

# Retardation group to host resource fair for families

## ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

The Staten Island Retardation and Disabilities Council is hosting a Family Support Resource Fair May 15 in the Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center, Willowbrook.

The program, which begins at 8:45 a.m. with registration and breakfast, is free and designed for people with disabilities, and so agencies and service providers can learn more about services available for the disabled, said Marlene Ruggiero, co-chairwoman of the organizing committee for the event.

"We'll have all kinds of information for parents as well as other consumers who are interested in learning more about what's available for them, for people with disabilities and family members with disabilities," said Ms. Ruggiero.

She said the workshops will focus on the latest in technology and communication devices, as well as advocacy, managed care, needs for students and other topics.

An opening address will be given at 9:30 a.m., and three workshops will be held between 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Workshop A will run from 10:15 to 11 a.m. It will include demonstrations of the latest technology to enhance development, recreational opportunities for the disabled and advocacy in accessing resources and services.

■ Workshop B will also run from 10:15 to 11 a.m. It will include an overview of the transition process

*The free program is scheduled May 15 in the Elizabeth Connelly Center in Willowbrook*

from preschool to kindergarten, changes and choices in health care for families and a panel presentation on life choices for adults.

■ Workshop C will be from 12:15 to 1 p.m. It will include a discussion of the use and effectiveness of Applied Behavioral Analysis, real-life perspectives on community inclusion and the importance of emotional support and specialized family training.

Refreshments will be available and a light lunch will also be served.

The event is sponsored by the District 75/Citywide Programs of the New York City Board of Education; the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Service, and the Staten Island Mental Health Council.

The center is located at 930 Willowbrook Rd., Building A.

For more information or to register for the fair, call Marlene Ruggiero at 447-5200

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