



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation**

Pat McCrory
Governor

Richard O. Brajer
Secretary DHHS

Mark Payne, Director
Health Service Regulation

November 2, 2016

Christina Jenkins
236 Hospital Drive
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

No Review

Record #: 2089
Facility Name: Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge
FID #: 953877
Project Description: Develop an off-site work station
County: Mitchell

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency) received your letter of October 18, 2016 regarding the above referenced proposal. Based on the CON law **in effect on the date of this response to your request**, the proposal described in your correspondence is not governed by, and therefore, does not currently require a certificate of need. However, please note that if the CON law is subsequently amended such that the above referenced proposal would require a certificate of need, this determination does not authorize you to proceed to develop the above referenced proposal when the new law becomes effective.

However, you need to contact the Agency's Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section to determine if they have any requirements for development of the proposed project.

It should be noted that this determination is binding only for the facts represented in your correspondence. Consequently, if changes are made in the project or in the facts provided in your correspondence referenced above, a new determination as to whether a certificate of need is required would need to be made by this office. Changes in a project include, but are not limited to: (1) increases in the capital cost; (2) acquisition of medical equipment not included in the original cost estimate; (3) modifications in the design of the project; (4) change in location; and (5) any increase in the number of square feet to be constructed.

Please contact this office if you have any questions. Also, in all future correspondence you should reference the Facility ID # (FID) if the facility is licensed.

Sincerely,

Julie Halatek
Project Analyst

Martha J. Frisone
Assistant Chief, Certificate of Need

cc: Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section, DHSR
Paige Bennett, Assistant Chief, Healthcare Planning, DHSR

Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section

www.ncdhhs.gov

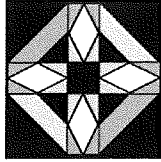
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Location: Edgerton Building • 809 Ruggles Drive • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2704 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

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Hospice and Palliative
Care of the Blue Ridge, Inc.
Formerly Hospice of Mitchell



October 18, 2016

Mr. Craig Smith, Section Chief
Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Mr. Smith,

The purpose of this letter is to request a no review determination from the CON section for establishment of an off-site workstation. Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge has located a potential space at 7 South Main Street, Suite 2F Burnsville, N.C. 28714. The space consists of one unused office, approximately 16 feet wide by 30 feet long with a shared common space to the adjoining office suite.

The purpose of this select off-site workstation space is to provide an area for nurses and social workers to complete general paperwork and related EMR documentation, initiate phone calls and attend to other appropriate duties without having to travel approximately 20 miles (one way) to the main office to attend to these needs.

Also, the primary route of travel to visit and support our hospice patients located on the western part of Mitchell County and those in Yancey County (Highway 19E) continues to be under a vast amount of road expansion. This road expansion is expected to continue for another several years. Currently Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge staff are experiencing extreme delays in waiting in the road construction in traveling the 19E route back to the main office. There are no other time effectual alternative routes back to the main office. The proposed off-site workstation would assist the staff in time efficacy in their work flow processes and patient care needs.

It is anticipated the nurse, social worker, and chaplain will be spending approximately one to two hours per day in the workstation setting completing task in support of hospice patients and families they visit in Yancey County and the western part of Mitchell County.

The off-site work station address will not be published in any way. The phone service will not be listed as its purpose is for internal use and not for receiving incoming calls. No patient's charts or records will be maintained or located at this off-site work station. The only signage will be a small sign consistent with the larger office complex to direct drivers and 911 emergency location management. There is no intent for this office to be considered a satellite office with full complement of staff maintaining normal business office hours each day.

We would like to begin use of this workstation space on December 1, 2016 if possible. Thank you for your assistance and please contact me if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,


Christina Jenkins

Executive Director

(Please refer to the attached for contact information)

(Continued)

Christina Jenkins, CEO

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Again, thank you for your time in these matters.