts will then be submitted for peer review.

Proposal Deadline: March 31, 2007

For more information regarding the Assessment Initiative, please click [here](#)

CDC RFA-CD-07-005 - Improving Public Health Practice through Translation Research (R18), has been published on www.grants.gov, as of Monday February 12, 2007. NIH Guide posting is forthcoming.

CDC is committed to achieving true improvements in people's health and has defined specific Health Protection Goals to prioritize and focus its work and investments and to measure progress. The purpose of this RFA is the achievement of new scientific knowledge that can accelerate the translation of research findings into public health practice through implementation, dissemination, and diffusion research. The specific objective of the RFA is to conduct translation research using an evidence-based intervention or policy. Proposed research should identify: 1) impediments and/or facilitators to the successful translation of evidence-based public health intervention(s); 2) methodological tools for the successful translation of evidence-based programs, practices, or policies; that retain fidelity, and achieve positive outcomes for target populations; or 3) optimal strategies to enhance the widespread adoption and institutionalization of effective public health intervention programs.

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 12, 2007

Application Deadline: April 10, 2007

For more information, please view the grant opportunity [here](#).



Disclaimer

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email: kadams@nnphi.org

web: <http://www.nnphi.org/>

