



August 8, 2017

State Health Coordinating Council
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

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 for an adjusted need determination for a Hospice Home Care Office in Hyde County which was submitted by Liberty Home Care. The Association for Home & Hospice Care of NC (AHHC) fully supports this petition for the following reasons:

- There is no licensed hospice home care office physically located in Hyde County.
- Hyde County is not easily accessible which creates extensive drive times for hospice agencies trying to serve the county from other locations.
- Liberty Home Care currently has the only licensed home care/home health agency physically located in Hyde County.
- Hyde County's population of 65 years of age and older is going to substantially increase by 66% according to projections by the next census.
- Hyde County and its unique population will never meet the current SMFP threshold.
- There is considerable community support for a hospice home care office physically located in Hyde County.
- AHHC's overall opinion is Hyde County could be well served by a hospice physically based in this county.

In summary, AHHC agrees with Liberty Home Care and fully supports their petition for an adjusted need determination for one hospice home care office in Hyde County. There is only one SNF in the county and we believe that the economies derived from offering home health, hospice and SNF services in a very rural county such as Hyde would be best to serve the residents of the county in a manner that would provide the maximum economies of scale to achieve long term viability and serve the residents of the county directly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Rogers
President & CEO