

Executive Summary

AEGD Residency Program Feasibility Study

Sedgwick County, Kansas, on behalf of Oral Health Kansas, Inc., commissioned Triangle Associates to conduct an independent feasibility study for an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program in the Wichita area. The impetus for this study is the shared desire of Oral Health Kansas, Inc., and a number of community organizations to:

- A. Increase the supply of dentists and dental hygienists, especially in low-income and rural areas of Kansas; and
- B. Increase the supply of oral health care services to historically underserved populations.

The feasibility of beginning an AEGD residency program in Kansas is based on a number of inter-related factors:

- The program will need an academic home;
- The program will need space to house it, both in a clinic-type setting and in a smaller, private practice environment;
- The program will need an affiliation with a hospital;
- Starting such a program will take *at least* 2 years;
- There will be a significant need for start-up funding;
- While it is possible for such a program to eventually support itself financially, it will not be able to do so through serving the Medicaid population alone; and
- The goals of increasing oral health care across the state and increasing the oral health workforce in Kansas will be served in some fashion, but the full effect will only be seen over an extended time.

Broadly stated, an AEGD residency program is not only feasible, but has much to commend it:

- On average over the past five years, 48% of dental school graduates go on to further training;
- Of those graduates, approximately 29% apply for AEGD residency;
- The number of slots for an AEGD residency are fewer than the number of interested applicants and the gap is increasing;
- There are federal dollars available in the form of graduate medical education monies and possibly a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant for new programs;
- The Wichita community is very interested in providing a home for the program;
- The initiative is broadly supported by the dental community in Wichita;
- Such a program has the potential to serve needs in the community and beyond and to increase the likelihood of dentists considering a permanent location for practice in the state of Kansas; and
- There is broad recognition at every level in the state of a pressing need to address oral health issues.



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To guide development and implementation of an AEGD program, Triangle Associates is making a number of specific recommendations as follows:

- that **the one-year AEGD program begin in 2008** with a class size of **four residents**;
- that the program **affiliate with Wichita State University's School of Health Professions**;
- that the residency **seek affiliation with Via Christi Regional Medical Center** for handling its GME funds;
- that the program primarily **locate in the new GraceMed building** adjacent to the Via Christi hospital campus, with a minimum of four dental operatories reserved for residents.
- that a **two-chair "upscale" dental office** suite be created within the Via Christi buildings.
- that the program director **make application to HRSA** for any start-up capita that may be available at the Federal level to **help offset the approximately \$500,000 in capital** expenses and administration required to create and open the residency program;
- that any shortfall between HRSA funds and the actual cost be **covered by a consortium of funders making one-time grants** for the purpose of building and equipping the AEGD facilities;
- that the arrangement between the program, its sponsoring academic institution, and the hospital handling the GME contract be **formalized through a written contract prior to starting the program**; and
- that approximately **\$1.5 million in external funding will be required** across the first three years of the program to maintain financial viability.

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December 29, 2005

