



Public Hearing Comments

Montgomery County ACH Bed Adjusted Need Petition

Presented by Harold Van Derveer, Administrator

Good afternoon. My name is Harold Van Derveer and I am the Administrator of Sandy Ridge Memory Care & Assisted Living. I am here to speak briefly on behalf of our petition for an adjusted need determination to include 16 ACH beds for Montgomery County in the 2017 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sandy Ridge is a Memory Care & Assisted Living community located in Montgomery County. Our facility is licensed for 104 ACH beds, and operates the largest complement of Special Care Unit beds in North Carolina. Sandy Ridge was one of the first facilities in North Carolina to implement SCU beds in an assisted living facility.

The Proposed 2017 SMFP indicates a no need determination for additional ACH beds in Montgomery County. However, we believe there are unique circumstances to justify the inclusion of 16 ACH beds for Montgomery County in the 2017 SMFP.

Sandy Ridge is a unique facility, and has a long-standing reputation for providing high-quality memory care services. This reputation is recognized by clinicians and families throughout North Carolina, well beyond Montgomery County borders. As a result, there is a great demand for ACH beds at Sandy Ridge, which are sought after by residents throughout the state. During 2015, over 51% of Sandy Ridge's resident origin consisted of individuals from counties other than Montgomery County. Thus, our facility is more than a county-based resource. Sandy Ridge is a vital memory care resource for residents throughout the Sandhills region.

ACH beds are well-utilized in Montgomery County. Montgomery County ACH beds had a 2015 occupancy rate of 92.3%, excluding one chronically underutilized facility. Sandy Ridge consistently operates at 95 to 100% occupancy. Thus, there is limited access to ACH beds in Montgomery County. Last year, 70 residents were on our wait list for an ACH bed. This does not include other facilities or hospitals inquiring about bed availability at Sandy Ridge. These 70 residents had delayed access to ACH services in Montgomery County, and could have certainly benefited from additional ACH bed capacity.

Montgomery County has a significantly older population compared to the State. The population age 65 and older makes up over 19% of the total county population, and is projected to increase to over 20% of the total county population in 2020. When compared to the 14 other counties in Health Service Area Five ~~Region~~, Montgomery County has the 3rd highest percentage of population aged 65 and older. Only Brunswick County and Moore County are higher; however, these are retirement destinations. Montgomery County is generally not a retirement destination, but rather a simple rural county with extremely limited financial resources. Limited financial resources, especially to a growing aging population, make local access to ACH beds imperative.

In conclusion, Sandy Ridge seeks an adjusted need determination for 16 ACH beds in Montgomery County. Our ACH facility is unique and well utilized. Demand for ACH beds in Montgomery County remains high, and will continue ~~to~~, based on local demographics and quality of care. Sandy Ridge has strong support from the local community leaders to add ACH beds. Montgomery County residents know the great need we have for increasing local access to these needed services. Without an adjusted need determination, the need for locally accessible ACH beds in Montgomery County will not be fully met.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to discuss this issue, which is important to our county. We hope you will support our effort to serve Montgomery County residents by approving this petition for an adjusted need determination.

Can I answer any questions.