

NCCOR Member Meeting

September 16, 2026

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AGENDA

NCCOR Member Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m.

<https://fhi360-org.zoom.us/j/99855208292?pwd=XDDHwIQbi1STWPMvIqy2Cj6kDJ0Z86.1>

Meeting ID: 998 5520 8292

Location: 2101 L Street, Washington, DC 20037 and virtual (Zoom)

Purpose: To explore the evidence-to-action pipeline with CORD 3.0.

9:00 In-person registration and networking

9:30–9:45 Welcome & Highlights of NCCOR’s Recent Accomplishments – Karen Hilyard, PhD,
NCCOR Coordinating Center

9:45–11:00 Research Panel: CORD 3.0 from Evidence-to-Action

- Moderators: Carrie Dooyema, MPH, MSN, RN, & Renee Porter, RN, MS, DNP, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Lauren Fiechtner, MD, MPH, *Massachusetts General Hospital*
- Denise Wilfley, PhD, *Washington University in St. Louis*
- Kate Heelan, PhD, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*

11:00–12:00 Recipient Panel: How do the CORD 3.0 packages stand up in the field?

- Moderator: Thea Runyan, DrPH, MPH, NBHWC, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Barbara Mintz, MS, RD, & Kerri Likakis, MS, RD, *RWJ Barnabas Health*
- Twarnisha Stokes, MHSA, *Prince George’s County Health Department*
- Anne Lee, MEd, RD, CDCES, & Jay Shubrook, DO, *Touro University California*

12:00–12:30 Discussion: How do we overcome the “last mile” challenge?

12:30–1:30 Lunch

1:30–2:10

Workgroup Updates

- Research Gaps in Treatment of Pediatric Obesity with Obesity Medications – Renee Porter, RN, MS, DNP, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Revisiting Rapid Infant Growth: Assessing Growth in Children Under Age 2 – Samantha Pierce, MPH, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network – Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *National Institutes of Health*
- What Works to Ensure High-Quality Sports Opportunities for All Young People – Stephanie George, PhD, MPH, MA, *National Institutes of Health*

2:10–2:35

Workgroup Discussion: After hearing about these projects, what new ideas for workgroups do you have?

2:35–2:45

Wrap-up and Closing – Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*

Please complete the **member survey** to help inform the future direction of NCCOR. The survey should take you no more than 10-minutes to complete:

https://unmcnutrition.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GKlyxTH7M9KvMG

NCCOR Member Meeting Speaker Bios

September 16, 2026



Lauren Fiechtner, MD, MPH, is an associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. She is a board-certified pediatrician, pediatric gastroenterologist and nutrition physician, clinical epidemiologist, and obesity and food insecurity researcher. She is the division chief of gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition at Mass General Brigham for Children. She also serves as the senior health and research advisor at the Greater Boston Food Bank, leading their statewide survey on food access and their food is medicine research. Dr. Fiechtner has helped lead several randomized controlled trials to treat childhood obesity in clinic and community settings and, through that work, developed one of only eight family healthy weight programs recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics. She has also evaluated MGH Revere Food Pantry, a 100% plant-based pantry. In addition, her work with the Greater Boston Food Bank has informed programmatic and policy work to improve food and nutrition security in the Commonwealth.



Denise Wilfley, PhD, FTOS, is the Scott Rudolph University Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Public Health, and director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Wellness at Washington University in St. Louis. She is an internationally recognized expert on the causes, prevention, and treatment of obesity and eating disorders, with an integrative research approach that has led to transformative advances in both fields. Her work has led to the development of effective, evidence-based interventions that improve eating and activity behaviors, psychosocial functioning, and weight outcomes in children and families. She has made pivotal contributions to the recognition and treatment of binge eating disorder, including the development of interpersonal psychotherapy and innovative, cost-effective approaches for early intervention and prevention, including a comprehensive digital platform for individuals across the eating disorders risk and diagnostic spectrum.



Kate Heelan, PhD, is currently a research professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She has over 25 years of experience working with rural communities to implement evidence-based obesity prevention and treatment program strategies in schools, communities, and families. In 2019, along with Dr. Jennie Hill, she received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to package an evidence-based, family healthy weight program and expanded this program to rural communities in Nebraska. Most recently, they have been funded by NIH/NIDDK to expand this program through the United States through online train-the-trainer modalities. Overall, her research and service focus on meaningful, applicable approaches to prevent and treat obesity while working with communities and schools to provide ownership for sustainable programming.



Barbara Mintz, MS, RD, is senior vice president of Social Impact and Community Investment for the RWJBarnabas Health system. She currently oversees upstream priority initiatives addressing key social determinants of health in the communities surrounding the RWJBH facilities with a specific focus on food and nutrition security and health education. She has developed, implemented, and directed innovative community wellness programs that have been recognized both at the state and national level, including the prestigious American Hospital Association's NOVA Award in 2012. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from Seton Hall University, a post-baccalaureate degree in nutrition and dietetics from Montclair State University, and a master's in nutrition from Saint Elizabeth's University. She is a registered dietitian and certified personal trainer.



Kerri Likakis, MS, RD, is the director of Nutrition and Wellness Education at RWJBarnabas Health. She is a registered dietitian and has a master's in nutrition science from Rutgers University. She has experience providing nutrition counseling for both children and adults and currently oversees a team of RDs in the community, pediatric, and adult health space. She has developed several nutrition curriculums for prenatal, new moms, children, and families. In 2010, she transformed KidsFit, the clinical pediatric obesity treatment program, into a school-based prevention model, which has expanded to over 120 schools across NJ. Kerri currently manages the pediatric weight management program KidsFit/TeenFit at two RWJBarnabas Health locations.



Twarnisha Stokes, MHA, serves as Public Health Program Chief for the Chronic Disease Program within the Health and Wellness Division of the Prince George's County Health Department. She holds a master's degree in health care administration from Georgetown University. Her expertise lies in managing public health programs that address critical issues such as chronic disease prevention, chronic disease management, and access to health care services. Twarnisha is a dedicated public health professional with over twenty years of experience in financial oversight of multimillion-dollar grants and six years of program management experience. Her commitment to public health drives her passion for improving community health outcomes through evidence-based interventions.



Anne Lee, MD, RD, CDCES, is a registered dietitian and a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. She currently serves as the diabetes program manager at Touro University California in Vallejo. Anne has served in a variety of public health programs—including the Elderly Nutrition Program in Massachusetts and as a Solano County Public Health Nutritionist in Family Health Services and the Nutrition Services Bureau. She is now enjoying her work at Touro University, traveling with the Mobile Diabetes Education Center to provide health screenings and education in various Solano County neighborhoods.



Jay Shubbrook, DO, is a board-certified family physician and a fellowship-trained diabetologist. He is a professor at Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine and serves as director of the Diabetes Institute. His research focuses on the prevention and early intervention for type 1 and type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. His clinical and professional focus is on enhancing training of the primary care workforce to prepare them to help people manage diabetes effectively. He has published hundreds of articles on diabetes and its related conditions. He is the deputy editor of the ADA journal, *Diabetes, Obesity, and Cardiometabolic Care*. He was the founding chair of the Executive Board of the American College of Diabetology. This new organization trains and recognizes primary care physicians who provide excellence in diabetes care. His first book, *Everyday Diabetes: Case Studies in Primary Care*, is available online.

Highlights of NCCOR Accomplishments & Activities

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 July 2026 through September 2026.

Hosted the "Defining Quality Youth Sports Environments: A Conceptual Framework and Examples from the Field" workshop

In July, NCCOR convened researchers and practitioners from local and national youth sport programs for the *Defining Quality Youth Sports Environments: A Conceptual Framework and Examples from the Field* workshop to explore the contextual factors necessary for program quality and accessibility. The workshop introduced a draft framework for quality youth sports, followed by panel presentations highlighting national and local youth sport organizations that represent different dimensions of the framework. Recordings and slides from the workshop are now available on the [NCCOR website](http://www.nccor.org).

Hosted the "Revisiting Rapid Infant Growth: Assessing Longitudinal Growth in Children Under Age 2" workshop

In September, NCCOR convened multidisciplinary experts for the "Revisiting Rapid Infant Growth: Assessing Longitudinal Growth in Children Under Age 2" workshop. Over the course of two days, participants assessed what existing measures of infant growth can and cannot tell us, evaluated which metrics are most appropriate for identifying and tracking rapid infant growth, and identified research questions needed to move toward consistent, evidence-based approaches for clinical practice, research, and population health surveillance. Recordings and slides from the workshop are now available on the [NCCOR website](http://www.nccor.org).

Released the Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy workshop white paper

The white paper and related materials from NCCOR's "Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy" workshop will soon be available on the [NCCOR website](http://www.nccor.org). The white paper outlines key clinical research gaps and opportunities related to pediatric obesity pharmacotherapy. It is intended to serve as a foundation for continued discussion and future research to address important evidence gaps in the evolving field of pediatric obesity care. Accompanying the white paper is a carefully curated set of 35 high-priority research questions, along with suggested research protocols, outcome measures, and clinical tools needed to address the most pressing and actionable evidence gaps. Together, this resource is designed to guide future research and accelerate improvements in the quality of care for youth with obesity.

Held two meetings for the Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network

The OPUS Grantee Learning Network has been meeting monthly to share best practices, discuss challenges, and engage in peer discussion on key methodological and implementation strategies in obesity-related prevention research. In June, two grantees presented on leveraging human-centered design in obesity prevention research. In August, three grantees presented on creating meaningful outputs for their research projects.

Presented about the Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) workshop and learning network during a National Academies workshop

In September, NCCOR member Jill Reedy spoke at a National Academies workshop, titled "Community Engaged Research to Improve Diet, Nutrition, and Health," about the 2024 OPUS workshop series and next steps for whole-of-systems approaches to nutrition and obesity research.

Presented about the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) framework to the NIH Prevention Research Coordinating Committee (PRCC)

In June, NCCOR member Melissa Green Parker and expert Laura Balis presented to the NIH PRCC about the development of the PARO framework. The presentation included details about the evolution of the PARO framework and how it can be applied by practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to identify priority focus areas for physical activity research and build cross-sector collaborations.

NCCOR 2026: Upcoming Events and Publications

SEPTEMBER 2026

**National
Childhood
Obesity
Awareness
Month!**

September 1-2
Revisiting Rapid
Infant Growth:
Assessing Growth
in Children Under
Age 2 workshop

September 16
**NCCOR Member
Meeting**

September 18
OPUS Grantee
Learning Network
Retreat

September 21
Publish the
Clinical Research
Gaps in Pediatric
Obesity
Pharmacotherapy
(CRGPOP) white
paper on the
NCCOR website

OCTOBER 2026

October 2
Forum at
American
Academy of
Pediatrics
Annual Meeting:
Innovations in
Obesity
Prevention,
Assessment,
and Treatment

October 21
NCCOR
Member Call

NOVEMBER 2026

November 14
Symposium at
ObesityWeek:
From Gaps to
Guidance:
Advancing
Clinical Research
in Pediatric
Obesity
Pharmacotherapy

November 16
TOS/NCCOR
Collaborative
Symposium at
ObesityWeek:
Assessing
Capacity to
Address Obesity
Using Whole of
Systems
Approaches for
Cancer
Prevention and
Control

November 18
**NCCOR Member
Call**

DECEMBER 2026

December 16
**NCCOR Member
Call**

TBD
**Connect &
Explore Webinar**
on GLP-1s

JANUARY 2027

January 20
**NCCOR Member
Call**

TBD
**Connect &
Explore Webinar**
on Clinical
Research Gaps in
Pediatric Obesity
Pharmacotherapy

FEBRUARY 2027

February 17
Member Call

MARCH 2027

March 2
NCCOR
Member
Meeting

PUBLICATIONS:

- NCCOR monthly e-Newsletter
- NCCOR student newsletter
- Implementation Science manuscript submitted to *Health Promotion Practice*
- CRGPOP manuscript submitted to *Obesity*
- Defining Quality Youth Sports Environments framework and meeting summary released

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 workgroup projects below describe ongoing efforts to support NCCOR's mission of working across disciplines and organizations.

Implementation Science

Leads: Carrie Dooyema, CDC, igb7@cdc.gov; Renee Porter, CDC, ogq0@cdc.gov; Alison Brown, NIH, alison.brown@nih.gov

This workgroup continued working with Dr. Taren Massey-Swindle from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to draft a manuscript on the development of the Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Practitioners and its accompanying case study. The workgroup plans to submit the manuscript to *Health Promotion Practice* in September.

Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network

Lead: Jill Reedy, NIH, reedyj@mail.nih.gov

Launched following the 2024 OPUS workshop series, the OPUS Grantee Learning Network convenes 14 NCI administrative supplement grantees implementing whole-of-systems approaches to obesity prevention research for cancer control. The learning network has been meeting monthly to share best practices, discuss challenges, and engage in peer discussion on key methodological and implementation strategies in obesity-related prevention research. Recent discussion topics include implementing human-centered design, obesity treatment access and capacity, and creating meaningful outputs. The network is preparing for its half-day retreat in September and a symposium at *ObesityWeek* titled "Assessing Capacity to Address Obesity Using Whole-of-Systems Approaches for Cancer Prevention and Control." Members of the learning network have also submitted a session proposal for the 2027 Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting.

Rapid Infant Growth: Using Growth Charts for Longitudinal Assessment Among Children Under Age 2

Leads: Aly Goodman, CDC, iym3@cdc.gov; Lucy Kompaniyets, CDC, opt4@cdc.gov; Sam Pierce, CDC, nya7@cdc.gov

This workgroup hosted a two-day virtual workshop on September 1-2, 2026, which convened international experts in rapid infant growth and early-life obesity risk, including clinical and applied researchers and statisticians. The goals were to: a) assess what existing measures of infant growth can and cannot tell us; b) evaluate which metrics are most appropriate for identifying and tracking rapid infant growth; and c) define the critical unanswered questions needed to move toward consistent, evidence-based approaches for clinical practice, research, and population health surveillance. The workgroup engaged two external experts to serve as workshop co-chairs: Carrie Daymont, MD, from Penn State University, and Charles Wood, MD, MPH, from Duke University. The workgroup is now developing a meeting summary outlining key research questions that, if answered, could inform future prevention-focused guidance on early-life growth assessment and help establish a clearer path forward for research related to rapid infant growth and long-term obesity risk.

Research Gaps in Treatment of Pediatric Obesity with Obesity Medications

Leads: Aly Goodman, CDC, lym3@cdc.gov; Lily Balasuriya, CDC, rre1@cdc.gov; Voula Osganian, NIH, voula.osganian@nih.gov

This workgroup was launched to understand current practice and identify research gaps and priority research questions that, when answered, can help health care practitioners care for children and adolescent patients and their families who are taking obesity medications. The workgroup is finalizing a white paper to disseminate key findings and share research questions, protocols, outcomes, and tools that will be published on the NCCOR website this month. The workgroup is presenting during a forum at the *American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Annual Meeting* titled "Innovations in Obesity Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment." The workgroup is also hosting a symposium at *ObesityWeek* titled "From Gaps to Guidance: Advancing Clinical Research in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy." The workgroup is collaborating with Jeanne Lindros of the AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight.

What Works to Ensure High-Quality Sports Opportunities for All Young People

Leads: Stephanie George, NIH, stephanie.george@NIH.gov; Jennifer Matjasko, CDC, hto9@cdc.gov; Malorie Polster, HHS, malorie.polster@hhs.gov

This workgroup held its two-day virtual workshop on July 15-16, 2026, which convened more than 35 experts, including researchers and representatives from national and local youth sports programs. The workshop introduced a draft conceptual framework for quality youth sports, highlighted programs that exemplify its key dimensions, gathered feedback to refine the framework, and identified opportunities for future research and practice to advance high-quality, accessible youth sports environments. The workgroup is now developing the meeting summary and refining the quality youth sports framework based on participant feedback. The framework will be shared back with participants for final input before being finalized and disseminated via a webinar and conference presentations.

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