

Wisconsin Public Health Practice-Based Research Network

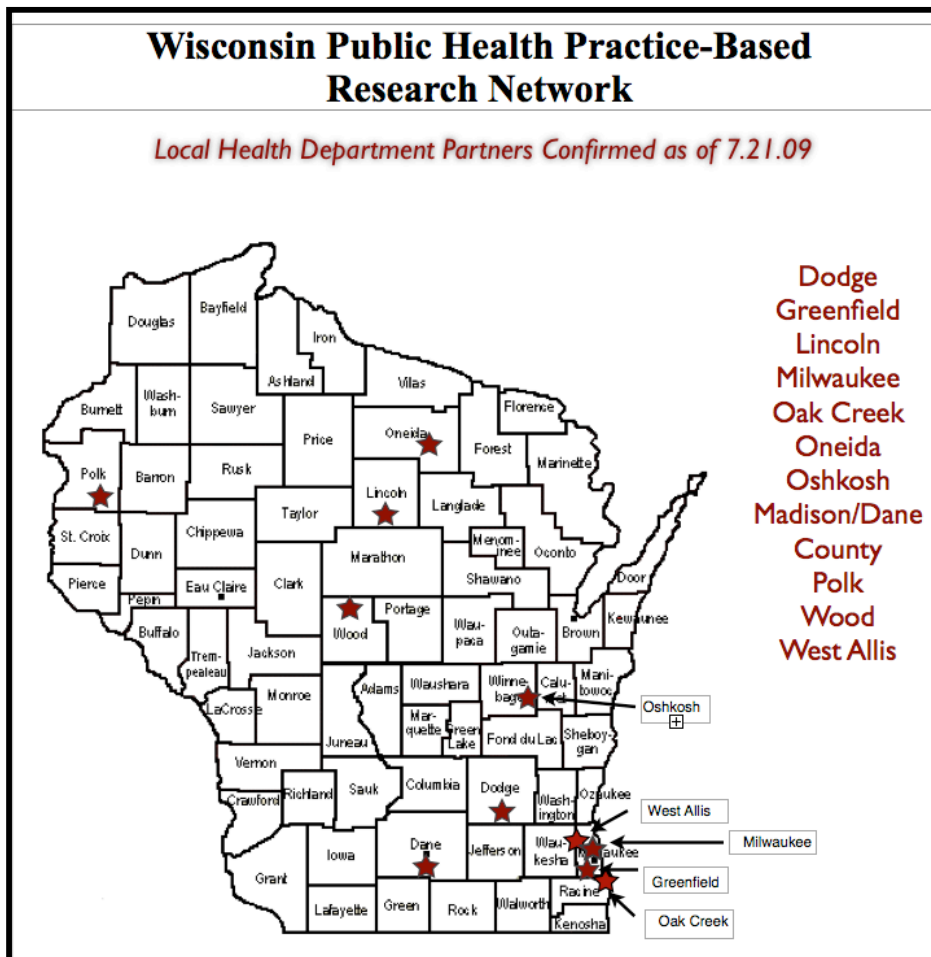
What

This \$90,000 two-year award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will help Wisconsin develop a practice-based research network initially focused on public health systems and services. "Practice-based" means that it will involve governmental health departments as they carry out their work. "Systems and services" research addresses the issues that underpin programming – things like how health departments are organized, staffed and funded.

The program is national and Wisconsin is one of six new states receiving awards in 2009. These six states are joining the five PH PBRNs already in existence to form a learning/research community around systems and services.

Who

The lead agency is the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) with Pat Guhleman, MS, serving as Co-Project Director along with Susan Zahner, Dr. PH, RN, of the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing and School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Population Health. The Institute for Wisconsin's Health (IWHI) will manage the project activities, with Mary Jo Knobloch, MPH, serving as the Project Manager.



Twelve local health departments have volunteered as project partners (see illustration) and many organizations provided letters of support for the application. In addition to participating LHDs, WDHS and IWHI, network partners will initially include, but not be limited to the Wisconsin

Association of Local Health Departments and Boards and the Wisconsin Public Health Association. Additional academic partners will initially include but not be limited to the Center for Urban Population Health in Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical & Translational Research-Community Academic Partnership, and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Glen Mays, PhD MPH, of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health coordinates the national program.

When

The project begins on December 1, 2009 and ends on November 30, 2011. The first Wisconsin partner meeting will occur in January 2010 and the pilot research project focused on public health financing, will begin later in 2010. Network development activities will be ongoing and will grow out of the expressed needs and interests of local partners.

How

The **primary aims** of this network are to:

1. Encourage and support high quality public health systems and services research (PHSSR) that is driven by the needs and interests of Wisconsin's local health departments (LHDs), and,
2. Contribute to the advancement of PHSSR in Wisconsin and beyond.

The **project objectives** for the two-year funding period are:

1. To establish a sustainable system in which more and better practice-based research on public health systems and services can be accomplished.
2. To increase PHSSR capacity in Wisconsin's governmental public health agencies.
3. To encourage and facilitate linkages between researchers in public and private academic settings and public health practice partners in Wisconsin in order to design, conduct, and disseminate practice-based public health systems and services research.
4. To add to the evidence base for effective public health systems and services in Wisconsin and beyond.