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July 16, 2010

Mr. Craig Smith  
Chief, Division of Health Service Regulation  
Certificate of Need Section  
701 Barbour Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

DFS HEALTH PLANNING  
RECEIVED

JUL 16 2010

Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

RE: Letter of Support for Inpatient Hospice Bed Adjusted Need Petition for Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter for New Hanover County

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am Executive Director of Carolina East Home Care & Hospice, Inc., which serves Duplin and surrounding counties.

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 & LifeCareCenter's petition to establish an adjusted need determination of 6 inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County.

The Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan projects that New Hanover County will only have a 3 inpatient bed deficit, three short of the required six beds to generate a need determination. Lower Cape Fear Hospice has operated their Hospice Care Center at over 101% occupancy for the past year. We have occasion to need to utilize their care center for inpatient hospice care when a patient is in New Hanover Regional Medical Center and either our care center is full or the patient is too unstable to move to our facility. Because of their occupancy rate, this cannot happen and the patient must stay in the hospital to die. Lower Cape Fear Hospice is petitioning to have the inpatient hospice bed deficit in New Hanover County increased to a 6 bed need determination for the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan.

As a provider in New Hanover County working with them over the years, they have my complete support concerning this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynn S. Hardy

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