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From: ssenegal@wakegov.com
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 10:21 AM
To: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments
Subject: Petition for Adjusted Needs for Underserved Mother's: Mother's Helpers Home Healthcare

Dear Members of the State Health Coordinating Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition submitted by Mother's Helper Home Health Care. The Nurse-Family Partnership believes that Wake County mothers and babies have adequate access to services through our current program.

The Nurse-Family Partnership is a free, voluntary evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday.

The NC Nurse Family Partnership program was initiated in 2000 through The Duke Endowment's Health Care and Child Care program areas partnering with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation, and, The North Carolina Partnership for Children and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina.

As of 2014, the program had provided Registered Nurse services to 3,629 families in the following 24 counties: Buncombe, Cherokee, Cleveland, Columbus, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Halifax, Haywood, Hertford, Jackson, Macon, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Pitt, Polk, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Swain and Wake.

We are proud to report the success of the program state-wide and share with you that as of 2014:

90% of babies were born full term and 89% were born at a healthy weight - at or above at 2500 g (5.5 lbs.)
73% of mothers had no subsequent pregnancies at program completion

The program has received much national recognition and has even been featured in newspapers across the State including the Raleigh News & Observer. For example, the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recognized Nurse-Family Partnership as an Exemplary Model Program and The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy — a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization — identified Nurse-Family Partnership as the only prenatal or early childhood program that meets its "Top Tier" evidence standard, which is used by the U.S. Congress and the executive branch to distinguish research-proven programs.

Because we have such an excellent program available in multiple counties in NC to mothers and their babies, the petition would be a duplication and unnecessary expense to the NC Medicaid Program - especially as 76% of the Nurse Family Partnership participants are already Medicaid recipients.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

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