

Bennett, Paige

From: Sherry Thomas <sherrythomas@homeandhospicecare.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 3:54 PM
To: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments
Cc: Tim Rogers; tracycolvard@homeandhospicecare.org
Subject: Petition Comments

Dear State Health Coordinating Council Members and State Health Planning Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment to the State Health Coordinating Council in reference to the petition submitted by Mother's Helper HomeHealth Care. The Association for Home & Hospice Care of NC believes that Wake County mothers and babies are adequately served by several accredited and certified home health agencies that specialize in pediatric and maternal care - such as Bayada Home Health, Pediatric Services of America - and also by the Nurse-Family Partnership of Wake County Human Services (NFP). I corresponded with the Director of the Nurse-Family Partnership, Stephannie R. Cooper Senegal, RN, MSN, FNP, in order to provide more detail about the program below. In my former employment with the Wake County Health Department, I provided high priority infant tracking visits to mothers and babies in their homes and so am aware of this great service available to Wake County residents and also throughout the State.

The Nurse-Family Partnership is a free, voluntary "evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday."

The NC Nurse Family Partnership program was initiated in 2000 through The Duke Endowment's Health Care and Child Care program areas partnering with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation, and, The North Carolina Partnership for Children and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina.

As of 2014, the program had provided Registered Nurse services to 3,629 families in the following 24 counties: Buncombe, Cherokee, Cleveland, Columbus, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Halifax, Haywood, Hertford, Jackson, Macon, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Pitt, Polk, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Swain and Wake.

According to the Wake County Nurse Family Partnership Web site, the program has had much success. http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/assets/PDF/Communities/State-profiles/NC_State_Profile.aspx

90% of babies were born full term and 89% were born at a healthy weight - at or above at 2500 g (5.5 lbs)

73% of mothers had no subsequent pregnancies at program completion

76% of the participants are Medicaid recipients as of 2014

The program has received much national recognition and has even been featured in newspapers across the State including the Raleigh News & Observer. For example, the *Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention* (OJJDP) recognized Nurse-Family Partnership as an *Exemplary Model Program* and *The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy*, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, identified Nurse-Family Partnership as "the only prenatal or early childhood program that meets its "ToTier" evidence standard, which is used by the U.S. Congress and the executive branch to distinguish research-proven programs."

Because we have such an excellent, evidenced based program available in multiple counties in NC, AHHC believes the petition would be a duplication and unnecessary expense to the NC Medicaid Program especially as 76% of the Nurse Family Partnership participants are already Medicaid recipients.

Thank you for your consideration.

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