



First United Methodist Church

900 ARENDELL STREET
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28557

(252) 726-7102
FAX (252) 808-2812
www.firstchurchmc.com

May 12, 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:

I am writing to support Crystal Coast Hospice House's effort to petition for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County.

I have seen first hand the excellent care that hospice organizations give to terminally ill patients and their families during such a family crisis. As our culture produces smaller families with fewer children to care for terminally ill family members, and considering that many people live and work far from where their terminally ill family members live, the need for local hospice inpatient services is great.

Residents of Carteret County need local access to a hospice inpatient facility. The nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in either Wilmington or Greenville, nearly 100 miles from Morehead City. It is very important to both the patient and their family members to be together for moral and spiritual support. A hospice inpatient facility in Carteret County would give greater access for the family, their doctor, and their spiritual advisor. Those needing a hospice facility often have family members who themselves are marginal in their health; traveling out of town often is stressful and limiting for these folks.

As a pastor and spiritual caregiver, I offer my full support for approval of a need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County in the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sincerely,

Billy J. Seaton