

*Carteret County
Veterans Services*

Hank Gotard
Veterans Services Officer



Office: 252-728-8440
Fax: 252-728-8582

May 12, 2010
Thomas J. Pulliam, MD
Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Health Coordinating Council
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
2714 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
RECEIVED

AUG 02 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Re: Petition for adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Carteret County in the 2011 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

On behalf of Dr. Amy Charlesworth, M.D, I am writing to support the petition submitted by the Crystal Coast Hospice House to include an adjusted need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County.

Carteret County is blessed with extensive and capable healthcare professionals and provider organizations. Our organization works with government agencies and other provider organizations to insure that Carteret County residents have adequate access to high quality services across a wide spectrum of needs. However, specific to hospice services, Carteret County does not have a hospice inpatient facility. The nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in either Wilmington or Greenville, nearly 100 miles from Morehead City. Carteret County residents need a hospice inpatient facility to complete the continuum of care for end-of-life services.

Additionally, as our population continues to grow, it is aging as well. The demands placed on family members, hospice, and providers continue to become more difficult. Establishing a hospice inpatient facility in Carteret County will provide much needed local access to inpatient hospice services for residents of our county who now must travel great distances to receive these services.

I urge you to include a need determination for hospice inpatient beds. Carteret County would be well served with such a service located within our county.

Sincerely,

Hank Gotard
Veterans Services Officer
3710-B John Platt Drive
Morehead City, NC 28557

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Enclosure