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DFS Health Planning
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JUL 16 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

July 15, 2010

Mr. Craig Smith
Chief, Division of Facility Services
Certificate of Need Section
701 Barbour Drive
Raleigh, NC 26703

RE: Letter of Support for the Inpatient Hospice Bed Special Need Petition of Lower Cape Fear Hospice for New Hanover County.

Dear Mr. Smith,

I understand that the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan has identified a deficit of 3 inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County. I am writing to express my support of Lower Cape Fear Hospice & Life Care Center's petition to establish an adjusted need determination of 6 inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice has operated their Hospice Care Center at over 101% for the past year. As a provider in New Hanover County working with them over the years, they have my complete support concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Fretwell, MD

MF:pcc