

**Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
Agency Report
Adjusted Need Petition for
Hospice Home Care Office in Hyde County
2018 State Medical Facilities Plan**

Petitioner:

Liberty Home Care VII, LLC
d/b/a Liberty Home Care Services
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Contact:

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Request:

Liberty Home Care Services (“Liberty”) requests an adjusted need determination in the *North Carolina 2018 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* for one hospice home care office in Hyde County.

Background Information:

In the 2010 SMFP, the hospice home care methodology was modified to utilize the two-year trailing average growth rate in the number of deaths served and in the percent of deaths served. No need determinations are considered for counties with three or more hospice home care offices (excludes inpatient and residential only facilities) per 100,000 population, as the data showed that counties in the State with a penetration rate of 40 percent or higher had three or fewer hospice home care offices located in the county and who reported providing services to residents of that county. The threshold for a need determination was changed to a deficit of 90 or greater deaths, which represented the penetration rate (8.5 deaths per 1,000 [statewide death rate] x 100 = 850 deaths per 100,000 x 29.5 percent of deaths served = 251 deaths served by hospice/3 hospice agencies = approximately 90). The placeholder for new hospice offices was changed to the current threshold of 90 in order to maintain consistency.

Chapter Two of the *Proposed 2018 SMFP* allows persons to petition for an adjusted need determination to allow consideration of “...unique or special attributes of a particular geographic area or institution...” if they believe that their needs are not appropriately addressed by the standard methodology. Liberty has submitted this Petition to adjust the need determination to address the geographic challenges in a county with the State’s second lowest population, Hyde County.

It should be noted that any person might submit a certificate of need (CON) application for a need determination in the Plan. The CON review could be competitive and there is no guarantee that the Petitioner would be the approved applicant.

Analysis/Implications:

The Petitioner is asking for an adjusted need determination for a hospice home care office because they believe there is a unique set of circumstances in Hyde County preventing the residents of Hyde County from readily receiving hospice home care services.

Community Home Care & Hospice was licensed and served patients during the 2015-2016 data year, as shown below in Table 1. However, updated information provided to the Agency shows they are still licensed, still have an office, but are currently serving patients from an office in Beaufort County. Therefore, service maybe be limited for Hyde County residents.

License Number	Facility County	Facility Name	Number of Admissions	Number of Days of Care	Number of Deaths
HOS4506	Washington	Amedisys	17	1,027	13
HOS3302	Hyde	Community Home Care & Hospice	11	618	11
Hyde County Totals			28	1,645	24

Source: NC Proposed 2018 SMFP

As discussed in the Petition, Hyde County has unique circumstances related to geography. It is a coastal county with dispersed townships.

License Number	Facility Name	Office Location	Driving Distance from Office (One-Way)		
			Lake Landing (Hyde County)	Fairfield (Hyde County)	Swan Quarter (Hyde County)
HOS4596	Amedisys Hospice Care	Washington	72.2 miles (1hr 33 min)	70 miles (1 hr 31 min)	56 miles (1hr 13 min)
HOS3302	Community Home Care and Hospice*	Hyde			
HOS2516	Community Home Care and Hospice	Beaufort	60.7 miles (1 hr 26 min)	59.2 miles (1 hr 14 min)	44.5 miles (1 hr 6 min)
HC0494	Dare Home Health & Hospice	Dare	53.1 miles (1 hr 7 min)	68.1 miles (1 hr 26 min)	69.7 miles (1 hr 26 min)

* Facility office is not serving patients at this time.

Source: http://maps.randomnally.com/mileage_calculator

As shown in Table 2 above, the driving distance from the closest hospice home care office located in a contiguous county to any one township in Hyde County is 44.5 miles or 1 hour and 6 minutes one way. It should also be noted that one of the larger townships, Ocracoke, is an island which can only be accessed by a one way 2-hour ferry ride.

Finally, the 2017 population estimates from the Office of State Budget and Management show that Hyde County has a population of 5,665 residents. Due to the small population, it is unlikely that it would generate a need based on the standard methodology. The State Medical Facilities Plan is developed using three basic principles, one of which is Access. The SMFP states, “The needs of rural and small communities that are distant from comprehensive urban medical facilities merit special consideration”.

Agency Recommendation:

The Petitioner requests an adjusted need determination for a hospice home care office in Hyde County in the *North Carolina 2018 SMFP*. The agency supports the State health planning process identified in the *Proposed 2018 SMFP*. The standard methodology has identified that there is no need for a new hospice home care office in Hyde County. However, a review of the county’s unique geographical features combined with its sparse population and a lack of hospice services located in the county, shows that applying the standard methodology may never trigger a need for individuals who need hospice home care services.

Given the available information and comments submitted by the August 10, 2017 deadline and in consideration of factors discussed above, the agency recommends approval of this request.