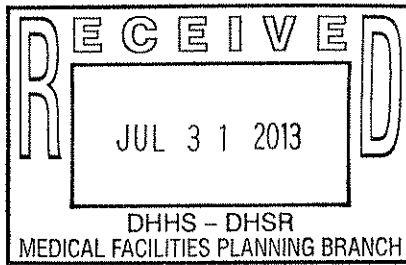




July 31, 2013



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Good Afternoon:

I am Tim Rogers, President and CEO of the Association for Home and Hospice Care of North Carolina and the South Carolina Home Care and Hospice Association. AHHC is a 41-year old trade association representing 98% of the State's Home Health Care agencies and 97% of the Hospice and Palliative Care agencies.

From 2003-2009, I also had the distinct privilege of serving on the SHCC and Long Term and Behavioral Health subcommittee, where you supported the formation of several home health and hospice taskforces to study modernizations needed to support the need methodologies with an ever changing health care and reimbursement environment all at the same time preserving the SHCC tenants, access, quality and innovation.

As a body, the SHCC also joined me in understanding and appreciating the often unique aspects to inpatient hospice care, and you are to be applauded for supporting a health growth in hospice beds that finally took North Carolina above the national average.

I would also like to say how much support and cooperation the MFP staff and DHSR continues to be to the Home Care and Hospice Association, and for that we are very appreciative.

### **Policy HH-3 – Home Health**

Today, I want you to know that AHHC supports the petition put forth by Granville Vance Health Department Home Health Agency to remove the need that Policy HH-3 has triggered for a new HHA in Granville County. GVHD is one of North Carolina's oldest and most respected home health agencies and as a two-county health district has adequately served home health patients in both Granville and Vance counties for decades. Also, an additional ~~twelve~~ <sup>16</sup> other certified home health agencies currently have the capacity to serve Granville County where there is no measure or issue of access to adequate home health care services. The only reason a so-called "need" appears is that of policy and not actual need. Policy HH-3 is a good policy and one that has had support from both existing SHCC members and the AHHC. However, in the example of Granville county, where there exists a unique two county health district along with many other nearby agencies, AHHC feels that removing the policy based need for this year will have zero negative effect to the Plan and to patient service.

The SHCC has set precedent in this matter when several years ago, you approved a similar petition and removed the need that the policy HH-3.

Thank you for supporting this petition in the same manner which you did some five years ago.

### **Hospice**

AHHC strongly supports the special needs, inpatient hospice petition put forth by Mountain Valley Hospice for Surry County. Their excellent petition and massive amount of community support speak for itself and AHHC ask you approve this petition for the betterment of the citizens of Surry County.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. "Tim" Rogers, *President & CEO*