



Cleveland County HealthCare System

July 30, 2010

Gene DePorter, Assistant Chief
Medical Facilities Planning Section
NC Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
Planning Section

Dear Mr. DePorter:

This letter confirms the support of the Special Need Petition to the State Medical Facilities Planning Session asking that the tenth hospice inpatient bed needed in Cleveland County be made available for a Certificate of Need application.

Hospice of Cleveland County is a partner within the Cleveland County HealthCare System which I am the President and CEO. Hospice of Cleveland County currently holds licenses for nine of the ten available inpatient beds for Cleveland County, five at Wendover Hospice House and four at Kings Mountain Hospice House. Wendover Hospice House has been an important part of the Hospice care available in Cleveland County since 1996. The inpatient bed occupancy there has exceeded 99% for the last five years and exceeded 100% in three of those years, with an average of five people on the inpatient waiting list. Seventy-seven people on the waiting list in 2009 were never admitted to the Wendover Hospice House and passed away elsewhere, including 34 who expired in a hospital potentially in another county. The proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan once again indicates a current need for an additional Hospice inpatient bed beyond what Hospice Cleveland County currently provides. Again our waiting list data and occupancy levels at Hospice of Cleveland County substantiate the need. Adding one additional Hospice inpatient bed at our Wendover Hospice House facility will create the capacity to serve over 30 additional Hospice patients, significantly expanding our ability to serve every patient, every day...always.

I strongly support Hospice Cleveland County Special Needs Petition to have the additional Hospice inpatient bed made available for a Certificate of Need application. .

Sincerely,

Brian Gwyn, President/CEO