
**Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
Recommendations to the NC State Health Coordinating Council
May 31, 2023**

The Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee met twice this year, on April 13th and on May 11th.

The topics reviewed and discussed included:

- current LTBH policies and methodologies;
- preliminary drafts of need projections based on data currently available.

The following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for the Proposed 2024 SMFP.

Chapter 10: Nursing Homes

- The Committee received no petitions or comments regarding nursing homes.
- Application of the methodology resulted in no need for additional nursing home beds anywhere in the state.

Chapter 11: Adult Care Homes

- The Committee received no petitions or comments regarding nursing homes.
- Application of the methodology resulted in need determinations for 150 additional adult care home beds in the following counties:
 - 130 beds in Hoke
 - 20 beds in Swain

Chapter 12: Home Health Services

- The Committee received no petitions or comments regarding home health services.
- In the current SMFP, the home health need determination methodology includes two criteria. Criterion 1 and 2 determine need for additional home health agencies or offices based solely on individual county population without consideration of a county's utilization. The number of agencies physically located in a county is irrelevant to the number of patients receiving services because patients receive services at their place of residence as opposed to at a facility like other health services. Therefore, the

Committee voted to remove these two criteria from the methodology. The *Basic Principles, Assumptions of the Methodology* and *Application of Methodology* in the narrative of this chapter have been updated to reflect this change in the Proposed 2024 SMFP. These edits do not change the methodology calculation of need determination.

- Application of the methodology resulted in a draft need determination for one additional Medicare-certified home health agencies or offices in Cleveland County.

Chapter 13: Hospice Services

- The Committee received no petitions or comments regarding hospice services.
- Normally, the State Center for Health Statistics provides the death rates that are used in the need determination methodology for hospice services. This year, the staff there have been working hard on recoding to meet new CDC reporting requirements. Due to this extra step in their process and staffing deficits, they were not able to provide Planning staff with official death rates in time for the May Committee meeting. For the May meeting, tables for Chapter 13 were based on 2020 death rates, and calculations resulted in no need determinations. More recently, staff were able to obtain 2021 number of deaths for each county and used 2021 population figures to calculate death rates for 2021. The application of the methodology still resulted in no draft need determinations for additional hospice home care offices. We expected to receive official death rates from the Center in June to include in the Proposed SMFP. Staff will update SHCC members if need determinations change once we have the official data.

Chapter 14: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)

- Staff presented draft tables showing the inventory of ICF/IID beds. There is no need determination methodology for this chapter.

Recommendation for the Long-Term and Behavioral Health Services for the Proposed 2024 SMFP

The Committee recommends that the current policies and methodologies be accepted as presented for the Long-Term and Behavioral Health Services, Chapters 10-14, for the Proposed 2024 Plan. Also, the committee recommends that the SHCC authorize staff to update narratives, tables, and need determinations as necessary.