

Samaritan Colony, Inc.

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Good afternoon. My name is Constance Pearson. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and Clinical Addiction Specialist acting as the Program Planner for Samaritan Colony, Inc. I am here to speak briefly on behalf of our petition for an adjusted need determination to include 14 Chemical Dependency Treatment Beds for the Sandhills Center MCO in the *2018 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

Background

Samaritan Colony is a 12-bed, residential treatment facility for men with substance use disorders located in Richmond County, NC. We have been providing high quality, cost effective treatment to men in the Sandhills Center area for the past 42 years. We are proud to say that we have been operating at a 90% utilization rate for the past 24 months! Our treatment mode is rooted strongly in the principals of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are also Cognitive Behavioral and Relapse Prevention components. We have three (3) Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on site and the men attend two (2) Narcotics Anonymous Meeting in the outside community each week.

The reason for this proposed adjustment is that we are looking to use these 14 beds to build a residential substance use disorder treatment facility --specifically for women in either Richmond or Moore County, NC.

There are 169 Licensed Beds in Sandhills Center MCO and 143 are located in Guilford County alone. Forty of those beds are for Guilford County residents only, four are hospital detox beds; and the remaining 99 beds are at Fellowship Hall and are reserved for patients who have a major health insurance plan other than Medicare or Medicaid. The remaining 26 beds are located in Richmond and Moore Counties. We have FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital with 14 detox beds and the 12 beds at Samaritan Colony.

The request for 14 more beds is consistent with the following principals governing the development of the *North Carolina Medical Facilities Plan*:

Safety and Quality

There is growing recognition of the complex needs of women with dual diagnoses of addictions and mental health disorders. Recent research indicates that 55% to 99% of women with co-occurring disorders have experienced trauma from abuse, or physical or sexual assault and that abused women tend to engage in self-destructive behaviors.

Integrated, trauma-informed, gender specific treatment services will increase the success of their recovery.

Along with *12 Step Facilitation*, we will be using *Helping Women Recover* and *Beyond Trauma* which are both programs founded on research and clinical practice. Women who successfully complete the program will be assessed at several points in time on several scales and treatment satisfaction. The findings will indicate less substance use, less depression, and fewer trauma symptoms including anxiety and sleep disturbances.

Access Basic Principle

If these adjustments are not made, women in the Sandhills Center who have little or no income will have little or no access to residential services. Path of Hope in Davidson County contracts with Sandhills Center for a few female beds and women are usually put on a waiting list that is often six (6) weeks or longer. Many women become discouraged and never make it to treatment. R.J. Blakely in Butner, NC is the State Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center and they will only admit women if they have a medical necessity for detox which prevents most women from being admitted. Furthermore, transportation to drive them 75 to 100 miles one way is difficult to find. An alternative would be to try enrolling them in an intensive out-patient program; however, the programs in Moore and Richmond County only accept major insurance payment.

Value Basic Principle

Samaritan Colony women's treatment facility will be affordable and they will be able to work out a payment plan after their treatment is complete. The current cash fee for the men's treatment program of 28 days is only \$2500.00. We will not turn anyone away in the 9-County Sandhills Catchment area because of lack of funds.

In conclusion, Samaritan Colony, Inc. seeks an adjusted need determination for 14 residential treatment beds to be used for a residential treatment center for women. Certainly the need will continue, based on the continuing drug epidemic that we have today. With our experience, reputation, and hard work, we can save lives. ...and save families. Thank you.

May I answer any questions?