

**LOWER CAPE FEAR HOSPICE, INCORPORATED**  
**Petition to State Health Coordinating Council**  
**Adjustment to the Inpatient Hospice Bed Need**  
**2011 State Medical Facilities Plan**

DFS Health Planning  
**RECEIVED**

**JUL 30 2010**

Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

**Good afternoon. I'm Lauren Bystrom, President & CEO of Lower Cape Fear Hospice. I am here today to present a petition to the State Health Coordinating Council to adjust the need determination in the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan for inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County to six (6) inpatient hospice beds.**

**Chapter 13 of the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan identifies a deficit of three (3) inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County. This deficit is based on the need methodology included in Chapter 13, which does not address the actual utilization of inpatient hospice services in New Hanover County. Lower Cape Fear Hospice believes the need determination should be adjusted for the following reasons:**

- 1. The need methodology utilized in Chapter 13 of the State Medical Facilities Plan for estimating inpatient hospice care assumes 6 percent of the projected hospice days of care will be inpatient hospice days. This need methodology fails to account for the actual utilization of inpatient hospice services in New Hanover County. As a result, the current need methodology in the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan shows a deficit of three (3) beds and no need determination for additional inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County.**
- 2. Lower Cape Fear Hospice is licensed to operate a 12-bed inpatient hospice facility in New Hanover County and a 6-bed inpatient hospice facility in Columbus County. Over the past three years, the Wilmington Care Center has operated at an occupancy rate of near 100 percent. The Petition that we have passed out includes the actual average daily census at the Wilmington Care Center for the past 12 months, which has averaged 100.6 percent.**

- 3. It may not be common knowledge, but Lower Cape Fear Hospice also contracts the use of acute care beds at both hospitals in New Hanover County and at Pender Memorial Hospital, as well as skilled nursing beds at Davis Health Care Center to provide additional inpatient hospice care. We estimate that in 2011 Lower Cape Fear Hospice will provide 1,921 days of contracted inpatient hospice care in addition to the 4,461 days of inpatient hospice care we will provide at the Wilmington Care Center. This will bring our total average daily census in 2011 to 17.5 patients.**
- 4. A high utilization further complicates a patient's ability to be admitted at the Wilmington Care Center for either respite or residential care and is a barrier to access for hospice patients who are receiving hospice care at home and then require more intensive palliative care within an inpatient facility.**
- 5. Lower Cape Fear Hospice has gathered support from key health care providers and agencies in and around New Hanover County, all of whom support the need for additional inpatient hospice beds.**

**For these reasons, Lower Cape Fear Hospice requests that the State Health Coordinating Council consider the actual inpatient hospice bed utilization in New Hanover County and adjust the need determination in the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan to indicate a need determination for six (6) inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County.**

**Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you about our request.**