



UNIVERSITY  
OF KENTUCKY

College of Public Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH** SERVICES & SYSTEMS RESEARCH  
PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORKS

National Coordinating Center  
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May 6, 2015

Dennis Scanlon, Ph.D.  
Professor of Health Policy and Administration/  
Director of the Center for Health Care and Policy Research  
504Q Donald H. Ford Building  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park PA 16802

Dear Dennis:

RE: "Management of the Culture of Health Sentinel Community Data Collection"

The National Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research based at the University of Kentucky is eager to collaborate with the Center for Health Care and Policy Research at Penn State and others on a proposal developed in response to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Request for Proposals, "Management of the Culture of Health Sentinel Community Data Collection." We are excited to contribute our expertise in measuring the organization, financing, and delivery of public health programs and policies to this important initiative, as well as our research infrastructure that supports collaborative data collection and analysis with public health agencies across the U.S.

Our research team will contribute our extensive experience in developing, validating, collecting and analyzed standardized measures of public health system performance across diverse U.S. states and communities. Our data sources include the National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems, which measures the implementation of multi-organizational public health strategies across a nationally-representative cohort of U.S. communities. We also will contribute our data and expertise relevant to a wide range of secondary data sources on public health infrastructure and capabilities, including periodic surveys of state and local health officials, state public health surveillance systems, and program administrative data. Moreover, we will be able to connect the Sentinel Community initiative to the more than 2000 public health agencies across the U.S. who are engaged in our national Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) for the purposes of qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, community reporting and stakeholder feedback.

We look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,

Glen P. Mays, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
F. Douglas Scutchfield Endowed Professor in Health Services and Systems Research  
Director, National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research  
Associate Director, UK Center for Health Services Research  
University of Kentucky