

Long-Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Agency Report for Petition Regarding
J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital-Nursing Care Beds
Proposed 2012 State Medical Facilities Plan

Petitioner:

J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital
924 North Howe Street
Southport, NC 28461-3099

Request:

As stated by the petitioner: “J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital (Doshier), requests an adjustment to the nursing care bed need determinations in the *Proposed 2012 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)*. In Chapter 10, Table 10C should be revised to show a need for 14 nursing care beds in Brunswick County.”

Chapter 2 of the Plan allows petitioners each calendar year to request adjustments to need determinations. Approving the additional beds requested for Brunswick County would constitute an adjusted need determination due to unique or special attributes of this particular geographic area.

Background Information:

Need is determined on an individual county basis by calculating bed to population ratios of the number of nursing care bed patients per Age Group, as compared to the certified population per Age Group. The utilization per county is then calculated into a five-year average annual rate of change statewide utilization rate, establishing a trend line per Age Group, projected forward for 30 months, which is then applied to the projected population going forward three years, for each county.

The amount of need for each county is established in three ways. First, for a county with a projected bed deficit of 71 to 90 beds, if the average occupancy rate of the county’s facilities, excluding continuing care retirement communities (CCRC’s), is 90 percent or greater, the need determination is 90 beds. Second, for any county with a projected bed deficit of 91 or more beds, if the average occupancy rate of the county, excluding CCRC’s, is 90 percent or greater, the need determination is the amount of the deficit rounded to 10. Third, if a county’s projected bed deficit is 10 percent or more of its total projected bed need, and if the average occupancy rate of the county, excluding CCRC’s, is 90 percent or greater, the need determination is the amount of the deficit rounded to 10.

Analysis/Implications:

Brunswick County is ranked as the fourth largest county in North Carolina based on total square miles (land and water). A continued population growth pattern is evident with a 42.5 % 1990 Census increase, 43.5% 2000 Census increase and 46.9% 2010 census increase. Population density continues to be primarily located on the southern coastal and northeastern estuary areas.

The table below displays bed deficit amounts and pending Nursing Care Bed Inventory for Brunswick County:

SMFP Year	Bed Deficit	Pending Inventory – SMFP Need Placeholder or CON Pending (Construction/Licensing)	Total Pending Inventory
2007	70	70 SMFP Need + 90 CON Pending	160
2008	52	70 SMFP Need + 90 CON Pending	160
2009	51	CON Pending	160
2010	0 (+20)	CON Pending	160
2011	38	CON Pending (Includes 30 Bed CON Bed Transfer)	100
Proposed 2012	96	CON Pending (Includes 30 CON Bed Transfer)	100

The petitioner states: “Additionally, data from licensure reports indicate that a significant number of Brunswick county residents go out of county for nursing home beds; a total of 288 Brunswick county residents reside in nursing care facilities in surrounding counties (Columbus, Pender, and New Hanover). This significant emigration of patients to surrounding counties causes an unnecessary strain on Brunswick County residents, which could be mitigated by additional nursing care beds in their own county.”

Data from Nursing Home License Renewal Applications for the last three years displays an increase from approximately 209 to 287 Brunswick County residents residing in nursing care beds located in surrounding counties (Columbus, New Hanover and Pender).

Agency Recommendation:

The petitioner requests an adjusted need determination due to unique or special attributes of this particular geographic area. The Agency is in agreement with this adjusted need determination due to a pattern of continued significant population growth, geographical size of county, primary locations of population density within county limits, significant pending (*i.e.*, yet to be opened) nursing care bed inventory, chronic nursing care bed deficits and an increase in the number of residents from Brunswick County residing in out-of-county nursing care beds.

Based on these factors, the Agency recommends an adjusted need determination of fourteen nursing care beds for Brunswick County in the Proposed 2012 State Medical Facilities Plan. This need determination would be available for a competitive CON application process.