



OUTPATIENT SURGERY CENTER OF ASHEVILLE

North Carolina Division of Health Services Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

Dear State Health Coordinating Council Members and Healthcare Planning Staff:


As a resident of Buncombe County and an administrator of an ambulatory surgery center, I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments in support of the petition for one Medicare Certified Home Health Agency in Buncombe County submitted by BAYADA Home Health Care. Unlike most counties of comparable size, Buncombe County has only two existing home health offices located within the county.

Buncombe County has a much larger population than most counties in western North Carolina. The geography and adverse weather conditions can be disruptive travel and delay access to health care services. Many physicians refer patients to home health to transition from hospital care as well as to obtain post-operative treatment. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to health care providers in our region; some home health offices appear to have struggled to provide timely responses to referrals.

The unmet need for home health services in Buncombe County is probably greater than the projected deficit of 125 patients as reported in the Proposed 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan. This is because prior to the widespread availability of vaccines, many patients postponed surgery and have been reluctant to allow home health care staff into their homes. However, I expect that demand for home health services will increase as more patients seek to avoid hospitals and nursing facilities.

The BAYADA petition shows that Buncombe County has the valid need for additional home health resources to boost access, improve competition and strengthen emergency preparedness. Buncombe County has a very large senior population who would benefit from an expanded choice of home health providers. In summary, I support the approval of the BAYADA petition.

Sincerely,



Raymond D Noid Jr. RN BSN

Facility Administrator

Outpatient Surgery Center of Asheville