Portfolio 2.2 – Informed Decisions Affecting Quality of Life in Rural Areas: KA 805 Community Institutions, Health and Social Services

External Factors – Skyrocketing health care costs, limited educational opportunities to increase health literacy, health disparities among population groups, poverty, limited access to resources, demographic changes such as aging and in-migration, and greater focus on treatment rather than prevention all impede the ability of people to make informed decisions about their health care.

Assumptions: With better medical information from CSREES and partners, individuals, families, and communities can better maintain healthy lifestyles, access preventive services, and manage social, mental, and physical health, thus leading to a better allocation of health care resources.