

August 10, 2010

The Hon. William L Wainwright  
Chairman State Health Coordinating Council

DFS HEALTH PLANNING  
RECEIVED

AUG 18 2010

MEDICAL FACILITIES  
PLANNING SECTION

Mr. Gene DePorter  
Chief, Planning Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2714 Mail Service Center  
701 Barbour Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 29699-2714

RE: Letter of Support for Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County Special Need Petition for Gordon Hospice House for Six Inpatient Hospice Beds

Dear Mr. DePorter:

My name is Philip Smith and I serve as an officer for the all-volunteer Board of Directors with Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County. As a caregiver for family members under the care of this specific Hospice program and having needed the services provided by the Gordon Hospice House; and as an active board member, volunteer and someone who has worked with this hospice program for 5 years, I want to express to you the importance of this unit and the great benefit it has brought to those we serve.

We care for an increasing number of patients each year at the Gordon Hospice House. In 2007, the unit required nearly \$600,000 from philanthropy and community support to keep it afloat. The following year the residential beds were changed to General Inpatient, allowing our hospice to bill at the appropriate level of care for the acutely ill patients they serve. During the past year, the amount to subsidize the unit decreased significantly due to utilizing the beds as General Inpatient and receiving the reimbursement needed to care for acutely ill hospice patients.

Our Board and community are committed to keep this unit operational and fiscally sound. We ask that you consider our request now as we add the 6 new, much needed beds, for General Inpatient and allow our healthcare team to provide compassionate care to those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Philip J. Smith