

Audio file

[Independent Perspective #1840 \(April Fearby\).mp3](#)

Advocacy Toolbox workshops

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL). Our guest today is April Fearby, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program specialist at Independent Living of the Genesee Region (ILGR).

And I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell.

Welcome to the program, April.

00:00:21 Speaker 2

Hey, thanks for having me.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

It's our pleasure.

You're doing something very special to help out families of people with special needs but only in a particular area. What areas are those?

00:00:38 Speaker 2

So, I work with Orleans and Genesee County through the Children and Youth for Special Health Care Needs grant, and we are going to be hosting the Advocacy Toolbox Workshop for the Families and Children or Youth with Special Needs.

00:00:55 Speaker 1

And what will this program do for those who participate?

00:01:01 Speaker 2

So, if you participate, it is three dates; it goes on Thursdays from Feb. 13, 20 and 27, and you'll gain some information on the individual rights, like the IDEA, 504, other New York State education laws, IEPs and more.

As well as the advocacy piece, which is the empowerment for children and youth and their families. And we talk about techniques that will prepare you for not just education,

but any areas in life that really you need advocacy and you know what? Everybody needs advocacy at some point.

00:01:48 Speaker 1

Just wondering by any chance is what's going on down in Washington likely to affect some of the things you're going to be advising people to use in their advocacy?

00:01:59 Speaker 2

I hope not, at this time I don't see anything that we cover right now to be affected.

This is more geared towards the education piece for the law portion, but advocating, I mean anybody who feels something needs to advocate for themselves and speak on what they feel is the right thing to do so they can learn techniques that way and they can also receive free advocacy toolbox bag.

They can organize either the education or the health care or whatever you're advocating for. This one's geared towards education, but you can make it to what you actually want or need.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

That's terrific.

And as you say, it's limited to Orleans and Genesee counties.

I imagine that because of that people have to pre-register so you know that you have room for everybody that's interested in doing it.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Absolutely. We have room for about 10 more people to join us and we are providing a light dinner.

I'm not sure exactly what we're having yet, but it's going to be good. So, we do ask for you to register with me.

You can reach me at 585-815-8501 ext. 401.

00:03:27 Speaker 1

And one question that will probably come to some people's minds, is there any charge to those who participate?

00:03:35 Speaker 2

No, this is absolutely free.

The bag, the tools, the dinner and the information is completely free.

00:03:45 Speaker 1

Wonderful. And once they're armed with all this information, they will be better able to advocate for their relatives with disabilities.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

Yes, exactly. Or themselves.

00:04:00 Speaker 1

Why not?

And are there going to be any like guest speakers at your sessions?

00:04:06 Speaker 2

No, for this session it will be me facilitating and hosting, but we will be talking with each other and making sure that it's an engaging two-way conversation.

Because, I mean, if I'm up there talking all day, it's not going to be as fun.

So, I'm going to make sure that we're engaged and have discussions throughout so you're part of the training too, if you're with us.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

Our time is running low, but just in case people didn't have a pencil handy, if you could repeat your phone number, please.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Absolutely. It is 585-815-8501, ext. 401.

00:04:40 Speaker 1

Thanks so much for being with us, April.

00:04:42 Speaker 2

Thanks for having me.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of WNYIL.

Our guest today has been April Fearby , CYSHCN Program specialist with ILGR. And I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.