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Received 8-15-14
MFPB

July 21, 2014

T. 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

Re: Petition for adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Burke County in the 2015 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing to support the petition submitted by Burke Hospice & Palliative Care to include an adjusted need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County.

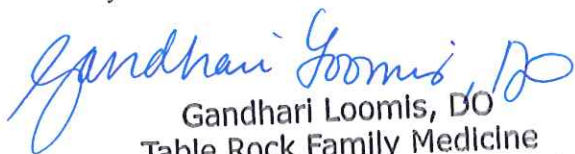
As a physician who cares for many elderly patients, as well as patients with significant life threatening conditions, I fully support development of additional hospice inpatient beds in Burke County as it will be of great benefit to local families. Family members who are trying to provide 24 hour, 7 day a week care for a terminally ill family member benefit from local assistance during this very stressful and demanding period of their lives.

Burke County has an inpatient hospice facility in Valdese, which is great. However, the hospice house is well utilized. When an inpatient bed is not available at this facility, the closest hospice inpatient facilities are located in neighboring counties, which is inconvenient for most Burke County residents. Further, most of these facilities are operating at or close to capacity, so these alternatives provide extremely limited access for Burke County residents.

Residents of Burke County and our physician community recognize the valuable benefits of hospice services. As a result, hospice services are well utilized in Burke County. The growth of hospice days of care exceeds statewide utilization. Burke County residents utilize hospice services at nearly twice the rate of all North Carolina residents.

Our county residents need additional inpatient hospice capacity. Please know that Burke Hospice has my full support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Gandhari Loomis, DO
Table Rock Family Medicine
PO Box 837, 301 Linville Street
Glen Alpine, NC 28628
Phone (828)584-2481
Fax (828)584-7874

7/22/14



Received 8-15-14
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North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE HUGH BLACKWELL
86TH DISTRICT, BURKE COUNTY
OFFICE ADDRESS: 541 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925

TELEPHONE: (919) 733-5805
FAX: (919) 754-3133
EMAIL: hugh.blackwell@ncleg.net

August 15, 2014

T. 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

Re: Petition/Adjusted Need for Burke County Hospice Inpatient Beds in in the 2015 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing in support of a petition from Burke Hospice & Palliative Care for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County. I, for example, was pleased to have been associated with the founding of our hospice. As a result, I think I have an enhanced appreciation for the critical needs met by hospice services.

Indeed, it is my information that current hospice services are well utilized by our Burke County citizens, including those of our local inpatient hospice home in Valdese. The next nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in other counties, making travel a hardship for most Burke County residents should there be insufficient beds locally. During a time of crisis, this can be especially burdensome for patients, their families and friends. Moreover, with the importance to patients of family and friends' visits, it can be particularly important that inpatient beds are conveniently located to facilitate those visits.

Thus, increasing hospice inpatient capacity in Burke County would represent a positive step to ensure that residents of our county can readily receive the benefits of those services without undue expense and inconvenience. Most especially, those additional inpatient beds would best ensure that the patients themselves, at their most critical time of need, would not be as likely to miss out on visits and support because of travel distance for their family and friends should adequate beds only be available in other counties.

As requested in the petition, I urge that you approve a need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County in the 2015 State Medical Facilities Plan.

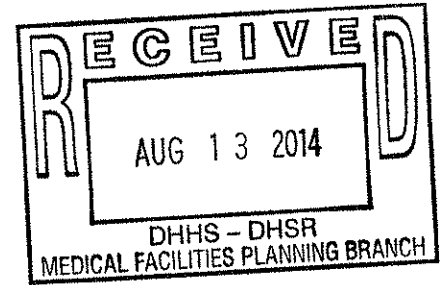
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh A. Blackwell".

Hugh A. Blackwell

HAB/dkr

R. Mark Buff



July 22, 2014

T. 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

Re: Petition for adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Burke County in the 2015 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing to support Burke Hospice & Palliative Care's effort to petition for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County.

Our community is generously blessed with extensive and capable medical and related facilities and personnel. We recognize the valuable benefits of hospice services. As a result, hospice services are well utilized in Burke County, including at our local inpatient hospice home in Valdese. The next nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in other counties, making travel a hardship for most Burke County residents. This is an immense burden for patients, families, and friends to endure during a time of crisis. Increasing hospice inpatient capacity in Burke County will improve local access to inpatient hospice services to residents of our county, many of whom must travel great distances to receive such services.

Please accept my support for approval of a need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County in the 2015 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sincerely,

252 W. Park Drive, Morganton, NC 28655

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July 21, 2014

T. J. Pulliam, MD
Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Health Coordinating Council
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
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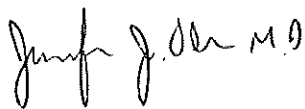
As a physician who cares for many elderly patients, as well as patients with significant life threatening conditions, I fully support development of additional hospice inpatient beds in Burke County as it will be of great benefit to local families. Family members who are trying to provide 24 hour, 7 day a week care for a terminally ill family member benefit from local assistance during this very stressful and demanding period of their lives.

Burke County has an inpatient hospice facility in Valdese, which is great. However, the hospice house is well utilized. When an inpatient bed is not available at this facility, the closest hospice inpatient facilities are located in neighboring counties, which is inconvenient for most Burke County residents. Further, most of these facilities are operating at or close to capacity, so these alternatives provide extremely limited access for Burke County residents.

Residents of Burke County and our physician community recognize the valuable benefits of hospice services. As a result, hospice services are well utilized in Burke County. The growth of hospice days of care exceeds statewide utilization. Burke County residents utilize hospice services at nearly twice the rate of all North Carolina residents.

Our county residents need additional inpatient hospice capacity. Please know that Burke Hospice has my full support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer J. Ober, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end.

July 21, 2014

T. 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

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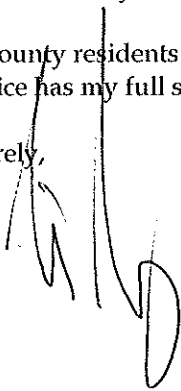
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Our county residents need additional inpatient hospice capacity. Please know that Burke Hospice has my full support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. J. Pulliam', written over a vertical line that extends from the signature down towards the bottom of the page.



Received 8-14-14

MFPB

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

SENATOR WARREN DANIEL
46TH DISTRICT

OFFICE ADDRESS: 1127 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601-2808

TELEPHONE: OFFICE: (919) 715-7823
FAX: (919) 754-3265
EMAIL: warren.daniel@ncleg.net

August 6, 2014

T. 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

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Please accept my support for approval of a need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Burke County in the 2015 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sincerely,

