



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

91 HOSPITAL DRIVE, TOWANDA, PA 18848 • 570-265-2191

*Your Independent Not-For-Profit Community Hospital*

February 28, 2014

Gary Alexander  
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
Office of Long-Term Living  
Bureau of Finance  
Forum Place, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
555 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1919  
ATTN: Participation Review Unit



Re: JD13001 Memorial Hospital Bed Request

Dear Mr. Alexander:

The Skilled Nursing Unit of Memorial Hospital reviewed the public comment submitted from both the Bradford County Commissioner's and the Pennsylvania Association of County Affiliated Homes (PACAH), in response to our request for 12 additional beds.

We are a 68 bed facility who has consistently maintained an average daily census of 66-67 and an occupancy rate of 98%-100%. The facility receives multiple calls daily from hospital discharge planners, Area Agency on Aging, state representatives, and the public inquiring about bed availability within our facility. The facility currently maintains a waiting list for potential admissions to our facility.

It is the opinion of the Skilled Nursing Unit of Memorial Hospital that the addition of 12 beds would not negatively impact the Department's goal to rebalance the Commonwealth's publically funded long-term living system to create a fuller array of service options for MA recipients.

As supporting evidence please refer to Attachment B-Bill Farley-Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties Area Agency on Aging and Attachment K -Tina Pickett-House Representative of the 110<sup>th</sup> Legislative District whom supports the request for an additional 12 nursing home beds.

Bill Farley the Executive Director for Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties Area Agency on Aging feels they have been successful in local rebalancing efforts, operating a very successful Aging Waiver program since 1997, but at the same time lack the population capacity to support PACE/LIFE program. Mr. Farley goes on to state that he is a strong advocate for home and community based service options for individuals needing long term living services but at the same time with the

loss of Ashton Health Care and our population demographics the additional 12 beds will complement the long term living continuum in our area.

Mr. Farley also stated that as of last week every long term care bed in Bradford County had been occupied and they were unable to place a waiver resident at that time.

Attachment K-Tina Pickett-House of Representative of the 110<sup>th</sup> Legislative District supports the Skilled Nursing Unit of Memorial Hospital in taking the initiative to apply for an additional 12 beds.

In addition to this Memorial Hospital recently was successful in January 2014 of opening an additional 20 bed unit to their existing Personal Care Home. As of this date the additional 20 beds have already been either filled or spoken for.

There is a strong need in our community to support the addition of 12 beds to the Skilled Nursing Unit and enhance the opportunities for our seniors. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Memorial Hospital and myself we respectfully ask the Department to approve the addition of 12 beds for the Skilled Nursing Unit.

Sincerely,

  
Gary A. Baker  
CEO

Cc: John L. Schoonover III  
Chairman of Board of Directors  
Memorial Hospital