

## **Independent Perspective #1886 with Robert Brandon**

# Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:06 Speaker 1

Our guest today is Robert Brandon, Healthy Living Coordinator of Western New York Independent Living, and I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell.

00:00:13 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program, Rob.

00:00:15 Speaker 2

Hi, Ernie.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

Thank you so much.

00:00:17 Speaker 2

I'm happy to be here.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

And we're glad to have you.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

You deal with a number of different programs, and all of them are important to let our listeners know about.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

So, you're here to talk about facilitated enrollment for the aged, blind, and disabled.

00:00:39 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

And to introduce it, health insurance is an important topic for individuals and families alike.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

For those who may be struggling financially, public health insurance programs are available to help.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

But the application process can be daunting, to say the least.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

That's where programs like facilitated enrollment for the aged, blind, and disabled come in.

00:01:05 Speaker 1

Rob, can you give us a brief overview of the FE-ABD program and how it can help consumers like ours?

00:01:13 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

So FE-ABD or the facilitated enrollment for the age blind and disabled helps people, it helps consumers or people apply for Medicaid.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

We help them review whether Medicaid is the right option for them, discuss how it works, and even help them apply if they are interested.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

All right.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

And, I guess the program is geared towards just about anyone that might need Medicaid.

00:01:41 Speaker 2

Yeah, but

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Yeah, but this program specifically focuses on people who are aged, meaning 65 and over, certified blind, and/or certified disabled.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Medicaid, which is a public health insurance program, is determined based off of finances, usually monthly income and resources.

00:01:57 Speaker 2

Although those limits seem to be, although the limits may seem to be low,

00:02:05 Speaker 2

may seem to be low and people might be higher, don't be discouraged about not applying for Medicaid as there might be options for you still and there's ways to get people onto Medicaid.

00:02:15 Speaker 2

And, it actually enhances your medical coverage, such as if you're on Medicare or any other supplemental insurance.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

How is eligibility determined for FE-ABD?

00:02:27 Speaker 2

Like I said, it's determined based off of their monthly income, your monthly income and your resources.

00:02:32 Speaker 2

They look at your financial situation.

00:02:35 Speaker 2

And, then from there, the public health benefit will, the program helps, you know, will determine whether people are

00:02:45 Speaker 2

be accepted or not accepted.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

So, it really just depends on their financial situation.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

All right, can you talk a little bit about the consumer's journey to enrollment and how the facilitated enrollment enroller helps to guide that journey?

00:03:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, so applying for Medicaid is a journey, Ernie.

00:03:06 Speaker 2

So let me give you a scenario.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Let's say the goal is to help someone apply for Medicaid to get, to have Medicaid take care of someone in your own home.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

You know, someone who's a family member or a friend.

00:03:16 Speaker 2

Starts with applying and then it takes some time for that process.

00:03:22 Speaker 2

Eventually it leads to other determinations, other assessments, other eligibility requirements beyond the application.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

And, we as the facilitated enrollers are kind of the first step in that journey.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

So, we can help you and guide you through the Medicaid application process in the beginning and then additional referrals after that.

00:03:43 Speaker 1

All righty.

00:03:43 Speaker 1

It sounds like that's a process that you would have to guide people into applying.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

How does someone get started with

00:03:54 Speaker 1

FE-ABD.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

Yeah, so, and FE-ABD, they can call our intake line, which is 716-836-0822, extension 331.

00:04:05 Speaker 2

You can also call our main number or send us an e-mail too, and we can try to assist you as best as we can, and whether Medicaid is the right option.

00:04:14 Speaker 2

As we mentioned before, Medicaid is a journey, and although it is complicated, it is not impossible.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

So please do not disregard Medicaid as an option for you if you feel like you need community-based home care services to help you live the best quality of life in your home.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

Rob, you've already given us the contact information.

00:04:36 Speaker 1

We thank you for being with us and for all the work that you do with FE-ABD.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

Thank you, Ernie.

00:04:43 Speaker 2

Thank you, everyone.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

Our guest today was Robert Brandon, Healthy Living Coordinator at Western New York Independent Living.

00:04:56 Speaker 1

And I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.