

Center of Excellence In Public Health Workforce Research and Policy

University of Kentucky College of Public Health

Report of Activities

April 1, 2009—June 30, 2009

1. A successful initial meeting of the national Advisory Committee was held April 7th just prior to the Keeneland Conference. The meeting brought together researchers, federal agency representatives, and other stakeholders for substantive discussions about the history and current status of public health workforce research. The meeting also provided an opportunity for visioning about how the field might develop. COEWRP and PHF staff presented reports about Center activities.
2. During the meeting, a consensus document was drafted to forward to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. That agency was collecting responses to a Federal Register Notice calling for input regarding 2012 revisions to the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
3. Matthew L. Boulton, MD, MPH, a public health workforce researcher, attended the initial Advisory Committee meeting on April 7th as a specially invited guest. He has since accepted our invitation to join the Advisory Committee. Dr. Boulton is Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Associate Dean for Practice, and Director of the Preventive Medicine Residency in the School of Public Health and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases in the University Health System of the University of Michigan.
4. At the 2nd Annual Keeneland Conference held April 7-9, 2009, the Center sponsored a scientific session on public health workforce research. The Center's CDC project officer Dr. Carol Gotway Crawford served as moderator. Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, C. Earl Fox, MD, MPH, David Meltzer, MD, PhD, George Stamas, and Hugh Tilson, MD, DrPH, all members of the Center's Advisory Committee, presented and discussed topics ranging from trends in the U.S. nursing and physician workforces to the public health statistics collected and analyzed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Drs. Fox and Tilson shared historical perspectives on public health workforce development and research and several suggestions for expanding the field and its impact.
5. At the request of CDC, a scope of work for Year II was developed, and Dr. Crawford has requested funding to operate the Center for a second year.
6. Plans are being made to hold a second meeting of the Advisory Committee, perhaps in October in conjunction with the ASTHO Annual Meeting in Tysons Corner, VA.
7. Research Assistant Robin Pendley continues to seek access to workforce datasets that will be helpful to researchers. She is working with the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) to obtain access to recent survey data.
8. Development of expanded web presence for COEWRP continues. The second phase will contain broader descriptions of the mission and work of the Center and links to numerous pertinent web resources. We plan also to post documents such as Advisory Committee meeting minutes and quarterly reports.
9. The abstract submitted to the 2009 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) of Academy Health was accepted for poster presentation. The poster, "A New Resource for Public Health Workforce Researchers and Policymakers," (authors: FD Scutchfield, CD Lamberth, SC Webb, CAG Crawford,

RP Pendley) was developed and presented at the ARM on Sunday, June 28. The abstract submitted to the Public Health Research Interest Group (which meets immediately following the ARM) was not accepted.

10. Research Assistants Robin Pendley and Tourette Jackson also presented posters at ARM: “Public Health Workforce Data Resources” (authors: RP Pendley, TA Jackson) and “Developing a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Major Group for Public Health” (authors: TA Jackson, RP Pendley). The posters were displayed as well at the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group Meeting immediately following the Academy Health Meeting.
11. One of two abstracts submitted to APHA has been accepted for poster presentation. “New directions for public health workforce research” (authors: CD Lamberth, FD Scutchfield, SC Webb, CAG Crawford, RP Pendley, TA Jackson, RM Shapiro) will be presented at session 3174.0 on Monday, November 9, at 12:30 PM. Staff has already begun work on the poster.
12. Research Assistants Robin Pendley and Tourette Jackson had abstracts accepted for oral presentations at APHA: “Public Health Workforce Data Resources” (RP Pendley, TA Jackson) and Developing a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Major Group for Public Health (TA Jackson, RP Pendley).
13. Co-Director Cynthia Lamberth continues to work with PHF, specifically Ron Bialek, on ways to access and analyze the valuable information in the TRAIN database.
14. Co-Director Dr. F. Douglas Scutchfield has contacted new HRSA Administrator Dr. Mary Wakefield to discuss COEWRP and potential collaborative activities.
15. Project Manager Susan Webb participated in the quarterly teleconference meeting of the Council on Linkages to learn more about the Workforce Pipeline Project and Council interest in Academic Health Departments. The Workforce Pipeline Project is getting ready to pilot-test a survey of government public health employees registered in TRAIN. The information gathered may be useful to workforce researchers for future projects.