

Presentation of Special Needs Petition for Nursing Home Bed Adjusted Need

Determination for Davie County

Proposed 2018 State Medical Facilities Plan

Raleigh (city), July 26, 2017

Introduction

Good afternoon. Thank you, council members and staff, for taking the time to be here today. My name is Gray Angell. I am the Executive Director of Bermuda Village Retirement Community. Bermuda Village is located in Davie County, though our service area extends to Forsyth County. We have a current population of approximately 270 residents; capacity is about 330 and the resident count is growing at a rate of 10 to 15 a year. Bermuda Village is one of three nursing homes in Davie County, and has been in Davie County for over 30 years. The health center, located on campus, is licensed for both nursing home and assisted living beds. When nursing home beds are full, we offer a hybrid skilled care service, using our home health care program and assisted living beds, which is not ideal for residents that need skilled nursing care.

Request

I am here to ask members of the State Health Coordinating Council to modify the *Proposed 2018 State Medical Facilities Plan (2018 SMFP)* to include a **special need for 21 nursing home beds in Davie County**. This would be a modification to Chapter 10 of the *Proposed SMFP*, specifically addressing the Davie County service area.

Reasons

We believe that this proposal is appropriate because:

1. A large proportion of nursing home beds in Davie County are located in semi-private rooms— 86 percent to be exact. Many of the semi-private rooms in the county are operating as if they were single occupancy units. The Plan's standard methodology makes no adjustment for underused facilities or inventory that is virtually unavailable because nursing home beds are in semi-private rooms and patient care requires single occupancy rooms.
2. An increasing number of residents in Davie County are leaving for skilled nursing care. According to 2016 Nursing Home License Renewal Applications, **190** Davie County residents left the county for skilled nursing home care. This accounts for **30 percent** of all Davie County residents who required this level. This number has grown approximately five percent a year over the last five years. Rehab patients quite often require single occupancy rooms; they are only one example of the force driving this proposal.
3. Bermuda Village can expand its health center to become an all single-occupancy-room nursing home. Currently, only 15 of the 36 health care facility beds are licensed for skilled nursing, but skilled care is what most of the residents who use the health center need now.
4. The nursing home beds at Bermuda Village stay close to 100 percent occupied and we are turning away requests from Bermuda Village residents and others on a regular basis.

Alternatives

- We considered several alternatives before arriving at this proposal, including maintaining the status quo, petitioning for a different number of beds, acquiring another facility, pursuing community based care or substituting hospital inpatient care, but a petition to add 21 nursing home beds to Davie County is most effective.
- You may recall that the Plan has a new Nursing Home Bed methodology. The new methodology has advantages, but one disadvantage is the fact that it does not make adjustments for facilities that have reached virtual capacity. In the status quo environment, Davie County will not have a new nursing home bed allocation for years to come, because beds are tied up in semi-private rooms in facilities that have been in the county for years.
- A better alternative is to permit Bermuda Village to apply for 21 more private room, Medicare and Medicaid certified beds; and to make its entire health center inpatient building a nursing home. It would take us from 15 to 36 beds. This is efficient, cost effective and will respond to a need in the county. There are no beds to buy and we are not interested in more than 21 beds. With 36 total beds, we can provide excellent service and operate efficiently.

Evidence of Non-Duplication

- Davie County has only three nursing homes that, together, have an insufficient supply of single occupancy nursing home beds.
- Existing facilities have not used their bed inventory to address the need. Bermuda Village represents a unique concentration of people who could fill many of the proposed 21 additional nursing home beds, although beds are available to all Davie County residents.
- With a larger facility, we can better accommodate surrounding hospitals' requirements to contract for nursing homes in "managed care bundles" that require single occupancy room use. We are willing to make the effort to meet the requirements, but the existing 15 beds will not meet all of Davie County needs. Today, there are no Davie County nursing home beds in bundled arrangements, with any hospital.
- We have received verbal and written support for our proposal from community leaders and politicians, as well as Bermuda Village residents and caregivers.

Conclusion

With the approval of this petition, fewer Davie County consumers will have to leave the county to find appropriate nursing home beds. In Bermuda Village, approval and subsequent CON approval will support less shuffling of residents and will allow us to fill the goal to permit people to "age in place" *within the county*. Approval of this petition will improve Davie County patient choice and access and accommodate state and national requirements for privacy and Infection control. This proposal is also responsive to Davie County's fast-growing elderly population and its future care needs.

I ask that you help us and approve this request. I will be submitting a formal petition in the required format later this month. Meanwhile, I will be happy to respond to any of your questions today.