

Independent Perspective #1904 with Julie Andrews

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

I'm your host, Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

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Taking Control Self-Directed Home Care is designed to give individuals with disabilities or chronic health conditions the ability to manage their lives and their health directly.

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Last month, we introduced you to a new workshop series, the Taking Control Speaker Series.

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Joining us today to provide an update on the 2026 speaker series, as well as a preview of what's coming up next is Julie Andrews, the Director of Taking Control.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Welcome back, Julie.

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Thank you for having me, Tracy.

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Julie, let's refresh our listeners' minds about Taking Control.

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What is Taking Control?

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Taking Control is the name of our self-directed home care department.

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In this department, we have three self-directed programs.

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One is geared towards elderly persons with disabilities.

00:01:04 Speaker 2

One is geared towards veterans with disabilities.

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And the third is a facilitation program where we're assisting those consumers who are in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services program.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

We're a few months into the speaker series.

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How's everything gone and what have people learned so far?

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We've had a variety of really interesting subjects, mostly those that have been brought to us by consumers, of topics that are of interest to them or also things that are of concern to them.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

So, for the first few months, we covered things like a topic on healthy relationships in the month of February around Valentine's.

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We had a really interesting subject on navigating technology in March in conjunction with Technology Awareness Month.

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And in that subject, we talked about new technologies that could be beneficial generally to everyone, but also specifically

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to persons with disabilities.

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And then we also recently had a guest speaker from a local bank come and talk to us about financial literacy and banking basics.

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Great.

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May is Older Americans Month, and you have set a theme of “Flip the Script on Aging” for May.

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What can someone expect to learn about during that session?

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Well, we're really trying to focus on the notion of challenging ageism and supporting healthy aging in our communities and that it's a natural process and like embracing aging and what are all the best ways that people can be engaged in their home and in the communities and find healthy activities and healthy resources for them and to continue to stay engaged.

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And what day is the May event?

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That is on Wednesday, May the 13th at 2 p.m.

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And for June, you're focused on safety, which includes both online and community safety.

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What can you tell us about that one?

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That one's really interesting in that this is a subject that's of concern to people.

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Often people are receiving telephone scams and internet scams, targeting vulnerable persons and really targeting people who are not aware of scams.

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A lot of times these are AI driven, and so they will replicate voices of people who are familiar to them.

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And even my own parents have recently received a telephone

00:03:47 Speaker 2

telephone scam where they believed that their grandson, my son, was calling them, asking them for money.

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So, this is just a very prolific problem that's happening right now.

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And we're trying to identify how people can look for ways to, you know, prevent that from happening or set up secret codes or so that they know who it is that they're talking to.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

How can someone get more information on the speaker series?

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Well, we have flyers everywhere with QR codes.

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It's

00:04:17 Speaker 2

posted and pinned on our social media.

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So Western New York independent living on all our social media platforms There's a link and you can access that zoom through that QR code. If you need additional assistance, our staff at the department, you can call us 716-836-0822 and Extension 151 to reach me and we can set up a way to help you get on those zoom calls.

00:04:46 Speaker 1

Great, thanks.

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That's all the time we have for this week.

00:04:49 Speaker 1

Thank you for joining us, Julie.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

And thank you for tuning in to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:04:57 Speaker 1

I've been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.