

Independent Perspective #1885 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, who's the Healthy Living Coordinator of Western New York Independent Living, and I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell.

00:00:15 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program, Rob.

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Thank you, Ernie.

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I'm glad to be here.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

We're glad to have you.

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You're here because you're going to enlighten our listeners about community-oriented recovery and empowerment and what it will do for people with disabilities.

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Western New York Independent Living's values and its pillars focus on allowing consumers to be active members of the community while maintaining their independence.

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But changes in health

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can often pose challenges to maintaining that independence.

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That's why WNYIL offers programs like CORE, where the focus is on adult behavioral health.

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Rob, as the Healthy Living Coordinator at WNYIL, you oversee the operations of the CORE program.

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Can you provide us with an overview of what the purpose of the program is?

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Sure, Ernie.

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Thank you.

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So, CORE, which stands for Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment Services, are peer support services, meaning-- and they are person-centered, recovery-oriented, mobile behavioral health support.

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And it's intended to build skills and self-efficacy that promote and facilitate community participation and independence.

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And this is all through the person.

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People don't have to go through this journey by themselves, if you will.

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They can have someone be a support in that process.

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And the people providing support in this program are certified peer specialists, meaning there are people with lived experiences that want to contribute and give back to those who may be having similar or complicated

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things coming up, and we all need support in some capacity.

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So, our core program can help with that, but stop and then help them through their mental, their health care journey.

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What are the service pillars involved with CORE?

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So, the service pillars for CORE, there are actually three services that we offer here.

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One is psychosocial rehabilitation, one is empowerment peer support services, and one is family support training.

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All three are peer support type programs, varying and different focuses on helping people get the supports they need in the community from a certified peer.

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So that three-pronged approach is key to the recovery process.

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In what way?

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Yes, it is.

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And actually, you don't necessarily need to have all three to be on core.

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You could just have one of the three.

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I want to clarify that.

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But they all interact with one another.

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There are so many parts and...

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perspectives to take with each one, like, and there's so much crossover with peer support services.

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But the idea is it's developing a strong community network.

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So, if you have, if you yourself or a person, is utilizing a service for themselves, but they have a loved one that is involved that might need additional support to help them out, to help the person out, the consumer, there could be other services involved with the core peer to help

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ensure that they have, they're stable and everything looks, you know, that they're thriving.

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You know, again, we're a peer support service.

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Who is eligible to participate in the CORE program?

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So, consumers are people on Medicaid specifically, and there are specific types of Medicaid health insurance plans that people need to meet criteria for.

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And it gets a little bit more detailed in regards to that,

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you know, their HARP plans and MAP plans.

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But in a nutshell, you have to be on Medicaid in order to utilize the services.

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And then from there, we determine whether, you know, if people are eligible based off of the Medicaid guidelines of the program, because it is a New York State Office of Mental Health program that is funded, that is Medicaid based.

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Rob, we're running short on time.

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How does someone get started with the program?

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Who do they call?

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Sure.

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They can call us at, they can e-mail us, they

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call our intake line at Western New York Independent Living, and then we can screen them out to figure out if they're eligible.

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And if they are not, we have other similar peer support services that are very helpful to get people the supports they need.

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Um, so yeah, so that's I, you know, if you're interested in your own Medicaid, give us a call.

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Thanks so much for being with us, Rob.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

No problem.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

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

00:04:52 Speaker 1

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

00:04:57 Speaker 1

And I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.