

## **NCCOR Member Meeting**

**February 28, 2024**

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## AGENDA

### National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) Member Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
1:00–3:00 p.m. ET

<https://zoom.us/j/95105568178>

Meeting ID: 951 0556 8178

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**Purpose:** To discuss future strategic directions and priority areas for NCCOR

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>1:00–1:05</b>  | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> – Karen Hilyard, PhD, <i>NCCOR Coordinating Center</i>   |
| <b>1:05–1:20</b>  | <b>NCCOR’s Strategic Direction: Where we are and where we plan to go</b> – David Berrigan, PhD, MPH, <i>National Cancer Institute</i>   |
| <b>1:20–1:35</b>  | <b>NCCOR Member Survey Results</b> – <i>Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition</i>   |
| <b>1:35–1:45</b>  | <b>Q&amp;A</b>  |
| <b>1:45– 2:30</b> | <b>Breakout Discussions: Envisioning NCCOR’s Future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>How do you think NCCOR can use implementation science to make childhood obesity interventions more effective and scalable?</i></li><li>• <i>Given the evolving landscape of the field, what are some of the reasons NCCOR should consider expanding its mission to explicitly include aspects of obesity treatment?</i></li><li>• <i>How might NCCOR expand its focus to address the lifespan?</i></li></ul> |
| <b>2:30–2:35</b>  | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>2:35–2:55</b>  | <b>Report Out &amp; Synthesis</b>   |
| <b>2:55–3:00</b>  | <b>Wrap-Up</b> – Karen Hilyard, PhD, <i>NCCOR Coordinating Center</i>   |

## Highlights of NCCOR Accomplishments & Activities

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) is advancing the field through complementary and joint initiatives by its partners: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are **select accomplishments** and activities from September 2023 through February 2024.

### **Updated the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS) to include 36 new sleep variables.**

Launched over a decade ago, NCCOR's [Catalogue of Surveillance Systems \(CSS\)](#) has become an indispensable resource for childhood obesity research, providing centralized access to over 100 relevant data sets. In 2023, NCCOR accelerated progress in childhood obesity research by incorporating new sleep variables into 36 datasets in the database.

Like diet and physical activity, research suggests that sleep is an important determinant of childhood obesity. Adequate sleep is crucial for regulating appetite hormones, controlling food cravings, and supporting overall metabolic health. While the relationship between sleep and obesity is known, few resources exist where researchers can access comprehensive data with intersecting variables on sleep, diet, and physical activity.

By integrating new sleep variables into the CSS, NCCOR is filling this critical gap and enabling researchers, health care providers, and public health practitioners to explore the intricate relationship between sleep and childhood obesity easily and efficiently. This expansion facilitates better understanding and streamlines research efforts, ultimately promoting more effective interventions and public health strategies to combat childhood obesity.

### **Published marketing materials to promote the addition of sleep variables to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems.**

NCCOR's new campaign to advance sleep-related research includes new marketing materials to promote recent updates to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS). The [new factsheet](#) details the addition of sleep variables and their relevance in childhood obesity research. [A social media post and graphic](#) have also been made publicly available for use on sites such as X and LinkedIn. These resources can be used by NCCOR members and partners to help spread the word about the CSS updates.

### **Conducted two NCCOR informational presentations to NIH's Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board (SDRAB) and the U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) Climate Change, Food Systems, and Nutrition Security Workgroup.**

In December, NCCOR member Marissa Shams-White, PhD, MSTOM, MS, MPH (National Cancer Institute) presented to NIH's SDRAB to share the recent addition of sleep variables to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems and accompanying promotional materials. Also in December, NCCOR member David Berrigan, PhD, MPH (National Cancer Institute) presented to the U.S. Global Change Research Program to give an overview of NCCOR, emphasizing the Measures Registry and Catalogue of Surveillance Systems.

**Published a commentary with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition in *Childhood Obesity*.**

NCCOR concluded the year by publishing a commentary with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition in *Childhood Obesity* titled [The Influence of Social Determinants of Health and Structural Racism on Childhood Obesity](#), exploring gaps and opportunities in measuring the relationship between social determinants of health (SDoH), structural racism, and childhood obesity. Through a landscape analysis and expert interviews, several measures for SDoH and structural racism (n=47) were found; however, their application to childhood obesity was limited, highlighting the need for more comprehensive measures and frameworks to inform public health efforts. The editorial is based on an [earlier NCCOR report](#) that identified measurement tools and resources to assess individual and environmental level influences on childhood obesity.

**Conducted NCCOR's 2023 Member Survey and data collection.**

In partnership with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, NCCOR fielded its member survey in the fall of 2023, yielding 33 total respondents. The survey included questions regarding future directions for NCCOR, with specific topics including implementation science, treatment, life-stage interventions, and more.

**Hosted an exhibit booth at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo.**

NCCOR hosted an exhibit booth during APHA in Atlanta, where the theme was "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges." Many of our booth visitors were students interested in pursuing research in the field or researchers looking for additional tools to support their work. All NCCOR promotional materials including swag, annual reports, and factsheets were distributed. Following APHA, the [NCCOR newsletter](#) received over 100 new subscribers!

## NCCOR 2024: **UPCOMING EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS**

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<p><b>MARCH 13</b> NCCOR <b>Connect &amp; Explore</b> webinar: Sleep and Childhood Obesity Research</p> <hr/> <p><b>MARCH 20</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p> <p>National Sleep Awareness Month</p> <p>National Nutrition Month</p>	<p><b>APRIL 17</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>	<p><b>MAY 20-23</b> NCCOR at The International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA)</p> <p>National Physical Fitness and Sports Month</p>	<p><b>JUNE 4-5</b> Population, Policy, and Community Approaches to Childhood Obesity Prevention (PocPAC) Workshop</p> <hr/> <p><b>JUNE 12</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>	<p><b>JULY 17</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>TBD</b> NCCOR <b>Member Meeting*</b></p>	<p><b>AUGUST 21</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>
<p><b>YEAR-LONG PUBLICATIONS:</b></p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCCOR Monthly e-Newsletter</li> <li>NCCOR Student e-Newsletter</li> </ul>					

## Overview of Active NCCOR Workgroups and Projects

NCCOR members continually assess the needs of the field, develop joint projects to address gaps and make strategic advancements, and work together to generate new ideas to reduce childhood obesity. The projects below describe ongoing efforts to support NCCOR's mission of working across disciplines and organizations.

### Adding a Sleep Variable to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems

*Leads: Jill Reedy, NIH, [reedyj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:reedyj@mail.nih.gov); Marissa Shams-White, NIH, [marissa.shams-white@nih.gov](mailto:marissa.shams-white@nih.gov)*

This workgroup was developed to address the gap in access to datasets with sleep-related variables, which could help researchers identify quality sleep measures for surveillance and epidemiological research. The group has since updated NCCOR's Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS) to add "Sleep" as a key search term and has added 36 new sleep-related datasets to the database. The group is now working on promoting these updates to the CSS to key stakeholders via NCCOR's communication channels, an updated [factsheet](#), new publicly available [social media graphics](#), and a featured NCCOR Connect & Explore webinar in March.

### Economic Impact of Built Environment Improvements for Physical Activity

*Leads: Heather Devlin, CDC, [jjj3@cdc.gov](mailto:jjj3@cdc.gov); Hatidza Zaganjor, CDC, [xgg0@cdc.gov](mailto:xgg0@cdc.gov)*

This project aims to identify common economic indicators and methods that public health practitioners can use to make a business case for built environment and land use improvements to increase physical activity. The workgroup published a [manuscript](#) on the topic in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* in 2021. The workgroup has also completed an update to the Economic Indicators Library and plans to meet with the Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (PAPREN) to solicit their feedback on the proposed changes to the resource.

### Identification and Categorization of Evidence Gaps in Physical Activity Research

*Leads: Melissa Green Parker, NIH, [melissa.greenparker@nih.gov](mailto:melissa.greenparker@nih.gov); Bramaramba Kowtha, NIH, [bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov](mailto:bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov); David Brown, CDC*

This group is working to identify physical activity research, practice, and policy opportunities and develop a tool to determine future opportunities in PA with greater efficiency. The group reviewed 11 documents published by government or national non-profit organizations related to physical activity promotion to extract PA-related opportunities. From this process, the group developed the Physical Activity Policy, Practice, and Research Opportunities (PA-PPRO) framework, which collates the identified evidence gaps in PA (n=96). The workgroup is working with Laura Balis at the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition to develop the framework and subsequent manuscript for publishing.

### Implementation Science

*Leads: Janet Fulton, CDC, [jkf2@cdc.gov](mailto:jkf2@cdc.gov); Susan Vorkoper, NIH, [vorkopersc@mail.nih.gov](mailto:vorkopersc@mail.nih.gov)*

This workgroup has engaged Dr. Taren Swindle from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to develop an implementation science training tool tailored to the needs of childhood obesity, nutrition, and healthy weight programs. Currently conceived as a "roadmap," the proposed product will draw from case studies and published literature to illustrate how to apply implementation science during various project stages. Meeting monthly with Dr. Swindle, the workgroup has identified organizational decision-makers as the audience for the digital tool. They are currently drafting content for the tool and reviewing initial design concepts.

### Policy Lessons Learned for Healthy Childhood Development

*Leads: Jill Reedy, NIH, [reedyj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:reedyj@mail.nih.gov)*

This workgroup will host a two-part workshop to 1) build multi-sector collaboration for addressing risk factors for childhood obesity, 2) leverage insights from successful interventions to advance progress in childhood obesity prevention, and 3) identify measurement and methodology needs to inform future federal efforts. The first workshop will be a two-day virtual event in late spring of 2024. The second workshop will occur later in the year and is currently planned as an in-person event. A sub-committee is meeting weekly to plan the first workshop. This group is developing the agenda; identifying key themes and important projects to highlight; and selecting speakers, moderators, and co-chairs.

### State of the Science on Measures of Individual Diet, Food Environment, Individual Physical Activity, and Physical Activity Environment

*Leads: David Berrigan, NIH, [berrigad@mail.nih.gov](mailto:berrigad@mail.nih.gov); Jeff Whitfield, CDC, [xdh5@cdc.gov](mailto:xdh5@cdc.gov)*

This group is working to summarize the measures landscape as represented in the Measures Registry and demonstrate how the Registry illuminates strengths and gaps in the development of valid measures of diet, physical activity, and their environmental influences. The workgroup is currently focusing on the individual physical activity domain and is working to highlight aspects of the Measures Registry that are most appropriate for today's use. The workgroup is working with Dr. Karin Pfeiffer, Dr. Kimberly Clevenger, and their graduate student on this effort and drafting a corresponding manuscript for publication.

## OPERATIONAL WORKGROUP PROJECT

### Communications

*Lead: Melissa Van Orman, NCCOR, [MVanOrman@fhi360.org](mailto:MVanOrman@fhi360.org)*

This operational workgroup facilitates cross-collaboration for promotional efforts among the NCCOR member agencies. The group shares information about the latest resources, launches, and other news being amplified on social media and other communication channels.

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