



CARTERET COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3820 Suite A Bridges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

J.T. Garrett, Ed. D., M.P.H.

June 14, 2010

Thomas J. Pulliam, MD
Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Health Coordinating Council
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
2714 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
RECEIVED

AUG 02 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Re: Petition for adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Carteret County in the 2011 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

On behalf of Carteret County Health Department, I am writing to support the petition submitted by Crystal Coast Hospice House to include an adjusted need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Carteret County.

Our community is generously blessed with extensive and capable healthcare professionals and provider organizations. Our organization works with government agencies and other provider organizations to insure that Carteret County residents have adequate access to high quality services across a wide spectrum of needs. However, specific to hospice services, Carteret County does not have a hospice inpatient facility. The nearest hospice inpatient beds are located in either Wilmington or Greenville, nearly 100 miles from Morehead City. Carteret County residents need a hospice inpatient facility to complete the continuum of care for end-of-life services.

Additionally, as Carteret County's population is growing, it is aging as well. The demands on family members, hospice, and providers will continue to become more difficult. Establishing a hospice inpatient facility in Carteret County will provide much needed local access to inpatient hospice services for residents of our county who must travel great distances to receive these services.

I urge you to include a need determination for hospice inpatient beds. Carteret County would be well served with such a service located within our county.

Sincerely,

J.T. Garrett, Ed.D., M.P.H.
Health Director