

Granville-Vance District Home Health Agency

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Petition for Amendment and Revision to the State Medical Facilities Plan

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North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulations
Medical Facilities Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Granville-Vance Home Health Agency, a division of the Granville-Vance District Health Department, is requesting a policy amendment to allow home health agencies that operate within a multi-area District Health Department to have the option of having their office located in the county which best serves both them and their clients. The present policy does not properly address home health agencies operating in Health Districts.

Our Agency changed its physical location in January 2007 from Granville County to Vance County because of need for space, both in home health and in the health department. This has proven to be a cost-effective, efficient move for both and has not affected access to client care. Since care is provided in the home, it is not necessarily dependent upon office location and in fact, in our case we can just as easily provide services from our current location as well as actually increase services in Granville and Vance Counties because of more appropriate office space and increased efficiency. Our location is in the former Vance County Mental Health facility and was offered to us rent free. We are located 3.5 miles from the Granville County line and only 10 minutes from our former office.

We continue to maintain the same services in Granville County as we have for the last 34 years. The number of patients served in Granville County is twice the number served in Vance County and over the thirteen months since our location change the ratio has remained the same. I strongly recommend that you amend the present policy to allow District Health Department home health agencies to be considered located in each county served regardless of physical location.

We notified DFS of our plans and address change prior to our move which, of course, was no problem because we are licensed to provide services in both counties. Not until thirteen months later were we informed of the possibility that our move might precipitate a "determination of need" which could allow another home health agency to locate in Granville County. Since no change in "need" was created by our move it would seem appropriate to amend the policy which in this case does not seem to be very sensible. I appreciate your consideration of this petition.



W. Rodwell Drake, Jr., MD
Granville-Vance District Health Director