Summary of Partnership
July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
Toe River District Health Department
(Reporting activities for only Avery County)

Library/Information—Cannon Memorial Hospital officially became a member of HealthLINE (Health Library and Information Network for Education) during 2004 when Watauga Medical Center and Cannon Memorial Hospital joined to become Appalachian Regional Healthcare System. However, once Cannon has been a member for at least one full year, a value services document can be generated. More information on 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 of the Toe River District Health Department (Avery County). During this past fiscal year, healthcare professionals from this organization registered seven times for CE activities.

The Nursing Management Institute (NMI), an online management curriculum for new or aspiring nurse managers, managed by Northwest AHEC reported that 15 nurses enrolled from Cannon Memorial Hospital. NMI is just one of several online courses. More information about CE activities can be found on our 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 Avery 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 Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 11, 2004</td>
<td>Freedom Trail Elementary</td>
<td>Health Careers Puppet Bunch and CATCH</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>Kindergarten &amp; 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20, 2004</td>
<td>Newland Elementary</td>
<td>Health Careers Puppet Bunch and CATCH</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 2004</td>
<td>Grandfather Academy</td>
<td>Cool People, Cool Careers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avery County participated in the Summer Camp Med program which is a partnership between Avery County High School, Cannon Memorial Hospital, 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 14 students participated in 20 hours of health careers exploration in Camp Med Avery County. Information about other North-west 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. There are no contracts in place in Avery County; therefore there are no students who completed the RN Refresher program during this past fiscal year in this county. 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 13 students have
rotated in Avery County for a total of 55 student weeks for this past fiscal year. 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. Northwest AHEC does not have any current local health improvement projects in Avery County. For more information about this service, go to our website: [http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu](http://northwestahec.wfubmc.edu) or contact Ms. Anita Pulley at (336) 713-7719.