Doors open for TEFRA

Many Minnesota families with disabled children are celebrating changes to a key state assistance program. Changes to the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act, or TEFRA, are among many key law gains taking effect this summer. These changes will make a significant and positive difference for Minnesotans with disabilities.

The revisions, which have been discussed for years, were championed by many disability advocacy organizations. Medical Assistance (MA) under the TEFRA option allows MA eligibility for children with disabilities in families that have incomes too high to qualify for MA. TEFRA is the federal law that sets the rules for this option. TEFRA often covers costs private insurance providers don’t or won’t cover. It is a very beneficial program in some ways, families note. It covers many costs of equipment, home and transportation modifications, equipment, therapies, home and community-based waiver services and much more. But the fees created huge financial issues for many families.

In the past these families have had to make tough choices about how many children they could care for. Those choices affect an entire family, including children who are not disabled. Families had to pay hundreds if not thousands of dollars per year in TEFRA fees, which strained entire family budgets. Families take out second mortgage or max out credit cards.

Some families cut their incomes, with one spouse opting not to work, others even considered out-of-home options for their children.

TEFRA also has been criticized for having overly complex paperwork for families in the program.

Since 1990, families who access this law that sets the rules for this option. TEFRA are among many key law gains taking effect this summer. These changes will make a significant and positive difference for Minnesotans with disabilities.

Rosenfeld made an impact for disabled Minnesotans

by Access Press staff

The death of Barnett “Bud” Rosenfield is being felt all across Minnesota. Rosenfield, Minnesota’s Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack July 8. He was 57 years old.

Rosenfeld had served as ombudsman since December 2021. He was appointed to the post with a long record of service to Minnesotans with disabilities. His office released a tribute, stating: “ . . . his impact on our office, staff, clients, and stakeholders was immeasurable. While his time as ombudsman was far too brief, his advocacy career as a champion of the rights of people with disabilities spanned decades. He was dogged in his efforts to promote and enforce the rights, community inclusion, and informed choice of people with all types of disabilities . . . The world is a bit dimmer without you in it, Bud, but your legacy lives on as we continue your efforts promoting justice, inclusion, dignity, and choice for people with disabilities.”

Many other tributes poured in, from elected officials, disability advocacy organizations and from Rosenfield’s former colleagues at the Minnesota Disability Law Center, where he had served as supervising attorney.

The Minnesota Council on Disability stated, “Bud Rosenfeld was a committed, compassionate Ombudsman and . . . The world is a bit dimmer without you in it, Bud, but your legacy lives on as we continue your efforts promoting justice, inclusion, dignity, and choice for people with disabilities.”

Plan ahead for accommodations at the state fair

The 2023 Minnesota State Fair is August 24 through September 4. People with disabilities of all types can enjoy the fair if they plan ahead. Lots of good information on accessibility can be found in the Accessibility Guide on the state fair’s website at www.mnstatefair.org/general-info/accessibility-guide. It contains everything from sensory-friendly features to wheelchair rentals. Stop at an information booth for large print maps and daily schedules, which are available upon request.

One welcome addition is a universally designed changing restroom with hoist by Momentum Refresh. Momentum Refresh is the nation’s first fully accessible, universally designed mobile restroom. By offering a safe and comfortable personal care space for those with mobility limitations and their caregivers, Momentum Refresh reduces barriers and promotes inclusivity, equity and understanding.

In addition to a toilet, this
Civil rights changes took key steps 50 years ago, but others waited

On August 1, 1973, Minnesotans with disabilities were among those marking the 30th anniversary of the Minnesota Anti-Discrimination act. The act was newly expanded to cover discrimination due to mental or physical disability, gender and marital status. Changes to the act were also meant to prevent discrimination against people receiving public assistance. The changes targeted issues including housing, education and public accommodations.

The July 13, 1973 Star Tribune reported on a Minnesota Department of Human Rights hearing at which many community members testified about discrimination. The hearing was meant to assist state officials in developing guidelines for the act’s enforcement.

About two dozen people testified. Not all of those who spoke were people with disabilities. Some people faced discrimination based on race or gender. Same-sex couples could not buy homes together. A woman’s income could not be kept secret. People with disabilities could not get jobs. A woman’s income could not be kept secret.

But for those of us with a wide range of disabilities – mobility, sensory and more – not being in a workplace setting helps us be more productive.

A person who needs 24-hour personal care needs space for staff. Some workplaces are not the best at providing that.

For employees who may have relocated far from workplaces, it may be best for them to be in the office at least part of the time. That’s a problem. For people with disabilities who have to work remote at least part of the time due to disability and chronic health issues, that’s a huge problem. We’re not bemoaning the loss of a fancy beach house or place in the mountains. We’re losing our ability to work, period.

We understand the desire for a workplace culture and for employees to feel like they are part of an organization. Many of us were largely shut out of the job market like that kind of setting and colleagues, too. Not everyone can successfully work remotely.

Oftentimes, it’s hard for people to find good jobs. Even if someone could get a job, that person had to rely on family or friends for transportation. Public transportation wasn’t accessible.

Van Haelen also said that insurance companies charged people with disabilities higher rates.

Other disability-based discrimination issues were also raised. Leah LeBar asked about Minneapolis Public Schools children with disabilities being allowed to attend their neighborhood schools, rather than being sent to only one school. LeBar was a wheelchair user and community resource specialist for Minneapolis Public Schools. A blind woman who could not find a teaching job was working in her home, for only $300 per month.

The 1973 law strengthened the state’s first major human rights law, which had been adopted in 1967. That statute meant to prevent discrimination based on race, creed, and national origin in unions, employment, education, public accommodations.

The history website MnOpedia provides an overview of changes. The 1967 Minnesota State Act Against Discrimination was consolidated and strengthened existing anti-discrimination laws and created a new state Department of Human Rights. It was sponsored by Conservatives in the legislature (party designation was banned at the time) and supported by other prominent Conservatives, including Gov. Harold Leavander, future US Senator David Durenberger, and future Senator Robert Renner. The law passed easily.

Discrimination based on gender was added in 1963. But others’ rights would have to wait. It was not until 1993 that what are now called LGBTQ+ rights were protected.

Attempts to protect what were called gay rights began 50 years ago, when
Mark your calendars for the Access Press award celebration

To our readers:

What an exciting time to live in Minnesota! With many of the pandemic restrictions behind us, we are finding opportunities to rediscover our neighbors and communities. Here at Access Press, we are embracing this rediscovery with an Award Celebration and fundraising event at the McNamara Center on November 3, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Unique in the nation, Access Press is a completely independent newspaper that serves the community of people with disabilities as an information resource. Nobody “owns” Access Press and that is significant. But as an independent news source, we depend upon the donations of our readership, as well as people in the community who support our mission to “promote the social inclusion and legal rights of people with disabilities by providing a forum for news, features, opinion and conversation to benefit people who are often invisible and marginalized in mainstream society.” We are proud to sponsor this event which will raise needed funds to help us continue the Access Press mission for generations to come!

Tickets may be purchased at our website, www.accesspress.org, for $75 per person or $600 per table of eight. Contact Jane Larson or Catherine Hunter at support@accesspress.org or at 612-562-7803 if you have questions, need more information, or wish to help sponsor this event.

We look forward to seeing you on November 3.

Access Press Board of Directors

The clock is ticking, so get those Charlie Smith Award nominees in

The Access Press Charlie Smith Award is a meaningful honor for Minnesotans with disabilities. Winners over the years have represented a wide range of our community members.

The nomination period continues through 5 p.m. Friday, August 11. Email the newspaper at CSAnominations@accesspress.org to receive a form. A link to the form is also on the website, www.accesspress.org. If help is needed with a form call 651-644-2133 ext. 1 for assistance or accommodations.

Who can be considered for the Charlie Smith Award? Nominees can be one person, a group of people or an entire organization. Nominees must be active in and have strong ties to Minnesota’s disability community, and go above and beyond to improve the lives of Minnesotans with disabilities.

This type of work can take many forms. The award can go to prominent leaders, or to people who work quietly behind the scenes.

Nominations can be made for organization leaders, staff, volunteers or groups. Nominees must be living at the time of the nomination and not be people who have passed away.

Past winners cannot be nominated again. Past nominees who didn’t win the award can be nominated again. People cannot nominate themselves.

The winner and all of the nominees are featured in our September issue. People who submit nominations must submit contact information in case Access Press has additional questions about a nominee. Please send a high-resolution digital photo or an actual picture of the nominee. Otherwise, be prepared to tell the editor where a high-resolution picture can be obtained.

The newspaper board of directors chooses the winner, after reviewing all of the nominations.

Smith founded the newspaper in 1990 and died in 2001. The first award was given in 2003 at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. That space was outgrown quickly so the event moved to various hotel banquet facilities. The event was dropped in 2018 due to cost and staffing considerations. It is time to bring it back.

A diverse group of Minnesotans was honored over the years. Here is a list of the past Charlie Smith Award winners:

• 2017 – Mark Braun, Paralympian
• 2016 – Cliffパートナー, Institute on Community Integration
• 2015 – Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, Minnesota Commission for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing
• 2014 – Christine Marble and Wendy Devore, Career Venture
• 2013 – Cal Appleby, Augsburg College
• 2012 – Charles “Chuck” Van Heuvel, St. Paul School District
• 2011 – Jeff Bangsberg, Minnesota Department of Health
• 2010 – Steve Kunte, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
• 2009 – Anne Henry, Minnesota Disability Law Center
• 2008 – Pete Feigl, Co-Founder, Tilting at Windmills
• 2007 – Jim and Claudia Carlisle, People Enhancing People
• 2006 – John Smith, University of Minnesota ICI
• 2005 – Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD)
• 2004 – Rick Cardenas, Co-Director of Advocating Change Together (ACT)
• 2003 – Margot Imdieke Cross, Minnesota State Council on Disability

“The Charlie Smith Award has been given to a number of deserving and distinguished people who have created a better life for members of our disability community,” said Kay Willhure, president of the Access Press Board. “By nominating a person for this award you are not only recognizing that person for individual contributions to our community, you are also shining a positive light on our community as a whole.”

Know a deserving disability community member?

Know someone who has made a difference in the lives of Minnesotans with disabilities? Nominate that person for the Access Press Charlie Smith Award!

Nominations are due at 5 p.m. Friday, August 11.

Accommodations can be provided to submit awards.

Get a nomination form by calling 651-644-2133 ext. 1 or emailing CSAnominations@accesspress.org

Image 1

Set aside barriers, provide innovative complex rehabilitation technology

by Cole A. Carlson

Preventive injuries kill 60,000 people each year, the US Department of Health and Human Services estimates. Annually, upwards of 17,000 lawsuits are directly related to pressure injuries, which are preventable and too often the result of hospital negligence. Experiencing an increase in rates of occurrence in the country. These events, which are preventable, result in the tragic loss of life, surgeries, lengthy rehabilitation periods and suffering, both personal and financial, to the patient, are among the most preventable in a wheelchair user’s daily life. The last of one you ever want to have been affected by a pressure injury. These debilitating injuries can spend or even end a person's life. The law suits at Minnesota-based Tamarack Habilitation Technologies want everyone to be aware of the extent of pressure injuries that could be avoided. Code submissions are reviewed and judged based on the technical interpretation of existing code definitions, often favoring designs that cater to the existing CMA language on products. The study of products and designs of potential improvements in patient care outcomes.

Tamarack Habilitation Technologies is attempting to address and raise awareness of this epidemic and the unfortunate, avoidable rise in pressure injuries, with the introduction of its FlexForm Wheelchair Seating System. Tamarack, a company that specializes in designing and manufacturing orthotic and prosthetic components, has developed a unique seating surface that addresses friction/shear, pressure distribution, and microclimate vulnerabilities — the three primary factors of an internal brain bleed and stroke related to the fall, spent in the hospital and went through rehabilitation. His medical bills depleted his savings and she relies on a church.

Five days later, her husband found Rindels Hayden unconscious in bed with blood pouring from her nose — the result of a huge impact — for the better – for Minnesota's with disabilities."

He is fortunate enough to be able to call Bud a friend and I learned so much from him over the span of 13 years. He was so kind, such a passionate activist and understood more about the disability field – past, present and future – than most. He was funny, sweet and tough, at all the same time. He had a strong spirit, and his passing leaves a hole – in our community – and in my heart.

ROSENFELD

From page 1

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The Arc Minnesota CEO Andrea Ziem, called Rudolph Rosenfield's life "a huge impact — for the better — for Minnesota's with disabilities."

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**Sensory-friendly options**

Tips for guests with sensory sensitivities – including when to visit, things to do, what to bring and a social narrative – can be found in the Sensory Guide on the fair website at www.mnstatefair.org/accessibility-guide.#sensory

Guests who would like to experience the fun of rides and games at Mighty Midway and Kidway with reduced crowds, bright lights, sounds and non-safety-related announcements will be minimized.

Note that the sensory-friendly hours apply only to Mighty Midway and Kidway. There may be areas in other parts of the fairgrounds that contain loud music and lights during these hours. In the Mighty Midway and Kidway, some lights and sounds may still serve as not all attractions can completely eliminate all sound and light.

The Sensory Building provides a take-a-break oasis specially created for fair guests of all ages with sensory-processing challenges and consists of bright lights and sounds, smells and visuals.

In the Sensory Building, visitors can find a quiet space to regulate. It is located on the west side of Cosgrove Street, south of the Home Improvement Building, and is open daily 9 a.m.-9 p.m., closing at 8 p.m. on Labor Day.

**Visitation disability service organizations**

The Education Building is the place to find disability service organization and state agency information.

The Minnesota Council on Disability will have its booth open. Lots of free disability community information will be available. Stop and learn about what the council does for Minnesotans.

Also, stop and visit the National Alliance for the Mentally (NAMI) Minnesota booth. Learn about NAMI and how it helps Minnesotans who live with mental health issues.

Fair coverage was compiled by newspapers and Minnesota State Fair staff.

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**HOUSING FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS**

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Grab some napkins and try the 2023 Minnesota State Fair new foods

Many people visit the Minnesota State Fair with a new foods list in hand. Or they seek out old favorites. Not every dining spot is accessible to people with disabilities. Access Press and fair staff work together every year to present an accessible dining guide in print and online. Tasting new foods and seek out familiar favorites is part of the fun at the Minnesota State Fair. Every year Access Press works with fair staff to provide an accessible dining guide for fairgoers.

Our guide defines access as physical access. The following food and beverage concessions offer:

- Seating areas accessible by curb cuts
- Hard and sturdy floor surfaces
- Tables a guest can pull up to in a wheelchair or scooter. In some cases a chair can be moved to make room for a wheelchair or scooter.

The list doesn’t include open-air stands where food and drink are purchased, and then taken away.

An asterisk marks vendors below who have an official new food for 2023.

Andy’s Grille: South side of Carnes Avenue between Chambers and Nelson streets

• Ball Park Cafe: East side of Underwood Street between Dan Patch and Carnes avenues

- The Blue Barn: At West End Market, south of the History & Heritage Center (limited general seating picnic tables)

- Blue Moon Dine-In Theater: Northeast corner of Carnes Avenue and Chambers Street

- Butcher Boys London Broil: North side of Dan Patch Avenue between Nelson and Underwood streets

- Cafe Caribe: South side of Chambers Avenue between Chambers and Nelson streets

- Charcoal Hut: East side of Judson Avenue between Underwood and Cooper streets, next to the International Bazaar

- Chicago Dogs: In The Garden on the southeast corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street

- Coasters: Southeast corner of Carnes Avenue and Liggett Street

- Danielson’s & Daughters Onion Rings: Between Underwood and Cooper streets, outside the north side of the Food Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Dino’s Gyros: North side of Carnes Avenue between Nelson and Underwood streets

- El Sol Mexican Foods: East side of Underwood Street, outside the southwest corner of the Food Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Food Building – inside: Route 66 Roadhouse Chicken, Mardi’s, Sonny’s Fair Food; Granny’s Caramel Apple Sundae; Petes Hot Dogs; Fish & Chips Seafood Shoppe; Sara’s Timpys Pies, Minnekabob and Mouth Trap Cheese Curds. (These vendors are near shared indoor tables by the northwest entrance to the Food Building on the east side of Underwood Street)

- French Creperie: North side of Carrs Avenue between Underwood and Cooper streets

- French Meadow Bakery & Cafe: North side of Carrs Avenue between Nelson and Underwood streets

- Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade, Fruit Smoothies, Orange & Strawberry Treet: Between Underwood and Cooper streets, outside the south side of the Food Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Frontier Bar: South side of Carrs between Liggett and Chambers streets

- Guss Station Grill: West side of Cooper Street, outside the southeast corner of the Food Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Giggles’ Campfire Grill: Southeast corner of Lee Avenue and Cooper Street at The North Woods

- Thalmine Church Dining Hall: North side of Dan Patch Avenue between Underwood and Cooper streets. The church has had a dining hall for more than 120 years and is the oldest food establishment at the fair. When arriving with a diner using a wheelchair or scooter, ask to have a seat saved.

- The Hangar: Northeast corner of Murphy Avenue and Underwood Street

- Isabel Burke’s Olde Time Taffy: Between Cooper and Underwood streets, outside the southeast corner of the Food Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Italian Junction: South side of Dan Patch Avenue between Nelson and Underwood streets

- IL Vesco’s: East side of Chambers Street and south of the Grandstand

- Key Lime Pie Bar: West side of Cooper Street, between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building (shares seating with the vendors located in this plaza area between the Food Building and the Agriculture Horticulture Building)

- Lancer locations in the Coliseum (Aldo’s, Sabino’s Pizza Pies, Snack House, Svame & Spuds): Nearby seating inside the Coliseum seating area. The Coliseum is located on the south side of Judson Avenue between Liggett and Caughy streets

- LaLa’s Public House: At West End Market, south of the Schilling Avenue

Smoked beef area

Birthday cake mini-doughnut

Cotton candy lemonade

Amphitheater (most accessible seating is on the second level, via elevator)

- Mancini’s al Fresco: North side of Carnes Avenue between Nelson and Underwood streets

- Mexican Hat: East of Chambers Street, south of the Grandstand

- Midway Men’s Club: East side of Underwood Street between Wright and Dan Patch avenues

- Mighty Midway food concessions: Near shared seating area – Leon’s Pizzeria, Sugar Shack, The Donut Family, Westmoreland Concessions

- Minnesota Farmers Union Coffee Shop: North side of Dan Patch Avenue between Cooper and Cosgrove streets

- Minnesota Wine Country: West side of Underwood Street between Carnes and Judson avenues

- O’Gara’s at the Fair: Southwest corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Cooper Street

- The Peg: Outside on the southeast side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building

- Patio Grill: East side of Nelson Street between Carnes and Judson avenues, next to KARE TV

- Pickle Barrel Sirloin Tips: Northeast corner of Judson Avenue and Nelson Street

- RC’s BBQ: North side of West Dan Patch Avenue between Liggett and Chambers streets

- Ragnar Cajun: In The Garden on the southeast corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street

- Salem Lutheran Church: North side of Randall Avenue south of the Progress Center

- Shanghai Henri’s: At the International Bazaar, north wall

- Tejas Express: In The Garden on the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street

Learn about new foods at: https://www.mnstatefair.org/new-this/year/food
Walk & Roll with Gillette Children's!

Join us on Saturday, September 23 at Viking Lakes in Eagan, MN! The route and family-friendly activities are open to folks of all abilities and are accessible to wheelchairs and adaptive bikes and trikes. Virtual participation is also an option.

Scan the QR code or visit gillette.mn/walkroll2023 to learn more & register today!
Metro Mobility patrons ride for free

Any Metro Mobility certified rider can ride regular route transit for free through December 31, 2024 on any of the following services: Metro Transit bus, rail transit service, and commuter rail service; Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; SouthWest Transit, Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink.

Metro Mobility riders will continue to pay for Metro Mobility rides as outlined on the Metro Mobility web page. The free fare pilot does not apply to any on-demand service including, Transit Link, Metro Transit micro, Maple Grove My Ride, MVTA Connect, Plymouth Click-and-Ride, or SW Prime.

When entering a bus, Metro Mobility should simply show the Metro Mobility ID card, or government issued ID card with A endorsement, to the bus operator and take a seat.

Do not tap the Metro Mobility ID card on the Go-To Card reader when boarding a bus, riders are not at a METRO or Northstar ticket machine.

On METRO lines, be prepared to show the Metro Mobility ID card, or government issued card with A endorsement, as proof of payment if asked.

When transferring to a bus, riders should simply show the ID card again.

Riders transferring to a pay by the fare regular Metro bus will still need to pay the regular fare on the Metro Mobility bus.

Anyone with questions can contact Metro Mobility service center Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 651-602-1111, TTY 651-221-9886, or metrormobility@metro.state.mn.us.

(Source: Metro Mobility)

DHS split is coming

Minnesota’s largest and most scrutinized state agency will be split up in the coming years as the result of legislative action aimed to reduce bureaucracy and costly errors. the Minnesota Department of Human Services’ massive Direct Care and Treatment division, which oversees more than 15,000 infants, was too large to effectively manage. This system, which has more than 7,000 employees and an annual budget that exceeded $20 billion, was too large to effectively manage.

DHS serves more than 1.5 million Minnesota residents encompassing the state’s most vulnerable populations, through a vast array of programs.

“Even before we talked about whether or not DHS it too big and should it be separated, I’ve come to realize that it is simply too big,” said DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. “There is no room for a smaller agency,” said DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead.

Harpstead said the creation of the new Direct Care and Treatment division will become the enabling measure of the new law, and the Direct Care and Treatment agency will benefit from the separation by becoming more “nimble” and focused on its own operations.

Republic Sen. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), who also supported the separation, struck a more skeptical tone about whether the split will improve stewardship of taxpayer funds.

“If the government is not doing what all its departments, and by virtue of the commissioners he chooses, that really does have an outcome,” he said, “I simply cannot support the outcome, the department,” said Abeler. “I think merely rearranging some of the duties may have a huge effect or it may be minimal. It’s still all up to the administration to make it work.”

The Direct Care and Treatment division currently within DHS operates an integrated behavioral health care system that includes psychiatric hospitals, substance abuse treatment facilities, group homes, residential care facilities, and offender treatment facilities. The system is comparable in size to the CentraCare Health system in Baxter, Minnesota.

Once separated, Harpstead said the new Department of Direct Care and Treatment will look much more like a hospital system with a CEO reporting to the office of the chief executive officer of the division, who will in turn report to the department.

The Department of Human Services and the Direct Care and Treatment agency will keep their respective employees, Harpstead said.

Dungarvin takes over companies

The Dungarvin organization, a group of companies providing community-based services, for people with disabilities in 15 states, has announced a deal to acquire Bridges MN, Rumi and Bridges WI.

Effective September 1, the agreement is for the Bridges organization to take over operation of Bridges MN, Rumi and Bridges WI, said Dungarvin CEO Lori Kress. “We are committed to ensuring that the transition of services is seamless for the people receiving services, their families and the staff who support them. With a strong history of providing services in Minnesota that will support over 400 individuals.

The purchase agreement specifies that close to 1,000 Bridges employees will be invited to become part of the Dungarvin team ensuring the continuity of care for people served.

“After several months of collaboration and planning, I am pleased to announce that Dungarvin will assume and operate substantially all of the services currently provided by Bridges MN, Rumi and Bridges WI,” said Dungarvin CEO Lori Kress. “We are committed to ensuring that the transition of services is seamless for the people receiving services, their families and the staff who support them. With a strong history of providing services in Minnesota that will support over 400 individuals.

Dungarvin has operated in Minnesota since 1976, and in Wisconsin since 1994.

(Source: Dungarvin)

Loophole in housing eyed

In Bemidji, 47 tenants were recently evacuated from a federally subsidized housing complex. Bridges and other health-services non-profits could be headed toward catastrophic structural failure. Two dozen former tenants are staying in motels as of mid-July. Others are temporarily staying with family or waiting for assisted living beds.

Most of the families moved from the complex, many receive home health care and receive assistance payment contract, sheds light on the situation for people served.

The northern Minnesota city, in one of the state’s poorest counties, has a debilitating shortage of affordable housing. The situation with Red Pine Estates, a three-story privately owned property where the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has a rental assistance payment contract, sheds light on the situation for people served.

In a statement, the property management company, Twin Cities-based Schuetz Cos., called the building’s issues and the sudden evacuation unique, saying structural integrity concerns stemmed from building components blocked from view by things like drywall and ceilings.

In a statement, Schuetz Cos. said representatives have been working “around the clock” to help and they’re optimistic all residents will find long-term housing soon.

(Source: Star Tribune)

Residents face uncertain future

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(Source: Star Tribune)
The 2023 Betty Bednarczyk Courage Award recipients are Senators Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin). The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) is sponsoring the Betty Bednarczyk Courage Award. The award is presented each year in honor of Betty Bednarczyk, the first woman to hold a top position in a union of any kind in Minnesota. Nationally she rose to the top to become secretary/treasurer of SEIU, the first woman to hold a top position in the labor movement.

Each year the SEIU Local 1141 board of directors dedicates the “Betty Bednarczyk Courage Award” to highlight an outstanding individual who is an ally to the union’s mission and goals. The selection committee reviews the nominations and selects the award recipient.

Abeler is a native of Chisago County. He has served as a St. Paul City Council aide, Ramsey County Commissioner, and now director of community initiatives for the Metropolitan Council of Ramsey County. He has advanced comprehensive approaches to community development. He sees that the work to create a sustainable community within powerfully entrenched systems takes a tremendous toll on the health of both clients and public sector employees. He believes that policies must change to better meet the needs of our communities. As a leader, he has led the design and implementation of successful programs to respond quickly to pressing community needs. To lead further change in the government sector, and in Minnesota’s mental health and addiction care service delivery system in particular, she will increase her influence on civic engagement and her capacity to work with community stakeholders. She will learn from mentors who have challenged the status quo and seek training to better understand the way to invest in communities that have the greatest needs.

Vang moves to advocacy post

Ma Vang, who has filled many roles in Minnesota’s deaf and disabilities community, has moved to a new role at the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). She is a Certified American Sign Language (ASL) Social Security Advocacy Services coordinator. With her experience working in deaf organizations, Vang knows the firsthand where accessible services for the deaf community are lacking. She hopes to provide more services that are open to the deaf community, and more reliable resources. Vang comes to DHS after three years working for ThinkSelf Adult Basic Education and Advocacy organization. The organization provides independent living skills to deaf adults. Vang will be moving to Minnesota, and will start his new position on September 11.

Abeler, Hoffman share award

The 2023 Betty Bednarczyk Courage Award recipients are Senators Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin). The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) presents the award annually in honor of Betty Bednarczyk, a long-time union leader. She was one of the first women leaders of any union in Minnesota. Nationally she rose to the top to become secretary/treasurer of SEIU, the first woman to hold a top position in the labor movement.

Noriel M. Vang is currently a board member for United Hmong with Disabilities, a newly established national organization that focuses on educating the Hmong community about substance use disorders. She is also on the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the deaf advisory committee that focuses on how to improve ASL interpreting in Minnesota. She is also in the current cohort of the Partners in Policymaking Class 46. The program is helping her learn how to better advocate for herself and her community, and network with different organizations, agencies and counties.

Vang is a graduate of Metropolitan State University with a bachelor’s degree in human services. Her major was human services family studies.

Finalists are announced

The 2023 Rising Star and ARM Cares award finalists have been announced. Finalists were recognized at the Forward Annual Conference July 26. Winners will be announced September 16. Finalists were announced. Finalists were recognized at the Forward Annual Conference July 26. Winners will be announced September 16. Finalists for the ARRM Cares Award were Ruth Bingham and Annette Ripley (Independent Living Services), Carol Anderson (Opportunity Partners) Diane Mailand (Living Well Independence); Brace Gotshalk (Living Well Independence); Nicole Carlson (CCRI—Creative Care for Reaching Independence), Grace Cotshba (Living Well Disability Services), Nena Johnson (Dunavin Inc.), Marie Olohn (MBB Disability Solutions), Ryan Orentas (DRCIC) and Matthew Zempel (EON).

The 2023 Rising Star Award is for DSPs with three years of experience or less. The finalists are Quann Bang (CCRI—Creative Care for Reaching Independence), Ben Tambor (Arbors West), anonymous.

The 2023 Bush Fellow topics

Three of the 24 2023 Bush Fellows will focus on disability-related issues in their upcoming studies. They push Bush fellows given by the Bush Foundation annually, is a recognition of extraordinary potential.

Mental health, behavioral health and recovery are 2023 Bush Fellow topics.

To vote, please visit " $15.25 all the way to $20/$22.50 with care for a daughter who has a rare chromosomal difference called ring 21 chromosome with q-deletions. She is currently a board member for United Hmong with Disabilities, a newly established national organization that focuses on educating the Hmong community about substance use disorders. She is also on the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the deaf advisory committee that focuses on how to improve ASL interpreting in Minnesota. She is also in the current cohort of the Partners in Policymaking Class 46. The program is helping her learn how to better advocate for herself and her community, and network with different organizations, agencies and counties.

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Chautauqua* Monday – Friday 6 a.m. On Writing and Failure, nonfiction by Stephen Marche, 2023. A long-form essay on how writing is, and always will be, an act defined by failure—the best plan is to just get used to it. Read by Holly Sylvester. Three broadcasts; begins Tue, Aug. 8.

Pathogenesis, nonfiction by Jonathan Kennedy, 2023. A gripping account of how the major transformations in human history—from the rise of homo sapiens to the birth of capitalism—have been shaped not by humans but by germs. Read by Yelva Lynfield. 14 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 14.

Past is Prologue* Monday – Friday 11 a.m. And There Was Light, fiction by Jon Meacham, 2023. A chronicle of the life of Abraham Lincoln, charting how—and why—he confronted the most pressing threats to democracy, and the tragedy of slavery to expand the possibilities of America. Read by Jack Rossmann. 20 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 7.

Bookworm* Monday – Friday 12 p.m. Eastbound, fiction by Maylis De Kerangal, 2023. A gripping tale of a Russian conscript and a French woman crossing paths on the Trans-Siberian railroad, each fleeing to the east for their own reasons. Read by John Milbank. Three broadcasts; begins Wed, Aug. 2.

Groundskeeping (rebroadcast), fiction by Lee Cole, 2022. An idle love story about two very different people navigating the entanglements of class and identity and coming of age in America coming apart at the seams. Read by Don Lee. 12 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 7.


The Writer’s Voice* Monday – Friday 1 p.m. Comedy-Comedy Comedy Drama, nonfiction by Bob Odenkirk, 2022. In this hilarious memoir, the star of Mr. Show and Better Call Saul opens up about the highs and lows of showbiz. Read by John Beal. 11 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 14.


Choice Reading* Monday – Friday 2 p.m. The Night Ship, fiction by Jess Kidd, 2022. An epic historical novel about a girl shoring up an island on the west of Western Australia and a boy finding a home with his grandfather on the very same island 36 years later. Read by Brenda Powell. 13 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 7. – L

The Queen of Dirt Island, fiction by Donal Ryan, 2023. A searing, jubilant story about four generations of Irish women and their fierce love. Read by Don Lee. Seven broadcasts; begins Thu, Aug. 24. – L

Afternoon Report* Monday – Friday 4 p.m. Megathreats, nonfiction by Nouriel Roubini, 2022. A renowned economist argues we are heading toward the worst economic catastrophe of our lifetimes unless we can defend against 10 terrifying threats. Read by Gary Rodgers. 14 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 7.

The Destructionists, nonfiction by Diana Milibank, 2022. A scalding history of twenty-five years of Republican attempts to hold on to political power by any means necessary. Read by Jeffrey Weihe. 15 broadcasts; begins Mon, Aug. 28. – L


The Lincoln Highway Monday – Friday 6 p.m. And There Was Light, fiction by Jon Meacham, 2023. A gripping tale of a Russian conscript and a French woman crossing paths on the Trans-Siberian railroad, each fleeing to the east for their own reasons. Read by John Milbank. Three broadcasts; begins Wed, Aug. 2.

Satanic Panic of the 1980s, leading him into moves into a house where a pair of briefly notorious murders occurred during the Satanic Panic of the 1980s, leading him into a puzzle he never expected. Read by Tom Speich. 13 broadcasts; begins Wed, Aug. 2.

The Pallbearers Club, fiction by Paul Torday, 2022. A cleverly written psychological thriller and suspenseful portrait of an unusual and disconcerting...
OPPORTUNITIES

Health Care Video
In Our Own Words: Improving Care for People with Disabilities
Released as an unlimited run for health care video everywhere.

“In Our Own Words: Improving Care for People with Disabilities” is a two-hour video series on Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid’s YouTube channel. The first installment, Communication, began June 14. The second, Understanding, dropped June 21. Both are subtitled in Spanish. Enlightening and powerful, the voices featured in this production reveal with sheer frankness what works and what doesn’t work for many of the disability community in health care settings. Produced in partnership with the University of Minnesota, the project is funded by the Minnesota Department on Community Integration and Special Olympics Minnesota, the intended audience for the series are health care professionals. But anyone can learn and benefit. Distributors will be Mid-MN Legal Aid’s Disability Law Center—direct to providers—but key benefit. Distributors will be Mid-MN professionals. But anyone can learn and benefit.

Children and families
PACER workshops sampling
PACER Center offers many useful free or low-cost workshops and other resources for families of children with any disabilities. Some in-person workshops are offered at PACER Center and also offered online. Other workshops are wholly online and announced at the time. Online registration is required for all workshops. At least 48 hours’ notice is needed for reservations. Check the website and link to the newsletter of statewide workshops that allows participants to pick and choose sessions designed for their needs. Access Press only provides a sampling of the workshops offered.

Getting Ready for My Child’s IEP Meeting is 6-8 p.m. Tue, Aug. 8, from 6-8 p.m., an interactive, engaging session on current best practices related to children’s mental health and learning disabilities. Participants, administrators, and other professionals will learn strategies to more effectively support students at school and at home. One keynote presenter is Sheletta Brundidge, Emmy Award-winning comedian, radio host, television anchor, newspaper columnist, and best-selling author of children’s autism books. She is also the mom of children with autism, and is an expert on ShakesMcLaughlin.com, an online podcasting company that provides culturally competent commercial production.

For questions about workshops, call 952-832-5900, 800-537-2237, www.pacer.org

Open House
Can Do Canines Open House
Can Do Canines hosts two open houses 6-8 p.m. Aug. 8 and 15 at its new facility to help build potential clients, volunteers, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the center’s mission can do Canines, 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope. The event includes assistance dog demonstrations, a presentation on the center and the need for certified assistance dog teams and various staff members. How dogs are trained to help with various disabilities and change the lives of people with disabilities.

At 5-8 p.m. Tue, Aug. 22, Can Do Canines unveils its newly purchased Whelping and Growth (WAG) Center, 8127 Yale Avenue, New Germany. The additional site will be used to whelp new litters of assistance dogs. For several years, Can Do Canines volunteers have opened their homes to care for dogs before and after they give birth. The new center will have a breeding coordinator and volunteers. Learn about Sturdevant at Springboard. Funding is available for access needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforhearts.org

Resources to Enjoy!
The Enjoy! listings are for arts events as well as banquets, fundraising events and other fun events by and for disability services organizations. Schedules may be subject to change, so check with a venue or organization before making plans. Arrange for disability accommodations well in advance at any event.

Disability service organizations typically send e-news blasts and have social media. Both are other ways to find out about events. The Minnesota Access Alliance (MNA) provides an Accessible Arts & Culture Calendar for arts events with available accessibility accommodations such as audio description, captioning, ASL interpreting, and sensory-friendly accommodations. Schedules may be available for access needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforhearts.org

Open Flow Forum
The Arts with Disabilities Alliance meets via Zoom 7-9 p.m. the first Thu of the month. Upcoming dates are Aug. 3, 10 and 24. Virtually join artists with disabilities and supporters to share visual art, writing, music, theater and artistic events. The workshop leaders are Tara Linnmon and Andy Sturdevant from Springboard for the Arts. Anyone receiving accommodations through ASL interpreting or captioning should contact Sturdevant at Springboard. Funding is available for access needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforhearts.org

Enjoy!

O P P O R T U N I T I E S

CONSIDER THAT a small web or print ad provides culturally competent commercial production. FFI: PACER, 952-832-5900, 800-537-2237, www.pacer.org

Conference
Register for symposium
The PACER Symposium on Students with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities is 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed, Aug. 16 at Minneapolis Convention Center. Registration fee is $40, and includes lunch. Checks will be available at the end of the symposium. Join PACER for a full day of informative, engaging sessions on current best practices related to children’s mental health and learning disabilities. Participants, administrators, and other professionals will learn strategies to more effectively support students at school and at home. One keynote presenter is Sheletta Brundidge, Emmy Award-winning comedian, radio host, television anchor, newspaper columnist, and best-selling author of children’s autism books. She is also the mom of children with autism, and is an expert on ShakesMcLaughlin.com, an online podcasting company that provides culturally competent commercial production.

For questions about conferences, call 952-832-5900, 800-537-2237, www.pacer.org

Children and families
PACER workshops sampling
PACER Center offers many useful free or low-cost workshops and other resources for families of children with any disabilities. Some in-person workshops are offered at PACER Center and also offered online. Other workshops are wholly online and announced at the time. Online registration is required for all workshops. At least 48 hours’ notice is needed for reservations. Check the website and link to the newsletter of statewide workshops that allows participants to pick and choose sessions designed for their needs. Access Press only provides a sampling of the workshops offered.

Getting Ready for My Child’s IEP Meeting is 6-8 p.m. Tue, Aug. 8, from 6-8 p.m., an interactive, engaging session on current best practices related to children’s mental health and learning disabilities. Participants, administrators, and other professionals will learn strategies to more effectively support students at school and at home. One keynote presenter is Sheletta Brundidge, Emmy Award-winning comedian, radio host, television anchor, newspaper columnist, and best-selling author of children’s autism books. She is also the mom of children with autism, and is an expert on ShakesMcLaughlin.com, an online podcasting company that provides culturally competent commercial production.

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Open House
Can Do Canines Open House
Can Do Canines hosts two open houses 6-8 p.m. Aug. 8 and 15 at its new facility to help build potential clients, volunteers, or anyone who might be interested in supporting the center’s mission can do Canines, 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope. The event includes assistance dog demonstrations, a presentation on the center and the need for certified assistance dog teams and various staff members. How dogs are trained to help with various disabilities and change the lives of people with disabilities.

At 5-8 p.m. Tue, Aug. 22, Can Do Canines unveils its newly purchased Whelping and Growth (WAG) Center, 8127 Yale Avenue, New Germany. The additional site will be used to whelp new litters of assistance dogs. For several years, Can Do Canines volunteers have opened their homes to care for dogs before and after they give birth. The new center will have a breeding coordinator and volunteers. Learn about Sturdevant at Springboard. Funding is available for access needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforhearts.org

Resources to Enjoy!
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Enjoy!

SIGN UP FOR COMMUNICATIONS from the center before it opens. FFI: www.candocanines.org

Info & Assistance
Many classes available
Minnesota National Alliance on Mental Illness has set up a wide variety of free and in-person online health classes. Classes include Hope for Recovery, Transitions, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, In Our Own Voice. Family to Family, Positive Psychology, Creating Caring Communities, smoking cessation, a suicide prevention class called QPR – Questions, Problems, Reassurance, a QPR class for Agricultural Communities and many more.

NAMI Minnesota’s Online Support Groups moved to a new and improved platform, HeyPeers. HeyPeers provides a safe, easy to access environment designed for online support groups.

The classes and online support groups are open only to people with disabilities, caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public. Find a complete list of these classes and how to join in by going to naminm.org and clicking on “Classes” or go straight to https://naminm.org/education-public-awareness/classes/scheduled/
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