



Rehabilitation Hospital
Outpatient Rehabilitation
Home Health
Hospice and Palliative Care
Adult Day
Private Duty

RECEIVED

By Kelli Fisk at 11:37 am, Jul 31, 2009

July 29th, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

I strongly support CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care's request for the special needs petition for five additional inpatient hospice beds for Buncombe County, NC in the 2010 *State Medical Facilities Plan*.

The needs of the inpatient dying patient are the most demanding and challenging, and a dedicated inpatient multidisciplinary staff, involving doctors, nurses, chaplains, social workers, aides and volunteers, is the optimal support system for such care.

This level of care is the "gold standard" of intensive end-of-life care when families and/or caregivers cannot meet their loved ones' needs at home. Our facility has been operating at full capacity for some time, and, having recently moved from Macon County, I found the prospect of referring patients to Buncombe County as delayed or just unrealistic because of waiting lists.

As Medical Director of CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care, I appreciate the need for additional beds to better meet the needs of our community, as well as those surrounding, and I fully support the addition of five additional inpatient beds to the CarePartners Hospice Solace Center.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service to you and/or to this effort.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Vargas, MD
Medical Director, CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care