

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED 2011 NC STATE MEDICAL FACILITIES PLAN
July 21, 2010
1:30- 2:30pm

Carolinas College of Health Sciences
1200 Blythe Blvd.
Charlotte, NC

Thank you for coming to Charlotte for this Public Hearing. My name is Peter Brunnick; I am the President & CEO of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region. For more than thirty years, thirty two to be exact, our not-for-profit community-based hospice organization has had the privilege of serving the greater Charlotte Region.

Through personal experience and community education, each year more people have become familiar and are utilizing the benefits of hospice services. In fact, last year in Mecklenburg County, we provided nearly 10% more days of hospice care than in the prior year. Currently, each day, we are serving well over 500 hospice patients and their families in the greater Charlotte region!

On February 18th, 2008, we opened the first freestanding hospice inpatient facility in Mecklenburg County. The draft 2011 SMFP shows that the occupancy rate of our Levine & Dickson Hospice House exceeded 96% at the time the data was provided and during this year we have continued to operate our general inpatient beds at maximum capacity.

When we submitted our original petition for hospice inpatient services, we anticipated the need for additional hospice beds, but only 11 were available at the time of our application. Our performance over the past eighteen months clearly demonstrates the need for additional beds to serve our patients.

We appreciate the work of the Hospice Methodologies Task Force under the Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee of the SHCC and we support their identification of a need for additional hospice inpatient beds in Mecklenburg County. Thank You.