

Susan Vettichira, MD, FAAPMR

Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Fellow of American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Carteret Medical Specialists
300 Penny Lane, Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone 252-726-4000
Fax 252-726-2530

DFS Health Planning
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AUG 02 2010

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Mr. Thomas J. Pulliam
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

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

Dear Mr. Pulliam:

I am writing to support the petition submitted by Crystal Coast Hospice House to include an adjusted need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County.

As a physician who takes care of many elderly patients, as well as patients with significant life threatening conditions, I fully support development of hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County as it will be of great benefit to local families. Family members who are trying to provide 24 hour, 7 day a week care for a family member who is terminally ill, will benefit from assistance during this very stressful and demanding period of their lives.

Currently, Carteret County does not have an inpatient hospice facility. The nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in either Wilmington or Greenville, nearly 100 miles from Morehead City. Also, there can be a lengthy waitlist at these facilities, and many patients die at home before they can be admitted.

Additionally, as Carteret County's population is growing, it is aging as well. The demands of family members, hospice, and providers will continue to become more difficult. Establishing a hospice inpatient facility in Carteret County will provide much needed local access to inpatient hospice services to a population that must travel great distances to receive such services. Please know that Crystal Coast Hospice House has my full support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,


2/6-9-10

Susan Vettichira, MD