Report on the Response of the Eastern Virginia Medical School to the Impact of the Aging of Virginia’s Population

Date Submitted: November 12, 2007
Signature Page

Pursuant to legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly of Virginia, the Eastern Virginia Medical School submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia’s population.

Prepared By:

Maureen Boshier
Vice President for Operations

Date Submitted: November 12, 2007
Executive Summary

Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) began in the late 1950’s when business and community leaders recognized that the health needs of eastern Virginia were not being met adequately and that medical education was an essential part of any long-term plan for improvement. The state charter provides the legal foundation for EVMS to operate as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth dedicated to medical and health education. In 1973, EVMS accepted its first class of medical students. Since then, EVMS has developed graduate health professions programs in biomedical sciences, clinical psychology, art therapy, physician assisting, and public health.

The mission of Eastern Virginia Medical School is comprised of education, patient care, and research with community service integral to each.

EVMS Health Services affiliation with the medical school provides excellent educational opportunities for medical and health professions students.

EVMS research activities are extensive, providing significant opportunities for medical student and resident participation in research enhancing to their educational experience.

Although there is currently a working balance between resources and medical school activities, there are concerns about how EVMS will maintain this balance. The complex competitive environment of the regional health care market, the limited capacity of federal and state governments to fund higher education and biomedical research adequately, the pressure on faculty to compete for patients more effectively, to increase their funded research and to maintain their commitment to medical education and institutional service constitute the major challenges confronting EVMS.

EVMS anticipates the number of medical and health professions students, the number of research projects, and the number of patients to continue to increase.
Agency Description

Eastern Virginia Medical School Mission and Goal Statement

Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) is an academic health center dedicated to the highest ethical standards and to achieving excellence in medical and health professions education, research, and patient care. Our vision is to improve the health status of the people in our communities and to be recognized as a national center of intellectual and clinical strength in medicine. Realizing this vision and fulfilling our mission requires the successful pursuit of four goals:

1. We will educate medical and health professions students who will be noted for their excellence in practice, collegiality, scientific curiosity and rigor, and human values.

2. We will enhance and strengthen our interdisciplinary research enterprise, which is aimed at improving regional and national health.

3. We will be the provider of choice for higher quality, effective health services, integrating education and research into health care and medical practice.

4. We will strengthen and develop strategic partnerships to improve the health of our communities through education, research, and patient care.
Data Requested

1. Number of persons who received services from EVMS Health Services in the past fiscal year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 – 74</td>
<td>5238</td>
<td>5979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 84</td>
<td>3492</td>
<td>4529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>2192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>9750</td>
<td>12700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Identify the agency services that are used by seniors in significant numbers:

- Audiology
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Diabetes
- Family Practice
- Geriatrics
- Internal Medicine
- Otolaryngology
- Physical Medicine
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Radiation Oncology
- Sleep Disorders
- Surgery

Currently EVMS has the capability to serve all interested seniors.

3. Identify current programs specifically designed to serve seniors 65 and older:

EVMS’s programs for seniors fall into the **Health Care/Wellness** category and are primarily offered through EVMS Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology and its primary care internal medicine and family medicine programs. This center for excellence focuses on: research in aging and related diseases; education of health care providers and community members regarding diseases of aging and age-related diseases; and teaching approaches to caring for the elderly which are compassionate and thoughtful. One program of particular interest is the Older Driver’s Research Program which uses a driving simulator to study driving competencies of older drivers in order to help mature adults continue driving safely into later life. A student group known as SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Geriatric Education) was formed in 2001 to accommodate students who have an interest in geriatrics. In addition, special seminars and Grand Rounds lectures are offered frequently to students, faculty and community health care providers to support and advance the skills of those involved in the care and management of elderly patients.
Data Requested (cont.)

4. Identify the extent to which your organization provides “consumer oriented” publications and websites online that are designed to be “senior friendly”.

EVMS partners with area support groups and associations, such as local chapters of AARP, senior citizen’s clubs, hospice agencies, and other service organizations to provide programs to the community and throughout the Tidewater area which are designed for seniors.

5. Describe the effect that the aging of the agency’s own workforce will have on its ability to deliver services.

As part of the ongoing analysis of the EVMS workforce, faculty positions are added to the budget yearly according to the program growth, anticipated retirement and as required for replacement. Faculty recruitment plans, developed annually, at a minimum specifically target known and proposed retirement schedules.

6. Describe any other services or programs that the agency has implemented or plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia’s population.

EVMS through EVMS’s Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, offers a fellowship program in geriatric medicine; has geriatrician supervisors working with residents in a variety of clinical settings; and supports a number of active research studies designed to improve clinical outcomes in medication use and some illnesses such as influenza. EVMS recognizes that today’s health care providers may, during their careers, devote as much as 75% of their time to the geriatric population and so the curriculum and activities of EVMS are designed to address this.