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Memorandum

To: State Health Coordinating Council
From: Tim Rogers, CEO – Association for Home and Hospice Care of North Carolina
Date: August 1, 2012
Re: SHCC Public Hearing Comments – Hospice and Home Health Chapters

Thank you for allowing me to present my oral comments at the Greensboro, Asheville and Raleigh Public Hearings. I am Tim Rogers, CEO of the Association for Home Care and Hospice Care of North Carolina and the South Carolina Home Care and Hospice Association, in Raleigh. AHHC of NC is a 40-year old non-profit trade association that serves as the advocacy voice of 98% of North Carolina's Home Health, Home Care, and Hospice and Palliative Care Agencies. Also, I was fortunate to have been a member of the SHCC from 2003-2009 so I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the health and well being of North Carolina.

I wish to offer our strong support for the following:

1. **UNC Hospice-** Adjusted Need Petition to maintain the 6 inpatient hospice beds for Chatham County. This is a so called" extra protection" petition designed to make sure we maintain the current hospice bed needs in the 2013 SMFP for Chatham County. AHHC strongly supports.
2. **Mountain Valley Hospice-** Adjusted Need Petition is for six additional hospice inpatient beds for Yadkin County. This petition is outside the Plan but as in many years past, the SHCC has recognized the unique circumstances and cost saving efforts of having more access to hospice inpatient facility beds and with over 300 letter of support from rural Yadkin County, this petition fully states the case for 6 new beds allocated for Yadkin County. AHHC strong supports.
3. **CarePartners Hospice of Asheville and Four Seasons Hospice of Hendersonville** – Adjusted Need Petition is for six new hospice inpatient beds for Buncombe County. As a unique, coordinated effort form two of North Carolina's premier hospice and palliative care programs, this petition recognizes unique circumstances and growing need for access to hospice inpatient beds in Western North Carolina. As stated previously, the SHCC has numerous precedents where you have supported the adjusted need petitions for hospice inpatient and AHHC of North Carolina strongly supports this petition.

As for Home Health – Chapter 12, AHHC is appreciative of the great working relationship with the MFP staff. AHHC supported the recent home health petition that was approved by the SHCC to increase the agency threshold to 325 patients. AHHC suggests the Long Term and Behavioral Committee and MFP staff adopt language or policy to use “rounding” in tables within Chapter 12. Currently, MFP does not use rounding in Chapter 12, but if they did, for example, instead of deficits of 324.96 or 188.25, we would have 325 and 188. Other Chapters within the SMFP do use rounding, and we encourage this to occur in Chapter 12.

Thank you.