



DFS Health Planning
RECEIVED

JUL 09 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Hospice of Wilson

PO Box 3007

Wilson, NC 27895

**PETITION FOR AN ADJUSTED NEED DETERMINATION FOR THREE HOSPICE
INPATIENT BEDS FOR WILSON COUNTY**

Petitioner:

Hospice of Wilson

P.O. Box 3007

Wilson, N.C. 27895

J. Scott Smith, M.D., Foundation Chairman

(252) 373-4800

Requested Change:

Hospice of Wilson seeks to provide comprehensive hospice care for terminally ill patients in Wilson County and as a newly forming nonprofit foundation wishes to petition for an adjusted need determination for three additional hospice inpatient beds in Wilson County in the 2011 SMFP.

Reasons Supporting Requested Change:

Prior State Medical Facilities Plan Identified Need:

Prior SMFP calculation determined an eight bed need for inpatient hospice beds in Wilson County. However, the current projected need showed only five beds.

2010 SMFP Need Methodology

Wilson County	
Total Days of Care (2008 data)	23,263
Total 2013 Admissions	303
Projected Hospice Days of Care	23,379
Projected Inpatient Days	1,403
Projected Total Inpatient Beds	5
Projected Inpatient Bed Surplus	(3)

Source: 2010 SMFP

Reasoning for the Reduction in Need:

In discussions with Mr. Gene Deporter and Mrs. Bernetta Thorne-Williams it was determined that due to under-utilization of the prior allocation, the surplus of three beds was reported for 2010. In reviewing the history of hospice care in Wilson County, it is apparent that the prior organization did not actively pursue the growing need to provide inpatient hospice services to the citizens in Wilson County. Due to this growing demand and out-migration of patients to other counties our newly organizing foundation hopes to actively pursue the prior need determination of 8 inpatient hospice beds in providing an inpatient facility within the county.

As outlined in the 2010 SMFP, the State's current need determination methodology is based on a six-bed deficit threshold for single counties to trigger a need for inpatient hospice beds. It is further stated that petitions may be submitted for adjusted needs determinations.

Approval of this petition will allow Hospice of Wilson the opportunity to submit a Certificate of Need (CON) application in 2011 to build an 8 bed inpatient hospice facility in Wilson County.

Hospice of Wilson justifies the proposed adjusted need determination based on several factors, including:

- Prior need, though not utilized due to apathy of the prior organization was determined to be eight beds.
- Wilson County's Hospice Days of Care and Deaths are increasing at considerably faster rates compared to the State.
- There is significant out-migration by hospice patients from Wilson County to surrounding counties for inpatient hospice needs.
- The population in Wilson County is aging and has need for local hospice inpatient services.
- Many Wilson County residents have fewer financial resources, and thus may have limited ability to travel long distances for hospice care.
- Patients in need of inpatient hospice services are already taxed emotionally and physically and would benefit in receiving care in a setting that is close to home.
- Capacity of other regional hospice inpatient facilities is limited and near capacity, such that waiting times can be prohibitive to receiving adequate care.

Background and Intent

The Hospice of Wilson Foundation is a recently formed nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide end-of-life care for the residents of Wilson County. Currently Wilson County is serviced by three very capable hospice organizations which provide home care for terminally ill patients. Once a patient is unable to remain at home there are no other options in the county for them. There is no hospice facility in the county and these patients are currently being transported out of the county to other facilities. In terms of emotional and physical demands placed on family members during an already stressful time, the burden of travel is enormous. A facility which is devoted to the care of these terminally ill patients and their loved ones generally not only provides nurses and physicians who have specialized training in palliative care or end-of-life care but also addresses the emotional and spiritual needs of the patients and families. This organization intends to raise funds to meet the needs of Wilson County residents who require inpatient hospice services regardless of disease or condition and regardless of economic background. As opposed to the prior organization which functioned in a modest capacity during the 1990's, Hospice of Wilson now petitions for the prior allocated eight inpatient hospice beds to allow the provision of the much needed inpatient hospice services in Wilson County.

Out-Migration from Wilson County

In discussions with the State of North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulations and in review of the 2010 SMFP (based on 2008 data), more than 220 Wilson County residents were required to leave the county during the year in order to receive these services in the neighboring counties where inpatient facilities exist. As stated previously, there are currently three hospice agencies in Wilson County. There are twelve others listed as serving the county. In reviewing Table 13A which shows hospice data by county of patient origin, there were 221 admissions to hospice and 23,263 days of care for Wilson County. Once these patients required inpatient care, they had to travel to inpatient facilities in surrounding counties such as Wayne and Pitt. This massive migration places extreme unnecessary emotional and financial as well as physical strain on these patients and their families.

Demographics

The increased demand for inpatient hospice services can be attributed to Wilson County's rapidly aging population. As shown below, Wilson County has a significantly older population of people over age 65 compared to the State and this is expected to increase over the next 5 years.

2009-2014 Projected Population Age 65+

	2009	% of Total	2014	% of Total
Wilson	10,608	13.2	11994	14.0%
North Carolina	1,148,763	12.2	1,347,336	13.3%

Source: NC Office of State Budget & Management

The population age 65 and older is projected to increase 32.5% during the next ten years. This is almost 2.5 times faster than the overall growth of the county which is projected to increase by 13.8% during the next ten years. Please refer to the following table.

Wilson County

2010-2020 Projected Population

	2010	2020	2010-20 Growth
Total Population	81,055	92,253	13.8%
Population Age 65+	10,778	14,279	32.5%

Source: NC Office of State Budget & Management

The growing aging population in Wilson County is important to document in that according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Facts and Figures: Hospice Care in America, over 80% of hospice patients are age 65 and older.¹ Also, NHPCO predicts the number of patients in hospice within this age group to increase in the future.

Wilson County Cancer Deaths

In addition to a growing population as well as a growing aging population, the numbers of cancer deaths have increased within the county in rough proportion to the population increase. Of course hospice services are chiefly utilized by cancer patients. The following table illustrates this increase in cancer deaths in Wilson County in the past 3 years.

Wilson County Cancer Deaths

Year	Cancer Deaths
2005	810
2008	894

Source: NC Office of State Budget & Management

In summary, as the population continues to grow and age, and the numbers of cancer deaths as well as deaths from other diseases increase proportionately, the need for inpatient hospice services will continue to increase. As shown above, the county is unable to meet this need locally in that a large number of patients are required to leave the county for these services. With the expected increased demand, surrounding facilities will be unable to accommodate these needs. Locating an inpatient hospice facility in Wilson County will clearly help meet these current and future demands for residents of the county.

¹ National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Facts and Figures: Hospice Care in America. October 2008.

Limited Family Resources to Travel

Wilson County residents typically have less financial resources to travel long distances for hospice services. In 2000, the median household income in Wilson County was \$33,116. This was substantially less than the national median household income of \$41,994.² In the current economy and with rising unemployment in the county, there are even more constraints on a family's resources to provide care for a loved one at a distance.

Geography

Wilson County does not currently have an inpatient hospice facility. Hospice patients who require inpatient care must be referred to out-of-county facilities. The closest such facilities are more than 30 minutes away. Wayne County's Kitty Askins Center is an 8 bed unit which is a 30 minute commute. The next option for Wilson County residents is the University Hospice Center in Greenville, NC which is a 40 minute drive. Travel time for family members, many of whom are elderly and debilitated as well, to an out-of-county facility is time consuming and exhausting. Geographic access to hospice inpatient services is extremely important for patients and their families. Family members often visit daily. Travel is stressful and expensive and time consuming. Family stress is already high just simply in dealing with a terminally ill family member and the added distance for families is often overwhelming. An inpatient hospice facility located in a centralized location such as Wilson, NC would further improve geographic access to hospice services in Wilson County and is consistent with the Basic Principles of the State health planning process.

Existing Hospice Facilities

Current locations where inpatient facilities exist; specifically Greenville and Goldsboro are at almost a steady 100% occupancy rate. When hospice inpatient services are not available to the residents of Wilson County, patients then have to be admitted to the local hospital or nursing

² 2000 Census, US Census Bureau

homes. Neither hospitals nor nursing homes are appropriate settings for hospice patients in that these facilities are geared to provide acute or rehabilitative services. The cost of providing such care in a hospital setting is also expensive and much less cost effective when compared to care in a hospice facility.

Historical SHCC Need Adjustment

The State Health Coordinating Council has a history of issuing need determinations for less than the six hospice bed threshold when improvements to local access, quality, and costs are evident and SMFP provisions are upheld. The following table summarizes recent SHCC need determinations for less than six beds.

SMFP	County	Need Determination
2009	Scotland	2
2008	Cleveland	4
2008	Johnston	4
2007	Caldwell	3
2007	Alamance	2
2006	Macon	3
2006	Davidson	4

Quality, Access, & Value

The requested adjustment is consistent with the Basic Principles Governing the Development of the SMFP: Safety and Quality, Access and Value.

If this petition is approved, access will be greatly improved as a new, centrally-located hospice inpatient services will be available to patients in Wilson County. Patients will no longer have to travel out of the county for hospice inpatient services.

Approval of this petition will also enhance the quality of hospice services available to Wilson County patients. Patients will have access to hospice inpatient services structured to provide the quality end-of-life services hospice patients require. Patients will not be limited to utilizing hospital and nursing home providers which are designed to provide restorative and acute care, rather than palliative care. If Hospice of Wilson is successful in obtaining CON approval to develop the proposed inpatient hospice beds, patients will benefit from an experienced provider of hospice services.

In the current era of rising healthcare costs there is concern among many constituencies in North Carolina. Hospice patients requiring inpatient hospice care are admitted to a local hospital when local inpatient hospice services are unavailable. This often results in incurred costs far greater than those incurred if admitted to a more appropriate and less expensive hospice facility setting.

Conclusion:

In summary, Hospice of Wilson seeks an adjusted need determination to include 3 additional hospice inpatient beds in the 2010 SMFP for the following reasons:

-Last year over 220 Wilson County hospice patients requiring inpatient care were required to travel out-of-county to receive these services.

-The population in Wilson County is aging and has need for local inpatient hospice services.

-Wilson County residents typically have less access to financial resources thus limiting their ability to travel long distances for hospice care.

-Travel from Wilson County to the regional inpatient hospice facilities is disruptive, expensive, and time-consuming. Patients in need of inpatient hospice care would rather receive care in a setting that is close to home.

-Capacity of regional inpatient hospice facilities is limited and often at capacity and cannot accommodate these patients.

-Previous need determinations have been adjusted to accommodate for deficits less than six beds.

-Being able to provide care in an inpatient hospice facility, Hospice of Wilson will provide more cost effective care than at present with frequent over-utilization of the local hospital and nursing homes.