



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of County Commissioners
County of Cumberland, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the Eastover Sanitary District discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Cumberland, North Carolina (the County) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2004, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these basic financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Cumberland County Hospital Systems, Inc. or the Cumberland County ABC Board. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Cumberland County Hospital Systems, Inc. and the Cumberland County ABC Board, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. The financial statements of the Cumberland County ABC Board were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall basic financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based upon our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of June 30, 2004, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison of the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 16, 2004 on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, the schedules of funding progress and employer contributions and the notes to the required schedules for the Law Enforcement Officer's Special Separation Allowance and the Cumberland County Hospital Plan are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County. The combining and individual fund statements and schedules for the years ended June 30, 2004 and 2003, as well as the accompanying schedule of expenditures of Federal and State awards as required by U. S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations* and the State Single Audit Implementation Act for the year ended June 30, 2004, the introductory, the statistical and the continuing disclosures sections are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund statements and schedules for the years ended June 30, 2004 and 2003, as well as the accompanying schedule of expenditures of Federal and State awards as required by U. S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations* and the State Single Audit Implementation Act for the year ended June 30, 2004, have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory, statistical and continuing disclosure sections of this report have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Cherry, Behaert + Holland JHP

Fayetteville, North Carolina
November 16, 2004