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)/Thrive** – The ASG/Thrive provides wellness care, acute and chronic care, community education, case management and emotional and practical support to individuals affected by AIDS / HIV, as well as their families and friends. 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.thriveva.org/our-services/

**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 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 with 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 with 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/

Blue Ridge Care Connection for Children - Care Connection for Children provides case management services to children, and their families, regardless of income and who are under age 21, live in Virginia, and have been diagnosed with a physical disorder that is expected to last longer than 12 months. Examples of qualifying conditions include (but are not limited to): diabetes, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, deafness or hard of hearing.

Case Management services are free of charge and include medical visits, assistance with accessing medical services, exploring financial options to cover care, assistance with school issues, coordination of social services, etc.

http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/pub/blueridgecc/home.html

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.
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.

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.

Computers4Kids – This agency strives to improve low income youth's computer and learning skills through caring mentorship, structured training, a vibrant learning environment, and access to a computer at home. The program uses computers as a catalyst for youth to challenge themselves, become engaged in their own learning, and realize greater possibilities academically, professionally, and for their community.

Charlottesville and Albemarle students in grades 7 through 12, who qualify for the federal school lunch program, are eligible to join the program. C4K emphasizes one-on-one mentoring and developing in-depth technology skills through project based learning and creative exploration. When students are not meeting with their mentor, they can access C4K's after-school learning lab 5 days a week for homework support, educational workshops, and other structured activities. All students in the program are eligible to earn a free home computer system.

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 school and/or at this site.

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

**Greenstone on Fifth** – Greenstone on Fifth is an apartment complex that serves low income individuals and a growing population of families who have settled in Charlottesville from other countries, bringing with them much cultural diversity and challenges to integrating into American society. The neighborhood center at Greenstone on Fifth serves children and adults from the neighborhood by providing after school homework support and enrichment activities, as well as assistance for adults.

http://www.cvillehabitat.org/

**Habitat for Humanity** – Since 1991, the local Habitat for Humanity agency has partnered with 110 low income families to help them achieve home ownership. Some 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. Other students will work with the outreach worker at Habitat’s Southwood Mobile Home site where Habitat is putting in place supports and structures for future redevelopment.

http://www.dosomething.org/project/hype-helping-young-people-evolve

**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 based at Johnson by 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.

**Midway Manor** - Located 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.

**Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA)** - The Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) is an anti-poverty agency established in 1965 as a Community Action Agency authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (one of more than one thousand nationwide). MACAA’s overarching goal is to improve people’s lives by helping them become self-reliant. MACAA achieves this through a variety of programs and skill development initiatives serving families and individuals below 125% of the Federal poverty level. MACAA’s service area includes the City of Charlottesville, and the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa and Nelson.

Current MACAA programs include: **CARES**, an emergency assistance program for residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle County; **Head Start**, a national, comprehensive early childhood development program for three-and four-year-old children; **Hope House**, a family stabilization program for homeless or imminently homeless families; **Project Discovery**, a program that helps students from low-income families, especially those who are the first generation to attend college, succeed in high school and pursue higher education; **Steps To Success**, a program designed to help families secure and manage the resources necessary to overcome barriers to success, especially through sound money management practices; and **Rural Outreach**, which provides emergency assistance and referral services in Fluvanna, Louisa and Nelson Counties.

http://www.macaa.org/Home.aspx

**NeuroRestorative – High Street Clubhouse** – Serving individuals with a documented history of traumatic brain injury, the High Street Clubhouse is a community-based vocational program that offers members the opportunity to develop social and functional skills in a supportive, real-world environment, and achieve goals of regained independence. The program focuses on building vocational and social skills as a foundation for enhanced independence, community participation and work re-entry

The High Street Clubhouse is run by NeuroRestorative through a partnership with Virginia NeuroCare. It is funded in part by state general funds administered through the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

http://www.neurorestorative.com/locations/virginia/high-street-clubhouse
**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.onourownville.org/

**PACE – Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly** – PACE is a non-residential, comprehensive healthcare alternative to institutional care for individuals age 55+ who wish to live in their own homes and communities. PACE provides all needed social and medical care, delivered in a coordinated way. Care provided by PACE includes traditional facility-based care, like hospitals and nursing homes. It also includes meals, field trips, exercise classes, medical care, therapy, and various other activities. Community based support services, such as in-home care and support, transportation and caregiver support are included.


**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 congregations take turns hosting men and women who have nowhere else to sleep at night. Meals are included, and some congregations 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/

**Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) – Friendship Court Community Center**

Friendship Court is a four-block apartment complex between Garrett Street and Monticello Avenue, a block away from the Downtown Mall. It is jointly owned by the local nonprofit Piedmont Housing Alliance and the National Housing Trust, which partners with local entities to preserve affordable housing. All 150 units of Friendship Court are rented to low-income families, who receive federal subsidy vouchers so that they pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. For qualifying non-working families the subsidy covers rent in its entirety.

As part of its involvement with Friendship Court, the Piedmont Housing Alliance has developed a coalition-building approach to providing key services to residents and the surrounding neighborhood. PHA envisions the community center as a Neighborhood Networks Center, a hub of activity, providing programs and services with 7 goals: economic stability, early childhood development, youth development, academic success, family health, resident leadership/community involvement, and bridging the technology gap. Some of the services provided are tutoring to school-aged youth, GED classes, job fairs, health education, etc.

**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

**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, is a residence comprised of sixty studio apartments. The residence, which provides 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

**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 general 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/

**The Women’s Initiative** – The Women’s Initiative is a non-profit agency whose mission is to provide effective counseling services, social support and education to empower women to transform challenging life situations into opportunities for renewed well-being and personal growth. The Women’s Initiative offers individual counseling, support groups and workshops at a variety of venues in the community.

http://thewomensinitiative.org/

**University Of Virginia Departments & Clinics**

**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 Pediatric Clinics** – Medical students are involved in various capacities at the UVA Pediatric Clinics in Charlottesville and Orange County. In some instances students will serve as navigators or help physicians develop ancillary programs that promote healthy lifestyles.

**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 Kidney Center** – Under the supervision of the UVA Volunteer Office, medical students engage dialysis patients that are referred by the Kidney Center staff. Students will talk with patients with active listening strategies, play games with patients, and provide support during the lengthy dialysis procedure. Students will have a longitudinal relationship with one or more patients to learn about the patients’ psychological, social, economic and cultural realities.
UVA Ryan White Clinic/ Infectious Diseases Clinic - Houses a clinic for AIDS treatment, counseling and education.

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 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.

Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) - 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, VSDB 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.

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 Community Clinic – Located in one of the public housing sites in the City of Charlottesville, this clinic provides outreach to residents, helping them connect to health care and social service providers. Although affiliated with the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, the clinic serves all at-risk residents of Westhaven.
**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

**YMCA - Piedmont Family YMCA After School Program** – The Piedmont YMCA’s after school program serves low income, school-aged youth. The program offers homework assistance as well as an array of enriching activities for children in pre-K – 5th grade. http://www.piedmontymca.org/