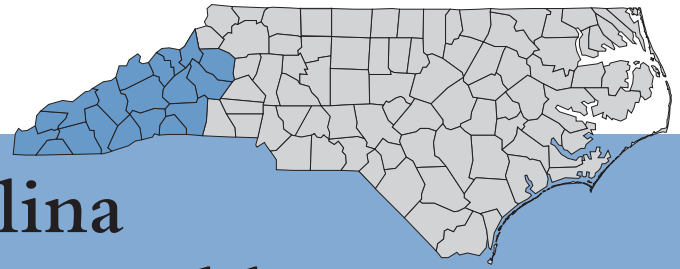


Contact

George Bond | 828.693.1119

georgebond@bellsouth.net



Western North Carolina Partnership for Public Health



The Western North Carolina Partnership for Public Health (WPPH) includes: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey Counties.

1 Senior Health Initiative:
Public Health's Role

2 Environmental Health
Technology

3 Environmental Health
Recruiting

4 Handheld Technology for
Public Health

Vision of the Western Partnership

Public Health – Building a Healthier Western North Carolina

Mission of the Western Partnership

Improved public health outcomes through regional collaboration and innovation

1 Senior Health Initiative: What is Public Health's Role?

The Western Partnership will test a single county case management/services coordination pilot in Jackson County which will inform public health's role in serving the needs of the elderly population. This pilot project is charged with increasing knowledge of and access to services for the elderly and their families in an effort to enhance the quality of life for both and promote longer self-sufficiency and independence of elderly in the home setting. Together with the Jackson County health director, the Western Partnership will identify appropriate services that reach out to the growing elderly population of North Carolina.

2 Environmental Health Technology

In 2007, the Western partnership set out to to completely automate its environmental health system in order to address existing inefficiencies such as county-to-county variations in data collections, lost permits, records storage problems, inability to quantify and characterize data collected, and administrative approaches. The Partnership used Incubator funds to purchase tablet computers and Food & Lodging software. Currently, training and infrastructure is in place to implement On-site Wastewater & Wells applications. By late Spring 2008, environmental health data collection systems in 15 of 17 Western Partnership counties will be completely automated by July, 2008.

3 Environmental Health Recruiting

The Western Partnership will collaborate with the Northwest Partnership to streamline internship opportunities for college-aged students (both in traditional and non-traditional fields) interested in public health. In the first year of this two year initiative, the partnership will work to bridge the academic and the practice training gap by developing a curriculum of credit courses for Centralized Intern Training (CIT). In the second year, in collaboration with the Northwest Partnership, six substantial scholarships will be provided for students who will not only work at the local department but also attend Centralized Intern Training during their traineeship.

4 Handheld Technology for Public Health

In order to address the increasing need for regional Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities for public health, the Western Partnership purchased thirty multipurpose handheld units to be shared among the staff of the region's health departments. Additional handheld unit memory, software and training will be purchased with current funds to meet increasing demands in the region. The Partnership will collaborate with the state's Public Health Regional Surveillance Team (PHRST) for training and overall program support.