



August 4, 2021

North Carolina Division of Health Services Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

Dear Healthcare Planning Staff and State Health Coordinating Council Members:

I am writing to express support for the petition that has been submitted by BAYADA Home Health Care for an adjusted need determination for a Medicare-certified home health office in Buncombe County. As the Director of the BAYADA home care office in Asheville, I confirm that Buncombe County has an exceptionally large senior population who would benefit from an expanded choice of home health providers.

Our office provides non-medical assistance with activities of daily living for adults and seniors when a health issue has made it difficult to manage everyday tasks on their own. We also provide personal care services for adults in Buncombe County through a federal grant-funded program that is facilitated by the Council on Aging. We receive two to three calls per week with requests for skilled home health services that would require a Medicare-certified home health agency.

The demand for home health services in Buncombe County is expected to outpace other counties of similar size due to a higher percentage of seniors. The COVID-19 pandemic is quite challenging to health care providers in western North Carolina. Along with this ongoing challenge, the mountainous terrain and adverse weather conditions can be disruptive to travel and access to health care services. The BAYADA petition shows that Buncombe County has the need for additional home health resources to boost access, provide continuity of care, and strengthen emergency preparedness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Stuart", written over a horizontal line.

Craig Stuart
Director, BAYADA Home Health Care
1200 Ridgely Blvd, Asheville, NC 28806