



# Atrium Health

August 9, 2021

NC State Health Coordinating Council  
DHSR

Dear Council Members,

I am writing you today regarding a very important petition that is being filed by PruittHealth – Town Center this summer. Their organization has recognized that the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan no longer has the 36 beds which were previously allocated to Cabarrus County in the 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan. As a physician in Harrisburg (Cabarrus County), this removal of skilled nursing beds in the current plan is concerning as our population is growing at an astounding rate and more beds are needed to effectively care for the patients in this market. As we continue to grow in population, the beds will become even more needed in future years.

PruittHealth – Town Center is planning to apply for the 36 beds, should your Council approve them for the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan, through the Certificate of Need process in the spring of 2022. They have assured me that their intention is to construct a new wing onto PruittHealth – Town Center such that all 36 of the beds will be private beds. This undertaking is extremely needed by the residents of Cabarrus County as there are less than 100 private skilled beds currently within our county. Making the need for more private beds all the more apparent is the COVID-19 virus and the need to isolate patients from others to limit exposure. Finally, patients prefer private rooms as they afford patience with privacy and promote better health care outcomes.

Thank you for your time and please consider approving the petition at hand.

Sincerely,

Victor Ha, M.D.  
Atrium Health  
CFM Harrisburg



August 3, 2021

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
809 Ruggles Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Council Members,

My name is Natalie Hartsell and I am a Registered Nurse for Bayada Home Health which serves the entirety of Cabarrus County. Our home health agency is one of the largest in this area and we routinely admit patients from all skilled nursing facilities in this market. In that respect, I am writing you today to convey my full support for PruittHealth – Town Center’s petition to add 36 skilled nursing beds to the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan. I feel that more beds are needed, and especially at PruittHealth – Town Center where patients have routinely had to be placed on a wait list for admission.

After these beds are added to the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan, it is my understanding that PruittHealth – Town Center will apply for these beds through the Certificate of Need process and will add these beds as a 100% private bed wing to that facility. I cannot stress enough the importance of additional private beds in this market as there are very few as it currently stands. Therefore, I believe that their plan to construct all of these beds as private beds makes this initiative even more worthwhile. Finally, as you are likely aware, Cabarrus County has increased in population substantially over the past ten years and that trend is expected to continue. As a result, more beds will be needed now.

Thank you for the ability to share my perspective on the need for more skilled nursing beds in Cabarrus County and I hope that you see the merit in the PruittHealth – Town Center petition.

*Natalie S. Hartsell RN*

Natalie Hartsell, RN  
Bayada Home Health



August 3, 2021

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
Department of Health Services Regulation

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Keri Wass and I am the Owner and President of Caring Transitions, an organization that helps seniors to adjust to their new lifestyle as they transition to new care setting. In that respect, I've become very familiar with the needs of seniors in the Charlotte metro area, including Cabarrus County, and was happy to see that 36 new skilled nursing beds had been added to the 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan.

However, I was recently made aware that those 36 beds were withdrawn from the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan, largely because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on utilization in Cabarrus County. The North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council should recognize that the population in Cabarrus County is growing and that these beds are important to the overall treatment of patients in that market.

Furthermore, because PruittHealth – Town Center plans to apply for these beds through the Certificate of Need process and add all of those beds as private beds to their facility if they are awarded, it makes all the more sense to approve their petition and to add these beds back to the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan.

I hope that your Council fully understands the gravity of this need, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for more health care resources, not less.

Sincerely,

Keri Wass  
Owner/President  
Caring Transitions of Lake Norman

July 29, 2021

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
North Carolina DHR  
809 Ruggles Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Members of the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council:

My name is Robert Barneabei and I am a Family Practice Physician who practices in the Mecklenburg and Cabarrus County service areas. In my position, I have become very familiar with skilled nursing facilities in these two markets and the availability of resources, including private beds. In that respect, I am writing you today to approve PruittHealth – Town Center’s petition to add 36 beds to the need pool in 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan for Cabarrus County. It is my understanding that if these beds are placed into the plan, that PruittHealth – Town Center will submit a CON application to add these beds, **all as private beds**, to its center.

It is my firm belief that this initiative will ultimately promote the overall wellbeing of residents in Cabarrus County as private rooms, as opposed to semi-private rooms or ward rooms, have often been linked to a higher quality of care provided and greater overall patient satisfaction. They promote enhanced care related to the treatment and prevention of viruses and diseases such as COVID-19 by providing a means to keep patients separated, thereby mitigating the risk of spread. Holistically, private rooms afford patients privacy and their own space to receive treatment, relax, and meet with friends and family, offering more in terms of privacy, autonomy and dignity. Such has been my experience as I have seen firsthand that skilled nursing facilities that offer more private room accommodations to their residents, routinely perform better in key industry metrics including the CMS 5 Star Rating and are recognized more frequently in renowned publications such as U.S. News & World Report’s annual listing of the “Best Nursing Homes”.

Apart from the need for more private beds, Cabarrus County is growing at an astounding rate, now topping more than 220,000 residents. These beds are needed now, more than ever, and I implore you approve the PruittHealth – Town Center petition.

Thank you,



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Robert Barneabei, MD  
Novant Health



August 2, 2021

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
DHSR

Dear Members of the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council,

My name is Susan Vittori and I am the Administrator for Elmcroft of Harrisburg, an assisted living facility located in Cabarrus County. I was recently made aware of PruittHealth – Town Center's petition to add 36 skilled nursing beds to the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan and I agree with this initiative as 36 skilled nursing beds had already been allocated for Cabarrus County as part of the 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan. If it had not been for the COVID-19 pandemic, these skilled nursing beds would have been awarded already to a skilled nursing provider in the county.

The need for 36 additional skilled nursing beds in Cabarrus County is needed now especially as the COVID-19 pandemic plagues our community. Patients are routinely seeking private bed accommodations to limit exposure to the virus and it is my understanding that PruittHealth – Town Center will apply to add all of these beds as private beds. Furthermore, it is well known that PruittHealth – Town Center is often at full capacity so a facility like this one, that patients clearly prefer having the ability to add more beds, is of the utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Susan Vittori  
Administrator  
Elmcroft of Harrisburg