

# Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

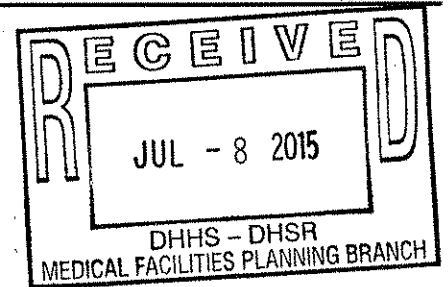


619 South Main Street / Lexington, NC 27292

Ph. 336.248.2463

July 6, 2015

T. 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



Re: Petition for adjusted need determination for Hospice Inpatient Beds in Davidson County in the 2016 SMFP

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing to support Hospice of Davidson County's effort to petition for hospice inpatient beds in Davidson County.

I have seen first hand the excellent care that hospice organizations give to terminally ill patients and their families during such a family crisis. Considering that many people live and work far from where their terminally ill family members live, the need for local hospice inpatient services is great.

Residents of Davidson County greatly value hospice services and need additional local access to hospice inpatient beds. The hospice house in Lexington is well utilized. When an inpatient bed is not available at this facility, the closest hospice inpatient facilities are located in other counties, which makes access difficult for most Davidson County residents. Furthermore, these other hospice inpatient facilities are often fully occupied as well. It is important to both the hospice patient and their family members to be together for moral and spiritual support. Additional hospice inpatient beds in Davidson County would improve access for the family, their doctor, and their spiritual advisor. Those needing a hospice facility may have family members who themselves are marginal in their health; traveling out of town often is stressful and limiting for these folks.

As a pastor and spiritual caregiver, I offer my full support for approval of a need determination for additional hospice inpatient beds in Davidson County in the 2016 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Al Gondek OSFS".

Reverend Albert J. Gondek, OSFS  
Pastor