**NOPREN**

**Nutrition & Obesity Network**

**POLICY RESEARCH EVALUATION**

NOPREN is a thematic network of the Prevention Research Centers Program. NOPREN conducts nutrition- and obesity-related policy research and evaluation related to the effectiveness of policies that improve access to affordable, healthy foods and beverages in a variety of settings, including communities, workplaces, healthcare facilities, childcare institutions, and schools.

### ABOUT

The School Wellness Working Group is a network of researchers and school health practitioners initiated in 2014 to share ongoing work pertaining to school wellness policies, programs, and practices, and to foster partnerships for continuing this work. The group aims to identify and address research and practice gaps and is focused in particular on the implementation and evaluation of district policies, state laws, and federal policies and their impact on wellness practices in K-12 school settings.

### GOALS:

To support the establishment of strong local school wellness policies and their successful implementation in U.S school systems/districts and schools, consistent with the requirements of the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

### Key Activities

1. Identified interested stakeholders and created working group. Members include academicians and representatives from non-profit agencies and school systems (n=49)
2. Hosted formal presentations by members during bimonthly meetings (conference calls)
3. Facilitated on and off-line information sharing
4. Prepared and submitted a conference grant (not funded)
5. Initiated first working group project
   - Identify tools for measuring wellness policy implementation via systematic review and member communication. Develop measures repository.

### Future Activities

1. Hold monthly meetings with speakers, planned/scheduled in advance
2. Grow membership with planned outreach to content experts and those with school district or building level expertise
3. Resubmit or repurpose conference grant
4. Complete current working group project
5. Generate new working group projects
CONTACTS:

Erin Hager, PhD, University of Maryland School of Medicine:
ehager@peds.umaryland.edu

Lindsey Turner, PhD, Boise State University:
lindseyturner1@boisestate.edu

Meghan O’Connell, MPH
UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity:
meghan.oconnell@uconn.edu