
Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee

Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council

October 3, 2018

The Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee met once after the August Council meeting, on September 6.

Following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for the Long-Term Care Facilities and Services, Chapters 10-17, of the *2019 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)*. For all chapters, inventories have been updated to reflect any changes, and data tables include placeholders where applicable. All inventories and need determinations are subject to change.

Chapter 10: Nursing Care Facilities

The Agency received one petition related to this chapter.

Petition: Wake Forest Baptist Health

- **Request:** Wake Forest Baptist Health requests an adjusted need determination for 15 additional nursing facility beds in Davidson County in the 2019 SMFP. The Agency received 3 letters in support of the petition.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The standard need methodology has determined that there is no need for additional nursing home beds in Davidson County. Relocation of Davie Medical Center, which is a part of the Wake Forest Baptist Health system, has meant that it no longer has the ability to provide nursing care services through the use of swing beds. According to the Petitioner, this means that difficult-to-place patients, specifically the medically complex and/or medically underserved, would have less access to skilled nursing services. As a member of an accountable care organization, the Petitioner can more quickly place these and other qualified Medicare patients into a more appropriate level of care in lower cost settings if these patients are discharged to a nursing facility that has and maintains an overall rating of three stars or higher under the CMS Five

Star Quality Rating System. The Agency finds that in Davidson County, such nursing facilities have high occupancy. Although the Agency does not have data on medically complex patients in general, available data estimates that the development of an additional 14 nursing beds for ventilator-dependent patients alone may be warranted statewide. The Committee agreed with the Agency's report and recommends approval to the SHCC of the Petitioner's request for an adjusted need determination for 15 nursing home beds in Davidson County in the 2019 SMFP with an emphasis on patients who, upon admission, have the following conditions/needs: ventilator-dependency; tracheostomies; tracheostomies with bi-level positive airway pressure; bariatric status with tracheostomies; bariatric status over 300 pounds; IV antibiotics administered more than once daily; total parenteral nutrition; complex wounds; dialysis; or ventilator dependency and/or tracheostomies combined with dialysis.

Data Updates

Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no draft need determinations.

Chapter 11: Adult Care Homes

The Agency received one petition related to this chapter.

Petition: Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Hyde County, doing business as Cross Creek

- **Request:** Cross Creek has requested an adjusted need determination for 23 adult care home beds in the Hyde/Tyrrell service area in the 2019 SMFP, to be developed in Hyde County. The Petition included six letters of support.
- **Committee Recommendation:** Hyde and Tyrrell Counties are the only two counties combined into a single service area in the Adult Care Home Methodology. This was done in the 2013 SMFP in response to a need to create an economy of scale that would increase the likelihood that beds

would be developed to serve these counties. As a result of this modification, Tyrrell House, which is located in Tyrrell County, began operating 50 adult care home beds in 2016. When the correct population data is used in the standard need methodology, there is a current need determination for 10 adult care beds in the Hyde/Tyrrell service area. The petitioner posits that the unmet need is specific to Hyde County. The Agency notes that Tyrrell House is a one-half to one hour one-way drive for Hyde County residents. The Agency also determined that Hyde County's older population is larger than, and is expected to grow considerably faster than, Tyrrell County's. When adult care bed need is estimated separately for Hyde and Tyrrell Counties, the result is a need determination for 30 beds in Hyde County and no need determination for Tyrrell County. Therefore, the Agency recommends denial of the request for 23 ACH beds in Hyde County. Instead, the Committee agreed with the Agency's recommendation that the Adult Care Home Need Methodology be amended for the 2019 SMFP to separate Hyde and Tyrrell Counties into two service areas permanently. If the SHCC approves this recommendation, the 2019 SMFP would show a 30 bed need determination for Hyde County and no need determination for Tyrrell County.

Data Updates

The application of the adult care home methodology based on data and information currently available results in the following draft need determinations for 260 adult care home beds, broken down as follows:

- 70 in Macon County
- 20 in Mitchell County
- 50 in Polk County
- 50 in Pamlico County
- 70 in Warren County

Chapter 12: Home Health Services

The Agency received one petition related to this chapter.

Petition: Touched by Caring Hands of North Carolina

- **Request:** Touched by Caring Hands requests an adjusted need determination be included in the *2019 SMFP* for one Medicare-certified home health office in Randolph County. The Agency received three letters opposing the petition.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The standard methodology determined that there is no need for a new Medicare-certified home health office in Randolph County. The Petitioner proposed a new home health office to address medically underserved persons in Randolph County, regardless of disability or language. The Agency does not collect data that would allow staff to identify providers that may provide services to non-English speaking patients or patients with disabilities. Furthermore, the Petitioner provided no specific client or population data to support the claim that Randolph County needed additional services, especially for these populations. The Agency and the SHCC acknowledge the importance of reducing barriers and making health care more accessible to all residents. However, there was no clear evidence that the needs of the residents in Randolph County were not being currently met by the existing licensed Medicare-certified Home Health providers. The committee concurred with the Agency's recommendation to deny this Petition.

Data Updates

The application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no draft need determinations.

Chapter 13: Hospice Services

The Agency received no petitions or comments for this chapter.

Data Updates

Application of the methodologies based on data and information currently available results in a draft need determination for 9 Hospice Inpatient Beds in Cumberland County.

There is no need for Hospice Home Care offices anywhere in the state.

Chapter 14: End-Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Facilities

The Agency received no petitions or comments for this chapter.

Data Updates

The county need and facility-based need for additional new dialysis stations is determined two times each calendar year. Determinations are made available in the *North Carolina Semiannual Dialysis Report (SDR)*.

Chapter 15: Psychiatric Inpatient Services

The Agency received no petitions or comments for this chapter.

Data Updates

After the last LTBH Committee meeting, the Agency learned that Columbus County recently moved from the Eastpointe LME-MCO to the Trillium LME-MCO. This move caused a slight change in need determinations. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in draft need determinations 48 for child/adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds, as follows:

- 21 in the Eastpointe LME-MCO
- 1 in the Alliance LME-MCO
- 9 in Sandhills

- 17 in Vaya Health

There is no need for adult psychiatric inpatient beds anywhere in the state.

Chapter 16: Substance Use Disorder Inpatient & Residential Services (Chemical Dependency Treatment Beds)

The Agency received one petition for this chapter.

Petition: Addiction Recovery Care Association

- **Request:** Addiction Recovery Care Association requested that the 2019 SMFP include an adjusted need determination for 32 additional residential substance use disorder treatment beds in the Central Planning Region, specifically Forsyth County. Although not explicitly stated, the petitioner appears to be requesting adult beds. The Agency received five letters of support for this petition.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Petitioner focused on high patient in-migration from other regions and high demand for access to services by the indigent population. The Agency estimated that in recent years, over 100,000 individuals of the population served by the Central Planning Region needed but did not access treatment for alcohol and illicit drug use. The Agency found that two of the Central Region's LME-MCOs have some bed availability, but within the Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions LME-MCO, which includes Forsyth County, the majority of facilities are highly utilized. The Agency also notes that the majority of treatment programs in the Central Region that serve indigent persons are in the Cardinal LME-MCO, and generally, beds in those treatment programs are highly utilized as well. The Committee concurred with the Agency's recommendation that the 2019 SMFP include a need determination for 32 adult substance use disorder treatment beds in the Central Region. The Committee further recommends that the need determination stipulate that CON applicants must commit to establishing a contract with the

Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions LME-MCO to treat underserved populations, specifically the indigent and/or uninsured.

Data Updates

Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in a draft need for 17 child/adolescent beds in the Central Region and no adult beds anywhere in the state.

Chapter 17: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

The Agency received no petitions, comments, or data updates related to this chapter.

Recommendations Related to All Chapters

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council approval of Chapters 10 - 17: Long-Term Care Facilities and Services, with the understanding that staff is authorized to continue making necessary updates to the narratives, tables, and need determinations as indicated.