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April 15 SAGES Forum Explores Dual Diagnosis of Developmental Disability and Mental Illness

ST. PAUL – Caregivers and professionals can explore the world through the eyes of a person with a dual diagnosis of developmental disability and mental illness at a forum hosted by SAGES. The forum will be on Friday, April 15, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, Fellowship Hall, 8600 Fremont Ave. S., Bloomington.

Dual Diagnosis (DD/MI) Across a Life Span will present general information on the mental health system, including diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. It will also explain differences in the way people with developmental disabilities and those with mental illness acquire skills, ensuring that family members and professionals set realistic expectations.

The guest expert will be Karen Finck, RN, MS, CNS, owner and president of Health Counseling Services. A dynamic speaker, Finck lectures throughout Minnesota on psychiatric and mental health topics. She has extensive experience in community nursing consultation, models of nursing care and healthcare policies and procedures.

The registration deadline for the forum is Tuesday, April 12. To register, contact Gina Carpenter at The Learning Exchange at gcarpenter@bloomington.k12.mn.us, or call (952) 681-6122. There will be a charge of \$15 per person at the door. Please make checks payable to ISD #271.

SAGES is a collaboration of community organizations offering education for parents and caregivers of people with disabilities. The organizations of SAGES are Arc Greater Twin Cities, Dakota Communities, Fraser, The Learning Exchange, Opportunity Partners and ProAct.

Arc Greater Twin Cities is a nonprofit agency serving the many needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Established in 1946, Arc has been changing attitudes, changing policies and changing lives for 65 years. Arc helps individuals and families address issues that span the lifetime, including early intervention, education, transition to adulthood, health care, housing, employment, guardianship and more. For more information and volunteer opportunities, call Arc at (952) 920-0855 or visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org.

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