



Carolinan HealthCare System

Board of Commissioners
and Board of Advisors

June 15, 2011

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Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Harry L. Jones, Sr., County Manager
County Manager's Office
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street, 11th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your most recent letter dated June 15. We recognize our obligation to this community and take it very seriously. As you well know, we are committed to continuing our discussions about how to resolve our current differences concerning our longstanding contractual relationship, and the impact on the County budget, and will work with you, your staff, and the Board to do so.

However, your offer appears to address your budget problem as the Mecklenburg County Manager and once again conditions approval of the additional psychiatric beds to lessening your deficit funding obligations under the contract. The County's continued linking of county budget issues and the needs of our community for access to mental health services reveals the true conflict you have as both county manager and LME.

As the Local Management Entity (LME), certainly you realize that neither of your proposed solutions addresses the real issue of adding capacity to inpatient behavioral health needs and thus we will not be able to accept either option you have offered. This community is at a critical point in its need for beds. We will continue to seek approval from any and all bodies necessary to fulfill our mission in this community to provide essential healthcare services, including behavioral health, to its citizens.

CHS is also committed to finding a mutually acceptable solution that is in the best interest of all parties, especially the citizens we serve.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Tarwater
Chief Executive Officer

cc: James E. S. Hynes
Keith Smith
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
Marvin Bethune
Michelle Lancaster