

Independent Perspective #1887 with Amanda Hergert

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

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

00:00:06 Speaker 1

Our guest today is Amanda Hergert, Mental Health Peer Connection Vocational Peer Support Specialist, and I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program, Amanda.

00:00:18 Speaker 2

Hi, Ernie.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

Good to be here today.

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How are you?

00:00:21 Speaker 1

Not bad at all.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

You've got a whole bunch of information about how Mental Health Peer Connection can help consumers

00:00:30 Speaker 1

in their pursuit of occupational activities.

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What can you, first, what can you tell us about MHPC's job club and the type of services it offers?

00:00:44 Speaker 2

MHPC's job club is open to anybody, anybody in the community that has a mental health diagnosis.

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It's set up as a central hub for the beginning of your employment search.

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It's a motivational space where you can come and work independently and where there's always someone on hand who can answer your questions.

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We have six workstations.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

They each have dedicated phone lines and computers that can be used for career searches, communicating with potential employers, or even just working on your resumes.

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We offer resources for training and educational opportunities toward your career goals.

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And we even have hot leads on new jobs that are available all the time.

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If you need even more support, you can work one-on-one with job coaches.

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But I don't want to get ahead of myself, Ernie, because I feel like you may have more questions before I go there.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

Oh, yes, we do have more questions.

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One of the programs offered by MHPC is Vocational Skills Training.

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Is there anything you can say about that that hasn't already been covered?

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Can I ever!

00:01:58 Speaker 2

Well, the first one that I would suggest is we are in-house right now offering a CDL-A class, which we are paying for completely from beginning to end.

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Every Wednesday, we're having classes in-house from 2:30 to 4, and they're covering everything from general knowledge all the way up to

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air brakes, combination vehicles, tanker vehicle endorsements.

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Once you go through the actual classes, you then take the written test at the DMV, the DOT physical, and then of course over to the DMV to get your actual license.

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We pay for each part and we accompany you through each part of the process.

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So, once you are a member of MHPC, the entire process is covered by

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our organization, you pay nothing out of pocket.

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To answer the obvious question, what do those initials stand for?

00:02:59 Speaker 2

Commercial driving license, and then A, is there A, B, and C are different levels of what types of vehicles you'll be driving.

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And the A is passenger vehicles up to 10, I believe, with the air brake.

00:03:14 Speaker 1

How would you say your role as vocational peer support specialist

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help support people who are registered with the program.

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If you'd like one-on-one support.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

So, we have vocation, myself and Zanus Cook are the vocational peer specialists, and we absolutely enjoy our jobs and would be more than happy to become your personal job coach.

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If you decide to work with us, we can do everything from career assessments, if that's something you're looking to really develop your passion, or if you just want to go straight into trying to get employed as quickly as possible, then

00:03:48 Speaker 2

Then we would do things like creating multiple resumes to make you a more attractive candidate for an individual position, work with mock interviews to ensure that you are ready to be the best candidate for an employer, get your online presence like profiles on LinkedIn, ZipRecruiter, Indeed, we would take you to job fairs.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

Would you believe, Amanda, we're just about out of time, what's the best way

00:04:17 Speaker 1

for someone to contact the job club and get into training.

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The best way is for you to contact Tim Lepa here at intake, and that's by calling 716-836-0822 at extension 126.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Thanks so much for being with us, Amanda.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

I appreciate it.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Thanks for having me.

00:04:37 Speaker 1

Our pleasure.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

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

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Our guest today has been Amanda Hergert, Mental Health Peer Connection, Vocational Peer Support Specialist, and I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.