



A Forum on Developmental Delays and Autism in the Somali Community

Saturday, November 15th, 2008
10 am – 4:15pm

Location: Wilder Early Education Center
Laura Ingalls Auditorium
3345 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Objectives:

The primary objective of the Forum is to raise awareness in the Somali community about developmental delays in children with specific emphasis on autism and to engage the community.

This forum is an initiative to help parents and professionals learn concrete facts about autism, how to identify autism, connect to appropriate screening, assessment, and treatment services, demonstrate importance of accessing early intervention for children with identified developmental delays or autism and how to connect families to support systems.

Who is this forum for?

Somali parents
Physicians, Community Leaders
Regular and Special Educators
Related Services
Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals

Agency Sponsors of the Forum

Minneapolis Foundation, Fraser, HEAL Institute, Minnesota Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services, Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools, PACER, Confederation of Somali Community of Minnesota (CSCM), Autism Society of Minnesota, Center for Inclusive Childcare, ARC of Greater Twin Cities, and others.

Program Agenda

| Time | Sessions |
|---------------|---|
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <p>Qur'an and Main program Opening welcome Target audience: General Somali community, including parents of children with autism, and professionals or organizations that serve as a resource</p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MDH commissioner – Commissioner Dr. Sanne Magnan ▪ Imam ▪ Community leader |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | <p>Panel 1: What is autism? What is happening in MN; what do we know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion of Developmental Delay ▪ Early Intervention ▪ Basic overview of Autism ▪ Early identification – education eligibility and medical diagnosis ▪ Treatments and Interventions ▪ Incidence Study <p>Key messages: Overview of DD and Autism, importance of early identification, education eligibility and medical diagnosis, incidences study. Speak to the parents about sensory issues and behavior issues.</p> |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Dhuhr Prayer and Lunch (Lunch Provided) |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | <p>Panel 2: Addressing the stigma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Autism at home compared to in United States ▪ Addressing stigma - what autism is not ▪ What we do know and what we don't ▪ Studies related to immunizations <p>Key messages: This is not a new phenomenon; this is not only a Somali issue, the importance of immunizations, parents have done nothing wrong and are not to blame.</p> |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | Asr Prayer and Networking |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | <p>Navigating the System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessing County Services ▪ How to access school services ▪ School district – types of services ▪ MDH, DHS, MDE– Interagency Early Intervention collaboration ▪ AuSM –Discovery Series <p>Key messages: What is available, how to access services, resources, contacts and phone numbers. Explanation of how state agencies depend on community partners to provide supports and services. Let them know that agencies work together.</p> |
| 3:30-4:15pm | <p>Parent Panel Next Steps and Closing Remarks. Key message: Hear the Somali parents' views, concerns and Needs to guide next steps. Closing Remarks</p> |

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Registration

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Due to limited space and to help us prepare for the correct number for food and other resources pre-registration is required for all attendees. Please complete this registration and return by November 10, 2008. Registration is accepted by telephone with full details, by mail, fax, and email or in person at Confederation of Somali Community of Minnesota.

NAME _____

(Please print clearly)

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

___ Parent ___ Professional, What Area: _____

Organization: _____

For parents:

Please answer the following to help us accommodate your family needs.

Do you need transportation? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Number of people

Do you need child care? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Number children

Ages of children: _____

Any children with special needs ___ Yes ___ No ___ Number

To reserve your seat please complete this form and mail your registration to:
Fraser, Attention Chris Bentley, 2400 West 64th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55423

By fax to 612-861-6050 or email chris@fraser.org

*By phone please call the Somali parent line 612-798-8359, please leave a clear message with your name, phone, address, transportation and child care needs.

* The registration form is also available at the Confederation of Somali Community of Minnesota and their office at Brian Coyle, if in person.