

DFS Health Planning
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JUL 16 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

July 23, 2010

Mr. Craig Smith
Chief, Division of Facility Services
Certificate of Need Section
701 Barbour Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

RE: Letter of Support for Inpatient Hospice Bed Adjusted Need Petition for Lower Cape Fear
Hospice & LifeCareCenter for New Hanover County

Dear Mr. Smith:

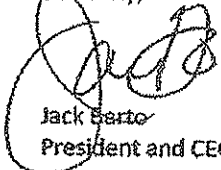
I am Jack Barto, President and CEO of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, which serves New Hanover and surrounding counties.

I understand that the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan has identified a deficit of three (3) inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County. I am writing to express my support of Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter's petition to establish an adjusted need determination of six (6) inpatient hospice beds in New Hanover County.

The Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan projects that New Hanover County will only have a three inpatient bed deficit, which are three short of the required six beds to generate a need determination. Lower Cape Fear Hospice has operated their Hospice Care Center at over 101% occupancy for the past year. Because of this, Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter must place patients in need of inpatient hospice care in contracted beds at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Lower Cape Fear Hospice is petitioning to have the inpatient hospice bed deficit in New Hanover County increased to a 6 bed need determination for the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan.

As a provider in New Hanover County working with them over the years, they have New Hanover Regional Medical Center's complete support concerning this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jack Barto
President and CEO

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