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MFPB



August 14, 2014

To: Dr. T.J. Pulliam and Members of the State Health Coordinating Council

From: Carol Meyer, President & CEO, The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care

Re: Petition for Special Need Adjustment for Inpatient Hospice Beds in Caldwell County

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The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care (TCC) is the industry association exclusively serving hospice service providers in North Carolina. We submit the following comments in support of the petition for a Special Needs Adjustment for Inpatient Hospice Beds in Caldwell County from petitioner Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care (Caldwell Hospice), a TCC member since 1982.

Caldwell Hospice has been a hospice industry leader in North Carolina since 1982 when they first provided care in the state. In 1989, Caldwell Hospice opened the first free-standing hospice inpatient unit, a facility they have successfully operated for more than 25 years. In 2010, their community supported the opening of a second facility, which Caldwell Hospice continues to operate (in addition to its original inpatient facility).

Caldwell Hospice has benefited from long-tenured leadership who has also served in TCC's leadership throughout its history. Caldwell Hospice enjoys strong medical and community support as evidenced by its ability to grow and serve the community where it resides.

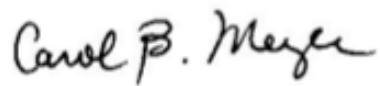
Caldwell Hospice has an excellent reputation for providing high quality care to patients. Demand for Caldwell Hospice's inpatient services has increased and has resulted in the hospice's request to add 3 inpatient beds to the need determination for Caldwell County. The Petitioner outlines an appropriate rationale for this request, including increasing demand by its community for inpatient services (occupancy of inpatient beds ranging from 94-98% during the past 3 years), the growth of its service area (to neighboring counties) and the hospice's own experience as the primary provider of hospice services to Caldwell

County residents (providing for 467 of the 485 (96 percent) total hospice deaths in Caldwell County in FY 2013).

Caldwell Hospice is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care and is Medicare-certified. I respectfully request that you give favorable consideration to Caldwell Hospice's petition for an adjusted need for three inpatient beds in Caldwell County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol B. Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Carol B. Meyer