



HOSPICE

OF CARTERET COUNTY

A Division of Carteret General Hospital

July 5, 2010

Thomas J. Pulliam, MD
Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Health Coordinating Council
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
2714 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS HEALTH PLANNING
RECEIVED

AUG 02 2010

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Re: Petition for Adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Carteret County in the 2011 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

On behalf of Hospice of Carteret County, I am writing to support the petition submitted by Crystal Coast Hospice House to include an adjusted need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County.

Our organization strives to insure that Carteret County residents have adequate access to high quality end of life care services. However, Carteret County does not have a hospice inpatient facility. The nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in either Wilmington or Greenville, nearly 100 miles from Morehead City. Establishing a hospice inpatient facility in Carteret County will provide much needed local access to inpatient hospice services for residents of our county who must travel great distances to receive these services.

I know that cost of care is an important issue in society. Like other providers, our organization strives to be cost effective in the delivery of care. When hospice inpatient services are not available, patients are often admitted to local hospitals or nursing homes. Hospitals and nursing facilities, both of which are structured primarily to provide acute or restorative health care, may not be the optimal setting for hospice patients who have opted to forego acute, curative treatments. From my perspective, the addition of a hospice inpatient facility is a cost effective alternative.

I urge you to include a need determination for hospice inpatient beds. Carteret County would be well served with such a service located within our county.

Sincerely,

Renny T. Carr, Director

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