



North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation Healthcare Planning
Attn: State Health Coordinating Council Members and State Health Planning Staff
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

August 09, 2023

Re: Special Needs HOSPICE petition for Mecklenburg County for African American and underserved populations

Dear State Health Coordinating Council Members and State Health Planning Staff,

This letter comes in response to the special needs HOSPICE petition for Mecklenburg County for African American and underserved populations.

Iredell County borders Mecklenburg to the North and Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County is honored to serve both palliative care and hospice patients within Iredell, Mecklenburg, and surrounding communities.

We respect the argument for increased attention on diversity and underserved and marginalized communities. Health equity is central to the hospice philosophy of care and all hospice organizations are aware and deeply engaged in assisting all underserved populations increase hospice utilization. Having the proper tools and specialized care at the end of life is essential and it is part of our mission to ensure that care is available for every person in the communities we serve.

This issue is not unique to Mecklenburg County where multiple hospices are already serving these communities. This is a larger issue across the United States where most hospices have adopted focused initiatives and are tailoring their outreach efforts with the goal of building stronger relationships within our underserved communities, ultimately building trust, and finally ensuring that no community is considered underserved. Therefore, we do not support the special needs HOSPICE petition requesting one additional hospice home care agency in Mecklenburg County.

If you should require additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 704.873.4719 X 4300.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith, MBA, LSSBB
President/CEO
Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, Inc.

**Statesville Homecare
& Administration**
2347 Simonton Road
Statesville, NC 28625
704-873-4719

**S. Mitchell Mack
Hospice House**
1325 Mecklenburg Highway
 Mooresville, NC 28115
Hospice House Line 980-759-1970
Homecare Line 704-663-0051

Gordon Hospice House
2341 Simonton Road
Statesville, NC 28625
704-761-2400