

North Carolina's Pilot Teleaudiology Project

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Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
North Carolina Division of Public Health



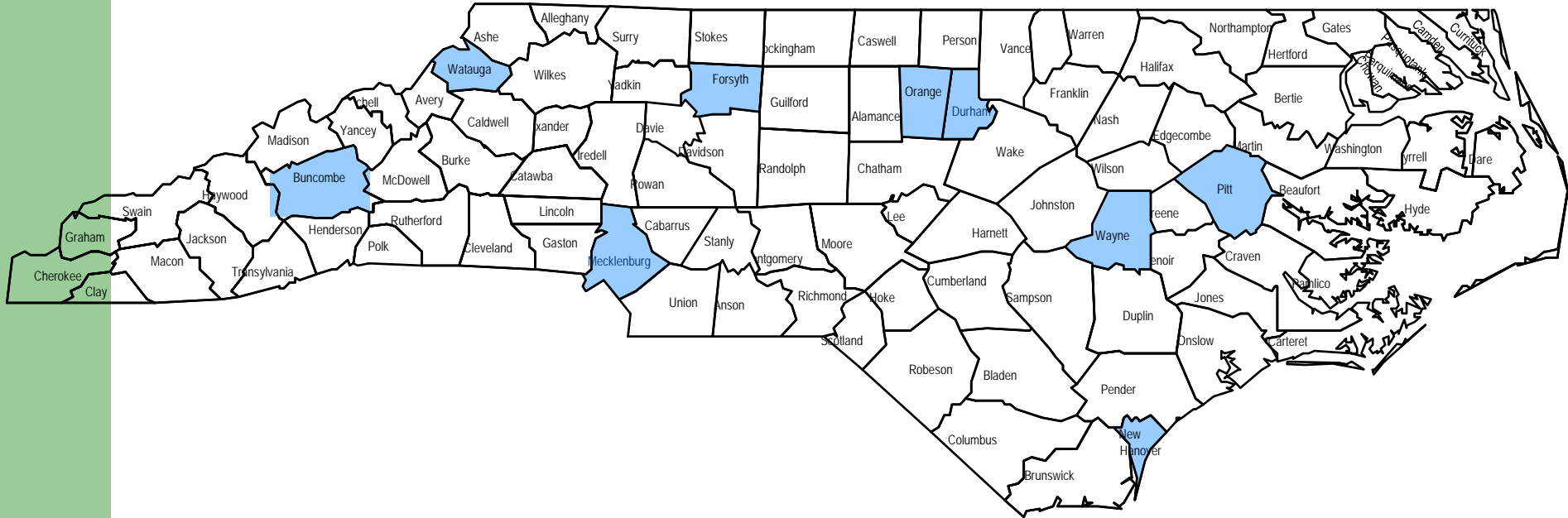
Our Goals

- Provide infant diagnostic evaluations in eastern and south central North Carolina

Infant Diagnostic Sites in NC

- 17 Sites

NC Diagnostic Sites



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- Not easily accessible to eastern/south central parts of the state

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 - Sites may be up to 5 hours drive





NC Marshland



- **Thursday, February 25, 2010: CURRITUCK FERRY ROUTE WILL SHUT DOWN TEMPORARILY FRIDAY**

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 - Sites may be up to 5 hours drive
 - Sometimes involve taking a ferry
- Most families from northeastern going to Virginia for diagnostics
 - Medicaid coverage

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Provide infant diagnostic evaluations in eastern and south central North Carolina

- Extremely rural
- High percentage of pop. below the poverty level
- Few babies diagnosed by 3 months of age

Decrease drive time for families to no more than 2 hours

Increase the number of children diagnosed by 3 months

Decrease LTFU

Partnership

- **EHDI Program**
- **East Carolina University (ECU)**

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 - The money

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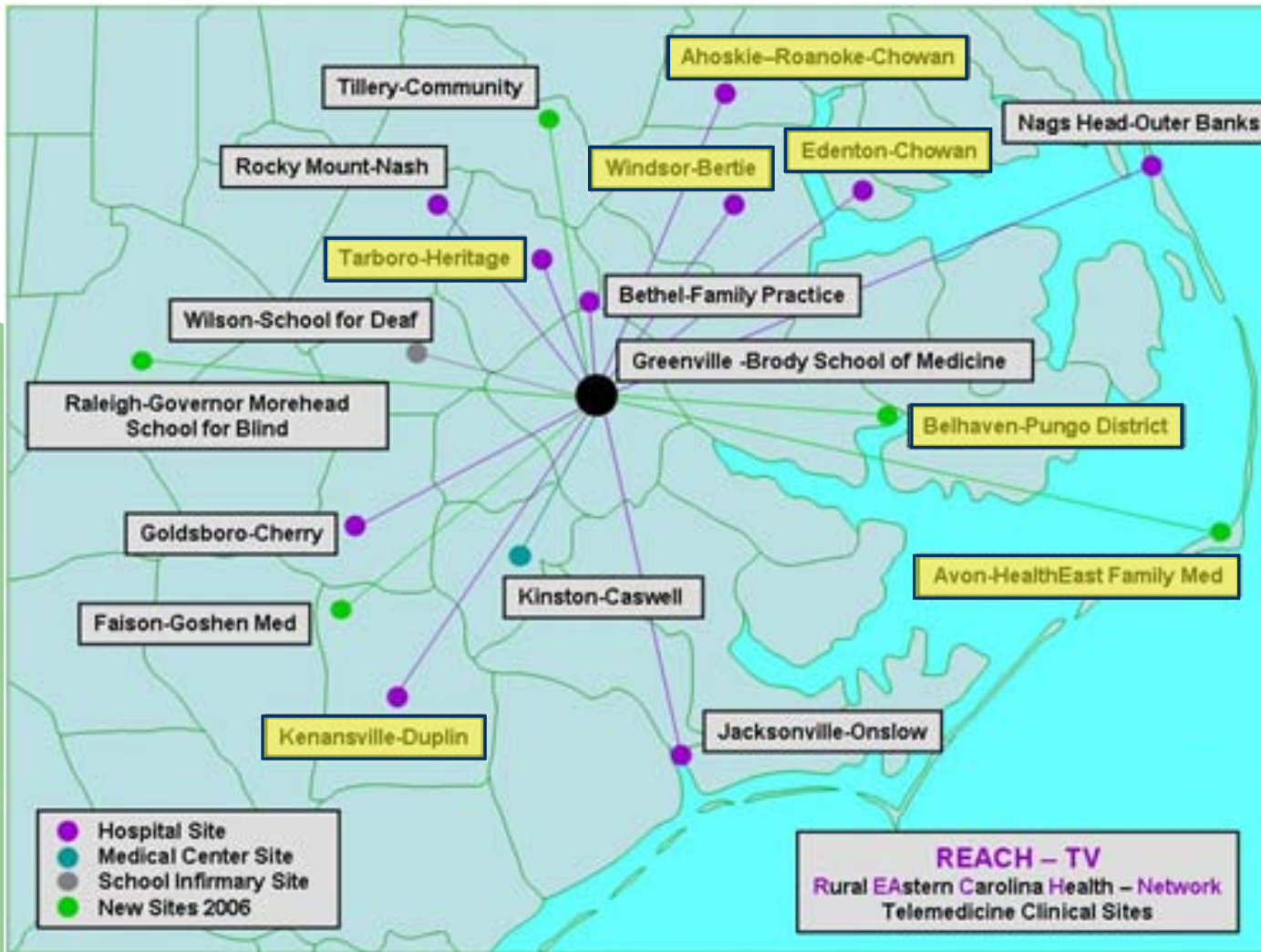
ECU Telemedicine

“Health care where it’s needed, when it’s needed”

- In continuous operation since its inception in 1992
- One of the longest running clinical telemedicine operations in the world
- A critical part of ECU’s effort to improve the health of the region’s citizens
- Prepare the next generation of health professionals with contemporary skills and knowledge



East Carolina University / Brody School of Medicine ECU Telemedicine Center / Telehealth Network



 Sites we will be using for Teleaudiology

The Preparation Process



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- Visit all sites to gain their buy-in

Contract with ECU

- Telemedicine Center
 - Advice in project equipment, design & operation
 - Protocols for scheduling, medical records & information transfer
 - Coordinate clinical scheduling
 - Train staff in use of telemedicine equipment
 - Provide usage of telecommunications infrastructure & use of fax, phone, forms, etc.
 - Provide interpreters when needed
 - Lots of technical support!

Contract with ECU

- Dept. of Communication Sciences
 - Protocols for audiological evaluation, record keeping, report writing
 - Obtain sanction from the NC Board of Examiners for SLP and Audiology
 - Provide diagnostic evals via telemedicine system
 - Patient preparation
 - Studying tracings
 - Communicating with audiologist & family at remote site
 - Report of eval with recommendations to PCP and DPH

Contract with ECU



Approval from NC Board of Examiners

- Develop protocols
- Present materials to Board
- Ensure that they feel it fits within scope of practice for NC audiologists

Approval from NC Board of Examiners



Purchase Equipment

- The most arduous task!
- Started in October
- Will have equipment in March

Develop Guidelines

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 - Who will be responsible for what
- Guidelines for hospital/clinic screeners to use when a child does not pass the rescreen
- Flowchart for patient scheduling (DPH)
- Guidelines for management of patients (TM)

Develop Guidelines



Visit all Sites

- 7 Sites
- Check out the equipment – not the same at every site
- Find the Telemedicine instruction book
- Explain pilot project and determine their requirements – may differ
- Work out billing issues if they arise (hopefully they won't!)
- Determine if there will be scheduling conflicts

Ren

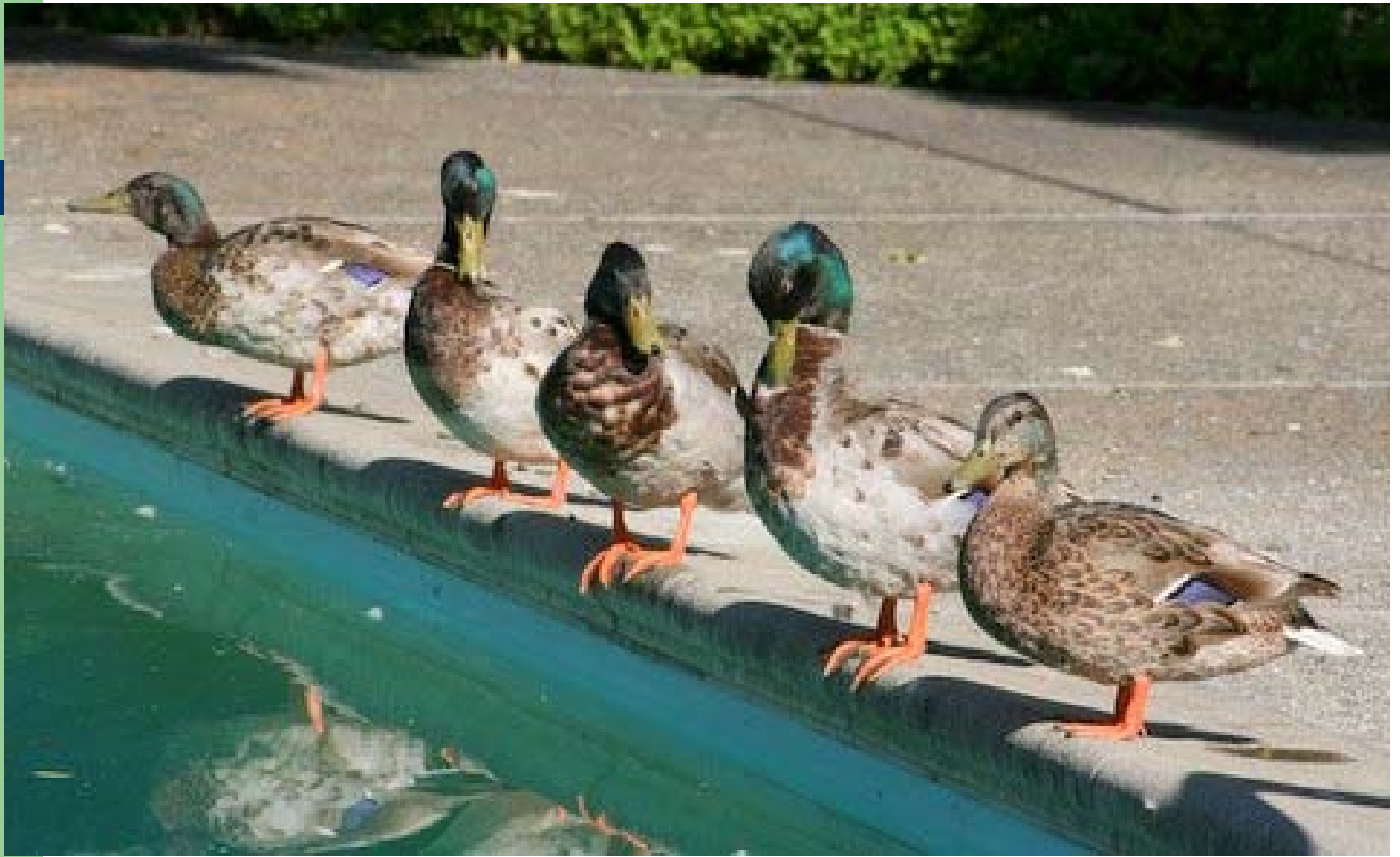


Caveats and Glitches

- Hospital concerns re taking patients from them
- Credentialing
- The key to success:

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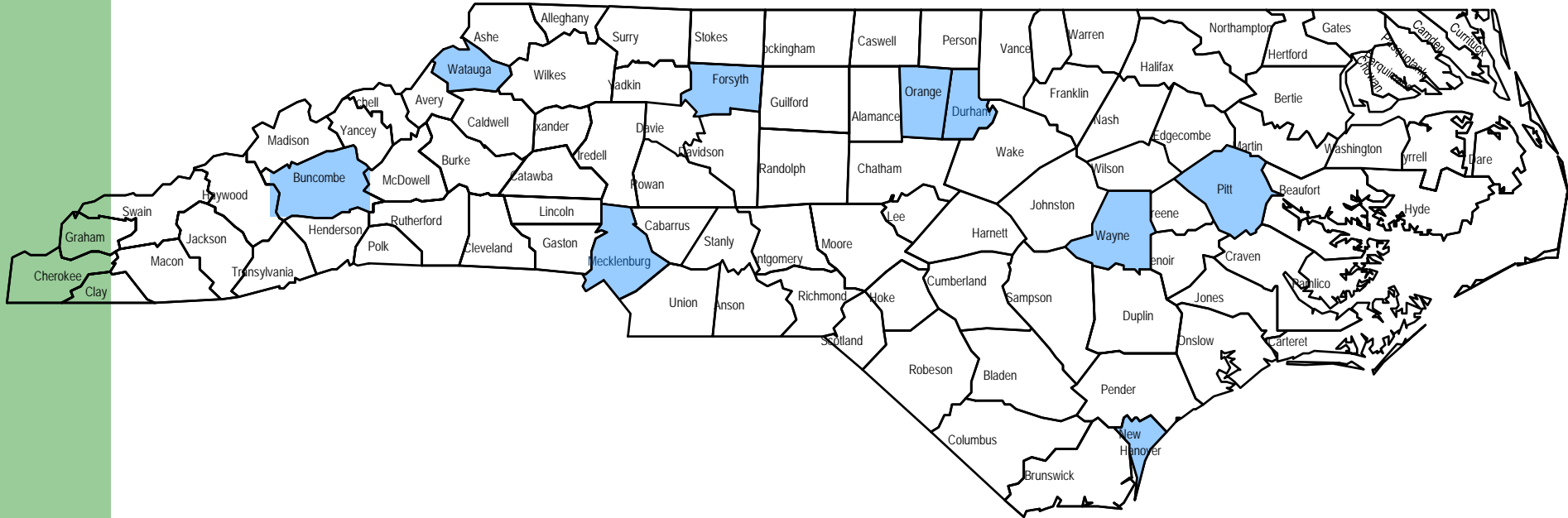
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Trust on the part of the clinician at the
Telemedicine Center



Future Plans

- Transition to a graduate student taking the role of the audiologist at the remote sites
- Addition of a site in Robeson County

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 - Set up hospital site that would be able to be used for other things

