

Received 8-15-14  
MFPB



August 14, 2014

To: Dr. T.J. Puliam 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 Richmond County

NORTH  
CAROLINA  
1230 SE  
Maynard Rd  
Suite 203  
Cary, NC 27511

PHONE  
919 459-5380

FAX  
919 459-5390

TOLL FREE  
800 662 8859

SOUTH  
CAROLINA  
1350 Browning  
Rd  
Columbia, SC  
29210

PHONE  
803 791 4220

FAX  
803 791 5664

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 Richmond County from petitioner Richmond County Hospice, Inc., a TCC member.

Richmond County Hospice has been serving a rural and low-wealth county since 1986. Richmond County Hospice converted residential beds to inpatient beds after obtaining CON approval in 2012 to provide services to a county that is underserved. Since that time, Richmond County Hospice has experienced growth in its census for both its home care and inpatient services and is committed to providing high quality care to its patients.

Like many other hospice providers across North Carolina, Richmond County Hospice's recent experience suggests that many hospice patients are being referred later in their disease cycle. More patients are being referred to hospice when they are acutely ill and are spending fewer than seven days in hospice when they die. These recent referral patterns result in the need for more intensive nursing care and pain control, the type of services better delivered in an inpatient setting.

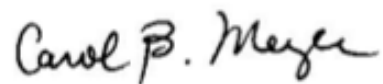
Richmond County Hospice has an excellent reputation for providing high quality care to patients in a county that has few resources. Demand for Richmond County Hospice's inpatient services has increased and has resulted in the hospice's request to add 3 inpatient beds to the need determination for Richmond County. The Petitioner outlines a logical rationale for this request, including:

- increasing demand by its community for inpatient services (Richmond County Hospice virtually has been operating at full capacity during the past year),
- having a waiting list for inpatient beds of 6 days in May 2014, and
- experience with being the primary provider of hospice services to Richmond County residents (providing care for 70 percent of the total hospice deaths in Richmond County in FY 2013).

Richmond County Hospice is Medicare-certified. I respectfully request that you give favorable consideration to Richmond County Hospice's petition for an adjusted need for three inpatient beds in Richmond 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 initial "C" and "M".

Carol B. Meyer