Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
Watauga County

Library/Information—Watauga Medical Center has been a member of the library services group (formerly known as Library Information Network (LINK) and now Health Library and Information Network for Education -- HealthLINE) for many years. Watauga Medical Center has provided annual payments of $34,063 to Northwest AHEC for library services. Attached are an overall value statement and an EXCEL chart showing what this medical center pays compared to what would have to be paid on a fee-for-service basis and the estimated cost of housing its own basic library without online resources. More information about this service can be found at the Northwest AHEC website -- http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu or by contacting Ms. Nancy Stine at (704) 210-5587.

Continuing Education—Northwest AHEC CE activities are marketed to healthcare professionals in Watauga County. During this past fiscal year, 251 healthcare professionals registered 657 times for CE activities.

The Nursing Management Institute (NMI), an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers, managed by Northwest AHEC reported 69 nurses enrolled from Watauga Medical Center and no enrollments from Blowing Rock Hospital. NMI is just one of several online courses available. More information can be found at the Northwest AHEC website or by contacting Ms. Marie Simos at (336) 713-7721.

Health Careers—Northwest AHEC offers health careers awareness programs in schools for grades K-8. Local students and staff from Watauga County participated in health careers’ presentations offered by Northwest AHEC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 2004</td>
<td>Hardin Park Elementary</td>
<td>Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>7th</td>
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</tbody>
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Watauga County participated in the Camp Med program which is a partnership between Watauga County Schools, Watauga Medical Center, and Northwest AHEC. Each partnership is offered $1,500 in support of the program which usually involves having a hospital work with the local school system to organize a one week, day camp for high school students to explore a variety of health careers. A total of 12 students participated in 20 hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Watauga County. Information about other Northwest AHEC youth programs can be found by going to our website and selecting the topic “Health Careers Diversity & Recruitment” or by contacting Mr. Bernard Roper at (336) 713-7714.

Northwest AHEC also offers the UNC-Chapel Hill RN Refresher Program to nurses whose licenses have lapsed. The curriculum consists of didactic learning and a clinical practicum. Students engage in their clinical practicum at a variety of hospitals in the Northwest AHEC region with which we have contracts. Watauga Regional Medical Center is one of our RN Refresher clinical practicum sites. During the past fiscal year, two students completed the program at Watauga Medical Center. If interested, healthcare organizations in the county may contact Ms. Sue Ratcliffe at (336) 713-7715 to learn more about these potential opportunities.

Medical/Physician Assistant Students—Many medical and physician assistant students rotate with local physicians who bring students with them to see patients in their hospital. Overnight student accommodations are available if needed for all students. Northwest AHEC’s Office of Regional Primary Care Education (ORPCE) provides administrative and financial support for these preceptors and students with their rotations in community settings. A total of 30 students have rotated in Watauga County for a total of 107 student weeks between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Interested physicians should contact Ms. Angela Hodges at (336) 713-7717.
Community Health Partnerships — Northwest AHEC provides technical assistance, consultation, and training to health coalitions in the region to support their efforts for local health improvement. Many of the current coalitions which Northwest AHEC supports are members of North Carolina’s Healthy Carolinians Program. The Watauga County Healthy Carolinians coordinator regularly attends the Coalition Coordinators Network Meeting.

Northwest AHEC received a small grant as part of the UNC Health Initiative to be utilized with all certified Healthy Carolinians (HC) of which Watauga County is one. Our plan was to conduct focus groups with all HC coordinators to determine their input in the design of a faculty consultation service to Healthy Carolinians partnerships from the UNC system schools. The project began in spring 2005 and will end in December 2005. One focus group was completed in FY 2004-2005. For more information about this service, go to our website: http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu or contact Ms. Anita Pulley at (336) 713-7719.