

Independent Perspective #1910 with Arthur Maedl and Cathie Campbell on the A2A and F2F Forums

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 am Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:12 Speaker 1

Mental Health Peer Connection is a WNYIL agency that is run for and by people with behavioral health disabilities, providing a person-centered approach to peer counseling, among other services.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

The A2A and F2F programs within MHPC provide support for people dealing with substance use disorders and their families and loved ones.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

Later this month, the A2A and F2F teams will be offering two public forums designed to strengthen support for those experiencing substance use disorders.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Joining us today to talk about the two upcoming forums is Mental Health Peer Connection Recovery Peer Specialist, Arthur Maedl,

00:00:51 Speaker 1

and MHPC Assistant Director Cathie Campbell.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Thank you for having us.

00:00:57 Speaker 3

Yeah, thank you.

00:00:59 Speaker 1

Arthur, let's start with you by talking about the first forum on June 26th at 1 PM at Build Promise, Amy's Place of Hope at 1297 Sycamore in Buffalo.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

The program is titled *Bridging the Gap, The Space Between Systems*.

00:01:14 Speaker 1

What is the purpose of this forum and who is it geared toward?

00:01:18 Speaker 3

Absolutely, Tracy.

00:01:19 Speaker 3

The idea behind *Bridging the Gap, The Space Between Systems* really comes from what we see in our work as peers every day.

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A lot of the people we support are dealing with both mental health challenges and substance use challenges at the same time.

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And even though those issues are often connected,

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they kind of feed off each other.

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The systems that treat them, they don't always operate together.

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They tend to operate separately.

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So as peers, we often find ourselves helping people navigate that space between those two systems, like dealing with the mental health aspect and the substance use aspect.

00:01:52 Speaker 3

And they aren't really talking to each other sometimes.

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This forum is an opportunity to bring the mental health providers, the substance use professionals, peers, treatment court representatives, community organizations, and other stakeholders into the same room,

00:02:06 Speaker 3

so that we can have an honest conversation about what's working, what's not working, and how we might be able to work together to make it a little bit more effective, right?

00:02:16 Speaker 3

It's not about pointing fingers or criticizing systems.

00:02:19 Speaker 3

It's about building the relationships and improving communication and finding practical ways to better support the people we serve.

00:02:27 Speaker 3

As peers, we see firsthand how those gaps can affect recovery, treatment, engagement, stability, and overall well-being.

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The goal of this forum is to create a space for collaboration, learning, and problem-solving.

00:02:42 Speaker 3

Through a facilitated panel discussion and an open forum with community stakeholders, we want to explore ways to strengthen the partnerships, improve communication, and identify practical solutions that support integrated person-centered care.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Great.

00:02:55 Speaker 1

Well, thank you, Arthur.

00:02:58 Speaker 1

Cathie, I want to switch gears to talk about the second forum, *Holding On Without Holding Control* , that is geared towards families.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

When and where is this taking place?

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And can you provide us with information on the purpose of this forum and what someone can expect to learn?

00:03:12 Speaker 2

So, our F2F forum will be held at 3108 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14214 in the Job Club on June 29th from 5 to 8 p.m.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

When someone you love is struggling with addiction, it can feel like everything is out of control.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

The emotions, the uncertainty, it's overwhelming.

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It's a natural attempt to try to take control,

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and just keep things from falling apart.

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But in doing that, families often end up feeling exhausted and unsure of what helps.

00:03:47 Speaker 2

This forum is here to help.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

It's a supportive space to learn how to take care of yourself while still caring about your loved one.

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We focus on one key tool, healthy boundaries, how to create clarity, reduce chaos, and respond with intention instead of reaction.

00:04:06 Speaker 2

You'll leave with practical strategies, a better understanding of family dynamics, and the reassurance that you're not alone.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

Because even in the midst of addictions, families can find balance, healing, and hope.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

Also, if you want to reach anyone from the teams,

00:04:25 Speaker 2

You can call 716-836-0822 for Arthur and Tim.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

That would be extension 135 and Carla extension 164 and Destini, 186.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

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

00:04:45 Speaker 1

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

00:04:50 Speaker 1

Our guests today were MHPC Recovery Peer Specialist Arthur Maedl and MHPC Assistant Director Cathie Campbell.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

And I've been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.