

Joseph F. Damore, FACHE, President & CEO



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By Kelli Fisk at 11:36 am, Jul 31, 2009

July 28, 2009

Dr. Thomas J. Pulliam, Chair
Long Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Coordinating Council
DHSR Medical Facilities Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

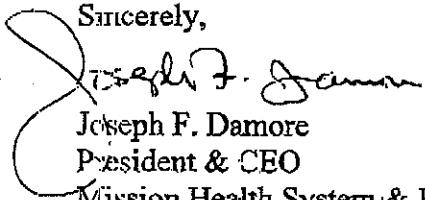
Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing this letter in support for CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care's special need petition to include five inpatient hospice beds for Buncombe County in the 2010 *State Medical Facilities Plan*. The approval of this petition will allow CarePartners Hospice to submit a Certificate of Need application for five additional inpatient hospice beds.

CarePartners Hospice already operates its inpatient beds at or near full capacity, and there is a waiting list at times. At one point this month there were five patients at Mission waiting for an open inpatient bed. Under such circumstances, there is usually no local option but to keep the patient in the acute care setting, which is more costly and less effective for the patient and family. Clearly, additional beds are needed to meet the current and growing demand for inpatient hospice beds for Buncombe County residents.

CarePartners Hospice has a positive reputation of providing exceptional end-of-life care to patients and their families at home, in nursing homes, and through the inpatient and residential program at the Solace Center. Mission Hospital has had an excellent working relationship with CarePartners Hospice since its inception nearly three decades ago. We fully support the addition of five inpatient beds to the CarePartners Hospice Solace Center. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our support.

Sincerely,


Joseph F. Damore
President & CEO
Mission Health System & Hospital

/s/