Social Issues in Medicine

Participating schools, community agencies and health-related sites

Below is a brief description of a number of agencies which may serve as field sites for the service learning experience in the Social Issues in Medicine course. Not all agencies take students every year. Placement at an agency will depend on availability of supervision at the time of assignment as well as the number of students that can be accommodated during a particular semester.

AIDS Services Group (ASG) –The AIDS/HIV Services Group provides community education, case management and emotional and practical support to individuals affected by AIDS / HIV, as well as their families and friends. ASG serves as the Virginia Department of Health's lead agent for Northwest Virginia, administering prevention education programs and funds for other AIDS organizations in a 12,000 square mile area. Services include case management to meet needs in the areas of medical care, social services, emotional support, financial assistance, legal advice and practical support; support and referral services; HIV education, community fairs and prevention education programs that reach out to youth, African Americans, Latinos, men who have sex with men and the general public; and activities and events.

http://www.aidsservices.org/

Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail – Reentry Program –
The Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail's Reentry Program started in 2005 to provide reentry transition services and support to offenders. The primary focus of the program is to connect offenders with resources and services that will provide for a smoother transition back into the community. As part of the program inmates participate in classes that emphasize cognitive behavioral modification, problem solving, the development of life skills and offerings on healthy living styles and healthy/appropriate sexuality choices in today's society.

The Reentry Program collaborates with a wide variety of community service agencies. These partnering service members, and the pertinent information that they offer, provide tools to inmates that increase their opportunity for success in today's society. The ultimate result is providing offenders the resources to become responsible and productive members of our society.

http://www.albemarle.org/department.asp?department=jail

Albemarle County Police Department – Students will work with the local county police to become familiar with some of the programs and operations of the department. Experiences may include riding along officers in a patrol car, observing detectives working on crime cases and working with the Victim-Witness program coordinator.

http://www.albemarle.org/department.asp?section_id=&department=police

Albemarle County Schools – Students will be assigned to the ESOL Program where they will assist teachers and counselors who work with children of migrant families and other non-native English speaking school children. Activities include tutoring and mentoring children and outreach to families.

Alzheimer's Association – Central and Western Virginia Chapter – Provides education and community based services to individuals affected by Alzheimer's Disease, as well as their caregivers and families. Services include education, a toll-free HelpLine, support

groups and care consultation, Safe Return and Respite Care scholarships. Students work with staff to provide outreach, education and supportive services in the community.

http://www.alzcwva.org/

ARC of the Piedmont – Through developmental assessments and a variety of interventions, adult activity centers, community living programs, advocacy, education, and other services, The Arc of the Piedmont serves infants, children and adults with, or at risk of, intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their families. In the city of Charlottesville and the surrounding counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson, The Arc of the Piedmont provides service, advocacy and education to families, infants, children and adults with a wide range of support needs due to intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.

http://www.thearcofthepiedmont.org/The_Arc_of_the_Piedmont/Home.html

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge – Affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the local agency is an independent, non-profit that matches caring adult volunteers with disadvantaged and at-risk children in need of mentoring and support. Students assist the staff with recruitment, training, and educational outreach, getting to know the local community and some of the social challenges faced by its youngsters.

http://www.bbbsocbr.org/charlottesville-office/

Boys & Girls Club of Charlottesville/Albemarle County – Students assigned to the Boys & Girls Club of Charlottesville/Albemarle work with school-aged youngsters, ages 6-18, at the Cherry Avenue site or the Southwood Trailer Park site. While open to all children, The Boys & Girls Club of Charlottesville/Albemarle County strives to serve youth from disadvantaged circumstances. In addition to tutoring children and assisting them with homework, medical students may work with the staff to implement the Club's core program, including the development of Health and Life Skills; Education and Career Development; Character and Leadership Development; Sports, Fitness and Recreation; and the Arts. These programs entail special curricula that medical students implement under the guidance and direction of Boys & Girls Club staff. In their work with Club youngsters, medical students are encouraged to develop one-on-one relations with individual children as well as participate in group activities.

http://www.bgclubcville.org/main_sublinks.asp?id=3&sid=48

Charlottesville Adult Learning Center – The Adult Learning Center is a division of the Charlottesville City Public School system. It serves adults, aged 18 and older, who wish to improve their basic academic skills to prepare for the GED test, and/or to learn/improve their English in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/programs/adult_education/index.html

Charlottesville Free Clinic – The Charlottesville Free Clinic serves the working uninsured, i.e. working people who do not have any health insurance and do not qualify for free care at local hospitals. Services include general internal medicine, women's health (excluding prenatal care), pediatrics, referrals to specialists, patient education, prescription medications, limited mental health services, limited dental services, and referrals to social services and financial resources.

http://www.cvillefreeclinic.org/p-serv.htm

Charlottesville High School – CHS is the only public high school in the City of Charlottesville. The school has a faculty of 90 and a student population of about 1200. With the recent influx of immigrants and refugees to Charlottesville through the efforts of the International Rescue Committee, the school system has had to make adaptations to meet the needs of youngsters in these families. Medical students tutor at-risk high school students and assist in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

Children Youth & Family Services – CYFS is a local, non-profit agency that serves at-risk children and families in the Charlottesville region. Through its counseling, outreach and education activities, CYFS addresses issues of poverty, abuse and neglect. It runs programs related to parenting, early learning and pre-literacy skills, and child-care quality, and also hosts a program for runaway teens. Students support staff in outreach and education settings that address the concerns of at-risk families.

http://www.cyfs.org/about.php

Community Attention Teens Give Program - Community Attention (CA) provides emergency and long-term residential care, outreach and community service programs for seriously "at risk" children and families. Medical students tutor and mentor troubled adolescents from impoverished homes, the majority of whom are involved with the juvenile justice system. Although primarily serving children ages 8 to 18 involved with the juvenile justice system, CA is a community resource for any troubled child.

http://www.charlottesville.org/default.asp?pageid=44F8B801-376C-4579-87C7-903961DE526D

Greenbrier Elementary School – With about 280 pupils in grades K – 4, Greenbrier is one of 6 elementary schools in the City of Charlottesville. To assist the approximately 40% of its students who speak English as a second language, Greenbrier initiated an after school program, the Hearthwood Learning Center, at a local housing project. Medical students assist staff in tutoring and mentoring Greenbrier children at this site.

http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/schools/greenbrier/about.html

Habitat for Humanity – Since 1991, the local Habitat for Humanity agency has partnered with 110 low income families to help them achieve home ownership. Students will work with the agency's volunteer and family services managers to assist families with the application process, and adjustment to home ownership and community living.

http://cvillehabitat.org/

Hope Community Center - HOPE Community Center serves a low income neighborhood adjacent to the University of Virginia. Started by a local church, the center serves neighborhood residents and others regardless of religious preference. Among the services housed at the center are after school and summer programs for children, ESL classes and acculturation assistance to immigrants and refugees, GED and adult education classes, computer training, financial counseling, assistance to homeless individuals and gym activities.

http://www.hopecommunitycenter.org/main.html

Horses as Healers (HAH) - Horses As Healers is a therapeutic program that utilizes horses (hippotherapy) to treat children with physical, emotional and behavioral challenges. Specially trained therapists design treatment programs in which the client is positioned on

the horse to benefit from the horse's natural movements. In hippotherapy, the horse influences the client rather than the client controlling the horse. This strategy is used as part of an integrated treatment program to achieve functional outcomes. Volunteers assist the therapist in guiding the horse and working with individual children.

www.horsesashealers.org

Hospice of the Piedmont – As an approach to providing end-of-life care that focuses on the quality, not quantity, of an individual's final days, Hospice of the Piedmont offers specialized end-of-life care, involving not only medical care for patients, but emotional and spiritual support for both patient and family. Hospice of the Piedmont's program involves a team-oriented approach that includes expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Services are extended to the patient's loved ones, as well, ensuring that families receive the support they need.

http://www.hopva.org/

Legacy Hospice - Legacy provides a team-based approach to caring for people with a life limiting illness as well as support for their loved ones. The goal of hospice care is to maximize quality of life, so individuals can enjoy time with those who mean the most to them. Staff are experts at managing pain & symptoms of life limiting illnesses and provide services through an experienced team of physicians, registered nurses, certified nurse aides, medical social workers, counselors, and trained volunteers who are available to help patients and their families manage.

http://www.legacy-hospice.com/company/co-welcome.php

Jefferson Area Board on Aging (JABA)– The Jefferson Area Board for Aging is a non-profit Area Agency on Aging that serves the elderly of Central Virginia as well as their families. JABA provides the care, planning and services essential for older persons to remain in their homes and stay active and productive. Among the services JABA provides are senior centers, housing, case management, and advocacy. JABA operates an adult day healthcare center for impaired adults of all ages where they receive therapeutic care including medical management, meals, recreation and socialization. At their community-based clinic, Westhaven Nursing Clinic, JABA serves an intergenerational population to support their health care needs.

http://www.jabacares.org/

Jefferson Area CHIP – This agency is dedicated to improving the health of children from low income families, from birth through age six. They partner with the families to provide education and support in the home, case management, coordination of community resources, and help with using medical and social resources.

http://www.jachip.org/index.htm

Johnson Elementary School – With about 260 students and 35% of them coming from families where English is spoken as a second language, Johnson Elementary School is one of 6 elementary schools in the City of Charlottesville. Medical students assist the City social worker in working with preschool youngsters and children from at-risk families.

http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/schools/johnson/index.aspx

Legal Aid Justice Center CHAP- The **Legal Aid Justice Center** offers civil legal services to low-income families throughout Central Virginia and to low wage immigrant workers statewide, while also engaging in systematic legal advocacy for all low-income Virginians. Some of the programs in which students may participate are the Civil Advocacy Program, the Immigrant Advocacy Program, the Elder Law Initiative and the Virginia Institutionalized Persons Program. The **Child Health Advocacy Program (CHAP)** is a holistic medical legal collaboration of the University of Virginia Children's Hospital, the University of Virginia School of Law, and the Legal Aid Justice Center. CHAP is designed to improve the health and welfare of families with children who receive their health care at the University of Virginia's Children's Hospital.

http://www.justice4all.org/

Love In The Name of Christ (Love, INC) – Love INC is a faith-based Christian social service ministry whose mission is to partner with area Christian churches to mobilize their members to serve the poor. Through the volunteers recruited from associated churches, Love, INC serves individuals who need food, clothing, furniture, transportation, tutoring/mentoring, budgeting assistance, counseling and family help. They also make referrals to community social service professionals on behalf of those in need.

Madison House Big Sib Program - Madison House serves as the student volunteer center at the University of Virginia and organizes service programs to address the needs of the community. One of its many programs is the Big Sibling program which seeks to develop long term, one-to-one relationships of friendship and trust between the mentor and a disadvantaged child. Big Siblings serve primarily as a friend and role model to a young child from Charlottesville or Albemarle County. The program demands a great deal of responsibility, independence, and initiative from the student volunteer.

Being a Big Sibling requires a year- long commitment (fall & spring semesters). Big Siblings go through an orientation and then are expected to meet every week with their Little Sibling for 2 to 3 hours, but the day and time can vary. Children in the program are referred by the guidance counselors in the area school system. The age range of the children is 5 to 12 years old.

http://scs.student.virginia.edu/~madison/about/index.html

Midway Manor - **L**ocated at 100 Ridge Street near the Downtown Mall, Midway Manor offers independent, subsidized housing units for low income elderly and disabled individuals. Within the building is a nursing clinic associated with UVA's University Medical Associates practice. Students placed at this facility will work with a nurse clinician to maintain the health of residents in this community.

On Our Own – A local, non-profit, consumer-run mental health program, On Our Own provides peer support, self-help, advocacy, education, information and referral services for individuals who acknowledge having significant problems in their lives due to mental illness. Based on the recovery model, the staff and members of On Our Own reach out to one another by offering peer support, information, acceptance, individual and group activities, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

http://www.onourowncville.org/

PACEM (People And Congregations Engaged in Ministry) - PACEM is an interfaith collaboration of congregations (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian and more) in Charlottesville that helps people find shelter at night, especially during the cold winter months. Through PACEM, several local churches take turns hosting men and women who have nowhere else to sleep at night. Meals are included, and some churches will provide

access to showers and laundry. Emergency lodging and individual support is also available for homeless families on a case-by case basis.

http://www.pacemshelter.org/

The Piedmont House is a halfway house for nonviolent male felons providing shelter, haven, food, other support services and commonsense counseling in a ninety-day program with an emphasis on finding and maintaining employment. Piedmont House is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization operating under contract with the Virginia Department of Corrections Community Residential Program.

Piedmont House is staffed 24-hours a day and operates in close coordination with probation and parole officers and prison counselors from throughout the state. Many of the enrollees, referred to as residents, in Piedmont House come from throughout the state. Piedmont House has a detailed screening policy and not all applicants are accepted into the program.

Residents are required to conduct themselves in a civil manner on and off grounds, find and maintain employment, turn in and save all funds in a Resident Savings Account provided for them, begin paying court-ordered fines and restitution, make modest compensation payments to the Department of Corrections and Piedmont House and provide twenty hours of community service in addition to routine household chores. The illegal use of drugs and any use of alcohol are strictly forbidden and residents must submit to on-demand drug and alcohol testing by staff.

http://www.piedmonthouse.org/

Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge - Located in Charlottesville, the local center of Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge provides professional, affordable reproductive health care and sexual health information. Among the services provided are: gynecological examinations, birth control, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and counseling, abortion services, adoption services, pre-natal care, testing and treatment for HIV, STI's and other infections, midlife care, and other related services. The cost of care is income-based and no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge, Inc. has four centers in the western half of Virginia with its headquarters in Roanoke.

http://www.ppblueridge.org/

Region Ten Community Services Board or "Region Ten" – Region Ten is an agency of local government that provides mental health, intellectual disability, crisis intervention and substance use services for children, adults and families in the City of Charlottesville and the surrounding counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson. It also serves as the base for the local Virginia Wounded Warriors Program for area military veterans. With nearly 600 employees serving over 5500 clients, the agency works in partnership with the State Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services. As a broad based agency, Region Ten offers a multiplicity of programs serving different age and client groups. Among the services provided are emergency and crisis intervention, outpatient therapy including individual, family and group psychotherapy as well as various support groups, case management services, rehabilitation, independent living and transitional housing, clubhouse and day programs, family education groups, etc.

http://www.regionten.org/

Salvation Army – The Salvation Army is a faith-based, Christian, non-profit community agency that serves all residents, regardless of religion, in the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson. The primary programs are emergency social services, emergency shelter, transitional housing program, soup kitchen, preschool and after-school childcare, disaster services, and a thrift store.

http://avenue.org/sarmy/index.htm

The Senior Center, Inc. – The Senior Center is a non-profit, non-residential facility that serves the well elderly, ages 50 and over, in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. Through a host of programs that include health and fitness activities, lifelong learning, recreation, arts, travel and community service, the Center strives to involve, enrich and empower seniors in the community.

http://www.seniorcenterinc.org/

Shelter for Help in Emergency SHE – The Shelter offers a variety of services designed to assist and empower victims of domestic violence and to create a community of support. Among the services provided by SHE are: shelter – emergency, temporary housing to victims of domestic violence; 24-hour hotline; counseling and support groups; case management; children's programs; legal advocacy; transitional housing; community education; and services for the Spanish-speaking community.

http://www.shelterforhelpinemergency.org/Shelter_Services.html

The Crossings - The Crossings at Fourth and Preston, sixty studio apartments with support services, is a mixed-income community with a blend of units for homeless and low-income clients in the Charlottesville area. Thirty units are designated for homeless clients and thirty units are available to individuals earning 50% or less of the area median income.

Support services are available to help residents stabilize and improve their health, incomes, and housing. With support from the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, The Crossings is a regional solution to homelessness.

http://www.virginiasupportivehousing.org/residences/the-crossings.php

University Of Virginia Departments & Clinics

UVA Cancer Center – Among the many facets of the Cancer Center is its emphasis on health education and outreach to the community and collaboration with civic groups, faith communities, schools and others to promote healthy life styles and cancer prevention.

UVA Children's Fitness Clinic – The Children's Fitness Clinic addresses childhood obesity. Medical students are involved with the implementation of the Growing Up Healthy curriculum in area public schools. This 5-session curriculum engages elementary aged youngsters in healthy eating and fitness activities to minimize the risks of childhood obesity.

UVA Healthy Appalachia Institute - HAI is a collaboration between critical thinkers, scholars, system planners and leaders at UVA College at Wise, the University of Virginia, the Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium, the Southwest Virginia Health Authority and key partners in government, education, business and healthcare. With support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, this coalition seeks

to provide policy makers, healthcare systems, educators, the business community and the region's citizens the necessary tools, resources, ideas and strategies to foster a healthier population.

The goals of the Institute are to develop a common understanding of the health status of the region, to craft and implement a single, integrated strategic health plan and to operate an institute to conceive initiatives that ensure a healthier future for the residents of far Southwest Virginia and Central Appalachia. HAI is unique among university-based Appalachian programs in that it seeks to transform the region into a leading model for health for rural communities throughout the world.

The Healthy Appalachia Institute's work includes enabling planning and assessment; operating innovative programs; promoting service learning; fostering community engagement; developing resources; facilitating research; educating at the interface of Appalachian culture and health; and overseeing administration.

http://www.healthyappalachia.org/

UVA Hospitality House – Founded by the UVA Hospital Auxiliary, Hospitality House offers low cost, compassionate lodging to adult patients and their families who must stay near the Medical Center during treatment. Staff and volunteers support guests during difficult times, enabling them to share a special camaraderie while they struggle to cope with the challenges of illness and living away from home.

http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/lodging-services/

UVA Interpreters Program – Foreign and sign language interpreters are available to help patients communicate with medical staff in the hospital and outpatient clinic areas. Students who are native speakers or fluent in a language other than English, or in sign language, may work with certified interpreters in the hospital interpreters program.

UVA Ryan White Clinic/ Infectious Diseases Clinic - Houses an HIV clinic for AIDS treatment, counseling and education.

http://uvahealth.com/directions-locations/clinics/infectious-diseases-clinic

UVA Teen Health Center - The Teen Health Center provides personal, on-going care to female and male teen patients from ages 12 to 20. Services include routine check-ups, sports physicals, birth control, pregnancy testing and pre-natal care, mental health assessments, evaluation and treatment of STD's, evaluation and treatment of medical problems such as acne and asthma, evaluation and treatment of gynecological problems, etc. Services are provided by a team of nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians with a specialty in adolescent medicine. A social worker and a nutritionist are also available for individual counseling.

Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA) - The Virginia Institute of Autism is a non-profit organization that provides a day school for autistic children and other resources for families, educators and health professionals seeking services, training or information about autism and evidence based interventions. In addition to a year-round school for children ages two to twenty-one, VIA's services include a 700-volume library, training workshops, internships for undergraduate and graduate students and teachers, customized training and consulting for schools and home-based programs for young children.

http://www.viaschool.org/

Virginia Neurocare - Virginia NeuroCare is part of a national network of human services providers who offer an array of community-based services to adults with acquired brain injury and other catastrophic injuries and illnesses. Virginia Neurocare operates a core program of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and provides a community integrated brain injury rehabilitation program with comprehensive evaluation, outpatient therapy, vocational training and innovative community re-entry services for military and civilians with acquired or traumatic brain injury. All programs focus on building vocational and social skills as a foundation for enhanced independence, community participation and work re-entry with treatment occurring in home, therapy center, and "real world" environments.

The Grove House in Charlottesville, VA is a division of Virginia Neurocare. It is a 24-hour supervised, family style home. In addition to the clinical rehabilitation, after-hours activities such as assembling model ships and planes, playing Wii and learning to play the guitar help residents with healing while building hand/eye coordination and improving cognitive functioning and motor skills. The program also works to reintegrate patients into the community by arranging unpaid jobs for a few hours a week.

At the local Residential Community Re-Entry Treatment Program, students will have the opportunity to observe clinicians as they provide rehabilitative services to clients participating in the program and observe team meetings. Students will learn the challenges facing a person with a brain injury in this post acute rehabilitation program. Students will learn the unique facets of this program as a civilian partner of the Defense & Veterans Brain Injury Center.

In the High Street Clubhouse students will work side by side with members of The High Street Clubhouse. Individuals choose to become members of the Clubhouse after maximizing their physical rehabilitation. Students will learn about the successes and challenges a person with a brain injury faces while trying to in improve their quality of life by participating in the Clubhouse, volunteering in the community, and through paid employment. Students will also learn the challenges that a person with a brain injury faces in navigating the health care system. They will be exposed to the community supports available to a person with a brain injury as they struggle to function as independently as possible.

http://www.mentorabi.com/standard/page.aspx?guid=6138a670-ed28-4497-888c-eae9d0908e6f

Walker Upper Elementary School – Walker Upper Elementary School is a Charlottesville City public school and serves all 5th & 6th graders in the system. Medical students tutor the youngsters, assist teachers in the classroom, or may co-lead after school groups (Bold & Beautiful group for girls and Suave & Strong group for boys) that promote healthy life styles and strong self-esteem.

Westhaven After School Program – Located at one of the public housing sites in the City of Charlottesville, this program offers elementary-aged children a structured after school experience that includes homework assistance and enrichment activities.

Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDBS)- One of the oldest schools in Virginia and the second of its kind in the world, the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) was established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly on March 31, 1838. The mission of the school is to educate deaf and blind children. To provide its students with the best education possible, VSDBS utilizes some of the latest and most advanced audio-visual equipment and disability tailored computer applications in its classrooms. The school is a residential facility and is located in Staunton, Virginia.

http://www.vsdbs.virginia.gov/

Women's Health Virginia (WHV)– Women's Health Virginia is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and improving the health and well being of women and girls in Virginia through education, information, research and a statewide communications network. WHV addresses women and girls' health comprehensively and as a continuous process. Its multidisciplinary approach involves medical and non-medical issues, including economic, cultural, educational, environmental and social issues. WHV takes a broad perspective concerning health problems that are usually addressed separately in treatment, education, healthy policy and research.

The organization was incorporated in 1999. It is headquartered in Charlottesville and is unique as a non-governmental, statewide women's health initiative that seeks to partner with businesses, governmental and non-profit groups.

http://www.womenshealthvirginia.org/index.html

Piedmont Family YMCA Parks Edge After School Program – Located in the Park's Edge neighborhood in urban Albemarle County, this program is run as a partnership between Albemarle County Schools and the Piedmont YMCA to serve low income youth residing in the Parks Edge neighborhood. The program offers homework assistance as well as an array of enriching activities for children in pre-K – 5th grade and enrolled in Greer Elementary School.

http://www.piedmontymca.org/