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Internal Medicine

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

DFS Health Planning
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JUL 31 2009

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION


Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing this letter in strong 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.

CarePartner Hospice already operates its inpatient beds at full capacity, and there is sometimes a waiting list. In the past year I have referred a number of patients to Hospice, and some of them had to wait for a room at the inpatient Solace Center. There is no better alternative at the end of life that to have hospice care. Their interdisciplinary team is uniquely able to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and their families. Clearly, additional beds are needed to meet the current and growing demand for inpatient hospice beds for Buncombe County residents.

CarePartners Hospice has the 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. Our practice has had an excellent working relationship with CarePartners Hospice for approximately 20 years. We fully support the addition of five inpatient beds to the CarePartners Hospice Solace Center.

Sincerely,


Joel B. Rosenberg, M.D.
JBR/klh