

# Cleveland

HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

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July 27, 2010

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

Dear Mr. DePorter:

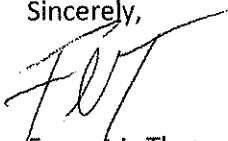
It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the Special Need Petition to the State Medical Facilities Planning Section asking that the tenth hospice inpatient bed needed in Cleveland County be made available for a Certificate of Need application. I have practiced oncology in Cleveland County for over eight years and am currently serving a second term on the Hospice Cleveland County board of directors.

Hospice Cleveland County has been offering end of life services since 1985, adding inpatient services at Wendover, the Kathleen Dover Hamrick Hospice House in 1996. Wendover inpatient bed occupancy has exceeded 99% for the last five years and exceeded 100% in three of these years. In 2009, an average of five people were on the inpatient waiting list on a typical day; 77 people on the waiting list were never admitted and died elsewhere, including 34 who died in a hospital. Kings Mountain Hospice House was built and opened in May 2010 and has four hospice inpatient beds. The inpatient bed occupancy has been 92% during its first three months of operation.

The proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan indicates a current need for one additional hospice inpatient bed in Cleveland County and waiting list data and occupancy levels at Wendover and Kings Mountain Hospice House substantiate this need. Adding one hospice inpatient bed at Wendover will create the capacity to serve over 30 additional hospice patients, significantly expanding access to care.

I strongly support Hospice Cleveland County submitting a Special Need Petition asking that the tenth hospice inpatient bed be made available for a Certificate of Need application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Forrest L. Thompson, MD

DFS Health Planning  
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Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

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