

# JONES FAMILY PRACTICE

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Gene DePorter, Assistant Chief  
Medical Facilities Planning Section  
NC Division of Health Service Regulation  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning  
RECEIVED  
AUG 02 2010  
Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

Dear Mr. DePorter:

I am writing in support of Hospice Cleveland County Special Needs Petition for the tenth Hospice inpatient bed to be made of available for a Certificate of Need application. I have been associated with Hospice Cleveland County as a member of the Cleveland County healthcare system for over 10 years and as a member of the Board of Directors of Hospice Cleveland County for over 5 years. Upon moving to Cleveland County as a family practice physician, I immediately became aware of the extraordinary services provided by Hospice Cleveland County. It is one of the strongest organizations in our county. Hospice Cleveland County receives immense support and good will from our community because they provide such an extraordinary level of service and are constantly striving to expand those services and reach more people in the county.

Hospice Cleveland County currently holds licenses for nine of the ten available inpatient beds for Cleveland County, five at Wendover Hospice House and four at Kings Mountain Hospice House. Wendover Hospice House has been an important part of the Hospice care available in Cleveland County since 1996. The inpatient bed occupancy there has exceeded 99% for the last five years and exceeded 100% in three of those years, with an average of five people on the inpatient waiting list on a typical day in 2009. Seventy-seven people on the waiting list in 2009 were never admitted to Wendover Hospice House and died elsewhere, including 34 who died in a hospital. When the State Medical Facilities Plan indicated a need for more Hospice inpatient beds in Cleveland County, Hospice Cleveland County responded to the needs substantiated by our experience with Wendover Hospice House by building the Kings Mountain Hospice House. That house opened in May 2010 with four Hospice inpatient beds. The inpatient bed occupancy there has been 92% during its first 3 months of operation. The proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan once again indicates a current need for an additional Hospice inpatient bed beyond what Hospice Cleveland County currently provides. Again our waiting list data and occupancy levels at Wendover and Kings Mountain Hospice House substantiate the need. Adding one additional Hospice inpatient bed at our Wendover Hospice House facility will create the capacity to serve over 30 additional Hospice patients, significantly expanding our ability to provide service to our community.

I strongly support Hospice Cleveland County Special Needs Petition to have the additional Hospice inpatient bed made available for a Certificate of Need application. I hear every day from my patients how important the services they and their families have received from Hospice Cleveland County are to them.

Sincerely,



Rebecca J. Love, M.D.

RJL/ero