

Date 7/25/17

Christopher G. Ullrich, MD
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council

Denise Michaud
Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee

Paige Bennett
Assistant Chief, Healthcare Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Re: Comment and Support for Petition from Bermuda Village for Special Need of 21 Nursing Home Beds in Davie County


Dear Chairman Ullrich, Ms. Michaud, and Ms. Bennett,

As a practicing physician serving patients in Davie County who use nursing home beds, I want to express my support for Bermuda Village's petition to add a need for 21 additional nursing care beds to the *2018 State Medical Facilities Plan* for Davie County. County facilities are virtually full; and good quality single occupancy nursing home bedrooms are in short supply in Davie County, today. For most patients, private nursing home rooms have become a virtual necessity, because of infection control and HIPAA requirements. So, when semi-private rooms have one occupant, the second bed is rarely appropriate for use. Unfortunately, most Davie County nursing home beds are in semi-private rooms. This creates a situation where "bed occupancy" is low, but there may be no available beds.

Patients and family reasonably object when the only choices for placement in private rooms are in other counties. Health and healing are affected by patient morale; and morale is better when they can easily connect with friends and family and remain in familiar surroundings.

I understand that state policy would require that the additional nursing care beds be both Medicare- and Medicaid-certified. That is good. Additionally, Bermuda Village has indicated that if the beds are added to the Plan, it would apply and build private rooms. More private beds would help residents of Bermuda Village retirement community and would increase access to the high-quality nursing home services provided by Bermuda Village for other Davie County residents. Bermuda Village offers excellent services at reasonable prices. I ask that you approve the petition. I would even support a condition that the additional beds be built as private rooms.

Sincerely,


(signature)

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