

August 12, 2020

Christopher Ullrich, MD, Chair SHCC
North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
c/o NC Division of Health Service Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Dr. Ullrich and Members of the SHCC:

I am writing to express my strong support for the special needs petition submitted by Caldwell Hospice & Palliative Care (CHPC), requesting an adjusted need determination in the 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) for six (6) inpatient hospice beds in Watauga County.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Caldwell Memorial Hospital in neighboring Caldwell County, and as a Board member of CHPC, I am keenly aware of the need for adequate access to hospice care for residents of Ashe, Avery, and Watauga counties and the surrounding area. I am supportive of the addition of these inpatient hospice beds because they will enable CHPC to address this unmet need and to improve the quality of life for hospice patients and their families at the end of life. I believe the petition submitted by CHPC demonstrates the special need for these services, and I urge the SHCC to approve the petition.

Thank you for the ability to comment on this project, its importance, and the impact that it will have on the residents of our area.

Sincerely,



Laura Easton
President and CEO
Caldwell Memorial Hospital