

Public Health Systems and Services Research – The ‘New Kid on the Block’

CAHSPR Conference

Montréal,

29 May 2012

Panel members

- **Dr Trevor Hancock, Professor and Senior Scholar, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic (Co-Director, CPHFRI)**
- **Professor Marjorie McDonald, School of Nursing, UVic, and CIHR Chair in Applied Public Health Research (Co-Director, CPHFRI)**
- **Professor Anita Kothari, School of Health Studies, UWO**
- **Professor Gilles Paradis, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University; CIHR Chair in Applied Public Health Research;**
- **Dr Erica Diruggiero, Associate Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health**

Agenda

15.00: The concept of PHSSR and its development in the USA and elsewhere; - TH

15.10: The development and implementation of PHSSR in Canada since 2006

- BC - MM
- Ontario – AK
- Québec – GP

15.45: Towards the development of a Canadian PHSSR agenda - TH

15.55: The place of PHSSR within health services research and the CIHR – ED

16.05: Questions, discussion

PHSR is an emerging subset of health services research, described in 2007 as “the new kid on the block”

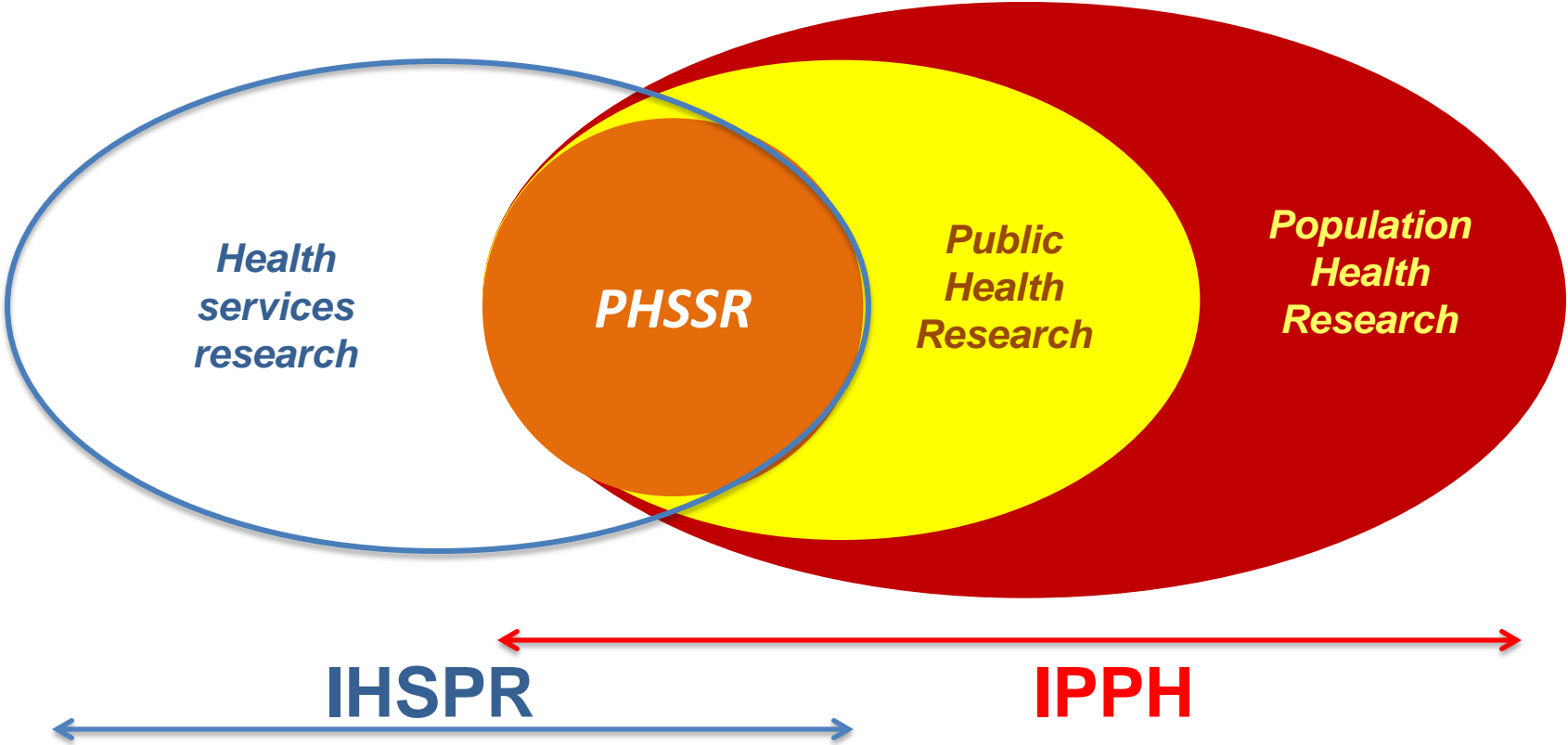
**Scutchfield, F. & Patrick, K. (2007)
“Public health systems research: The new kid on the block” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 32 (2), 173-174.**

What is PHSSR?

Public health systems and services research (PHSSR) is defined as “*a field of study that examines the organisation, funding and delivery of public health services within communities, and the impact of these services on public health*”

Mays, Halverson & Scutchfield, 2003, p, 180

Where PHSSR sits



Funding for health services research is directed primarily at the health care system in general, and not at public health services per se. This creates a “public health system knowledge disparity”

Honoré, P.A. & Amy, B.W. (2005).
“Public Health Finance: Advancing a Field of Study Through Public Health Systems Research”
Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, 11(6), 571 -573

The international picture - USA

- **PHSSR has been developing in the early years of the 21st century**
- **Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research at U Kentucky began in 2005**
- **Supported by RWJ Foundation and CDC**
- **Conferences**
 - Keeneland Conference, since 2008
 - PHSSR IG at Academy Health
- **Two journal supplements**
 - Health Services Research 44 (5p2), October 2009
 - Am J Prev Med 42(5S1), May 2012

- **The Public Health Workforce**
- **Public Health System Structure and Performance**
- **Public Health Financing and Economics**
- **Public Health Information and Technology**

National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services & Systems Research

http://www.publichealthsystems.org/cphssr/Research/PHSSR_Research_Agenda

See also special supplement to Am J Prev Med 42(5S1), May 2012: S1 – S87

http://www.ajpmonline.org/issues?issue_key=S0749-3797%2812%29X0002-3

The international picture - other

UK

- In the United Kingdom, PHSSR has not emerged as a separate concept but is found within the broad field of public health research.

Israel

- Some work starting there

Australia and NZ

- Ditto

Literature Review – For Canada Agenda Workshop)

Purpose

- 1. Identify work being done to define PHSSR, scope, potential, benefits**
- 2. Nature of PHSSR being done in Canada**
- 3. Identify PHSSR priorities in the 5 countries under review (Can, US, UK, NZ, Aus)**

Literature Review

- **Comprehensive search strategy resulted in over 1000 articles being identified, approximately 800 were coded and abstracted.**
- **Only 38 articles specifically used the term PHSR or PHSSR and only 14 articles made reference to or discussed establishing a research agenda for PHSSR.**
- **Only in the US has there been explicit, collaborative efforts to define the field.**

PHSR Priority Research Areas

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Can</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>NZ</u>	<u>Aus</u>
Partnerships	26	169	19	3	8
PH Infrastructure	24	122	10	5	9
EB Practice	21	82	21	3	13
Policy/Legislation	21	121	24	5	14
Health Disparities	19	95	20	7	15
Ph Workforce	15	147	15	4	8
PH Performance	12	155	10	7	4
Core Functions	9	124	9	2	8

Lit review findings/1

- **PHSR literature focuses more on describing and defining what PH people do, rather than on what it is they should be doing**
- **The need to identify the key infrastructure elements and capacity needed to reduce health inequities is more prominent in the Canadian, UK, AUS and NZ literature than in US**

- **Need for systems thinking and consideration of complexity science in PHSSR**
- **Need to challenge our methodological assumptions and paradigms, and develop new approaches and methodologies more consistent with systems thinking**
- **Most PHSSR agenda priorities have been identified by committees or task forces with an academic orientation – need for more practitioner/decision maker input**

The development of a Canadian PHSSR agenda

Advancing Public Health Systems and Services Research in Canada: Developing a Pan-Canadian Agenda

Proceedings from:
Canadian Public Health Systems
and Services Research Think Tank

Montréal, Québec
May 26 & 27, 2011

42 participants

- $\frac{1}{2}$ academics, $\frac{1}{4}$ practitioners, $\frac{1}{4}$ policy makers
 - 3 CIHR/PHAC Applied Public Health Chairs
 - 2 CIHR Scientific Directors
 - 4 NCC Directors
 - 3 PHAC, 4 other national level
 - 3 international
- Provincial/local level
 - BC – 11; QC – 7; ON 6; SK – 2; NS – 2; AB – 1; MB – 1; NF - 1

The five main areas of PHSSR focus in published literature in Canada are:

- **Partnerships and Linkages**
- **Public health infrastructure**
- **Evidence-based practice**
- **Policy and legislation development**
- **Health disparities**

Survey

- **A non-random survey of public health researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and others (largely from Ontario, BC, Manitoba, Quebec and Alberta)**
 - 250 respondents
- **Asked to identify their top three priority PHSSR issues from a list generated through the literature review**

Top five priorities are

- **Evidence-based practice**
- **Public health performance**
- **Public health infrastructure**
- **Health disparities**
- **Core public health functions**

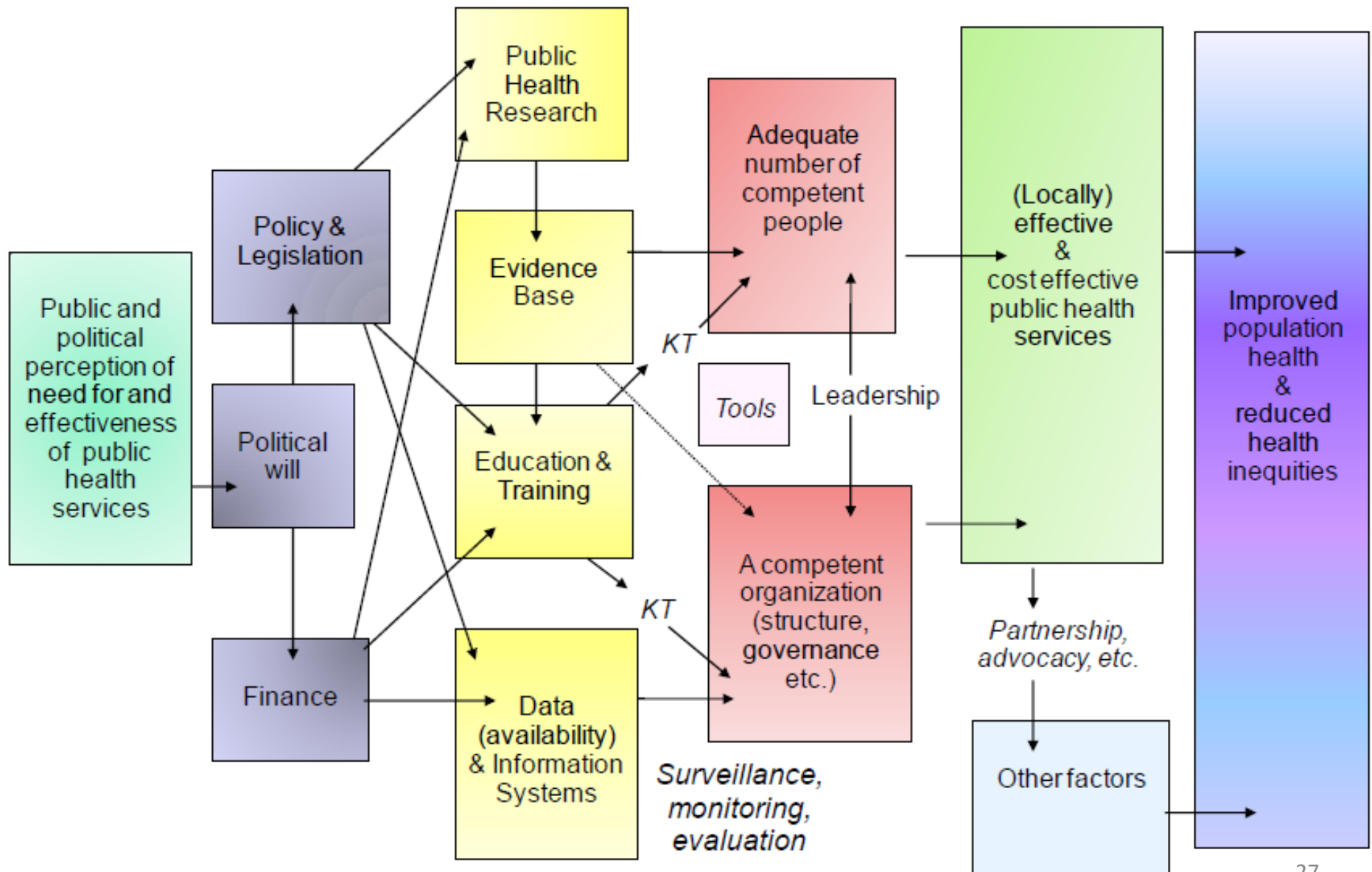
Canadian PHSSR priorities

Congruence between the literature review and survey with respect to three of the top five priorities

- **evidence-based practice**
- **public health infrastructure**
- **health disparities**

DRAFT Public Health System Performance Logic Model

A well performing (effective) public health system delivers efficacious public health services efficiently as its contribution to improving population health while reducing health inequities.



DRAFT Framework for a Public Health Systems & Services Research Agenda

Purpose: To develop and transfer knowledge about the factors that lead to the provision of effective (local) public health services.

Does this issue influence effectiveness of the PH System and if so, how?

RESEARCH APPROACHES

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from logic model

- Public & political perception
- Political will
- Policy & Legislation
- Finance/funding
- Public health research
- Evidence base
- KT
- Education & Training Tools
- Competence of Staff
- HHR
- Data & Information Systems
- Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation
- Leadership
- Governance
- Organizational Structure
- Partnerships
- Program/Service effectiveness/efficiency
- Outcomes

Equity and Ethics Lenses

Complexity/Systems Thinking

Co-production & KT

Interdisciplinary

Qualitative & Quantitative

Other



PHSSR Capacity

Training, recognition (for non traditional academic achievement), adequate data at the local level, funding, service providers have capacity for co-production of knowledge, etc.

Major themes to address

- 1. Principles and values**
- 2. Research issues**
- 3. Research approaches**
- 4. Research capacity**
- 5. Network development**

Next steps

- **Further develop the PHSSR network in Canada**
- **Refine the logic model and research framework in consultation with the network**
- **Identify key research issues in consultation with the field (e.g., CCMOHs)**
- **Develop a five year PHSSR strategic plan**
- **Identify funding opportunities and develop research teams and proposals**

Next steps - 2

- **Explore infrastructure funding options to hire support staff and develop and maintain a website, etc.**
- **Publish work to date and ongoing progress**
- **Collaborate further with Academy Health's Public Health Systems Research Interest Group**
- **Explore the development of an international network with international partners**

Discussion questions

- **What are the unique or innovative aspects of PHSSR research that are of interest to the community of HSPR scholars?**
- **How do we engage more with other health service and policy researchers and in particular better link public health and primary care health services and policy research?**
- **What can we learn/borrow from health services research (approaches, methods, theories), and where do we have to innovate?**
- **How do we best enable comparative PHSS research to learn from “natural experiments” in different jurisdictions across Canada?
How can we realize synergies between investments in public health service and systems and research to maximize opportunities for learning?
How do we best measure the impact of our PHSS research investments, in particular their influence on policy and program decision-making?**

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