

Independent Perspective #1911

with Julie Andrews on the Taking Control Speaker Series July-August Promotion

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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Over the past few months, we have introduced you to Taking Control's new speaker series.

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Returning to the show today to provide an update on the last few workshops in the speaker series, as well as a preview of what is coming up next, is Julie Andrews, the director of Taking Control Self-Directed Home Care.

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Welcome to the show, Julie.

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Thanks for having me back, Tracy.

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It's always a delight to speak with you about our programming.

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All right, let's start with a basic refresher on what the Taking Control program is.

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This department, as it is stated in the name, is really about the consumers taking control of their own decision making, and it comes in the nature of the self-directed home care.

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Within this department, we have three different program types.

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One is facilitation of consumer-directed personal assistance program, which consumers are now receiving through the statewide single

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fiscal intermediary PPL.

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The second type is focused more on an elderly population of persons with disabilities, which is typically called the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program.

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And the third and newest is the VA-funded Veteran Directed Care Program, which serves veterans.

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Tell us about the last few months in the speaker series.

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How did those workshops go?

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There were kind of exciting workshops.

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We hosted a couple different really interesting topics, one pertaining to the changing perspectives on aging, and that was in National Aging Month.

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And then we did another one this last month on recognizing and avoiding scams.

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And, you know, with the progression of

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AI, people are even more vulnerable than ever to being scammed.

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So that workshop talked about the ways that we could identify scams in person and digitally, and also what to do about it.

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Great.

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Moving on to the upcoming workshops, July is a big month for Western New York Independent Living as we celebrate Disability Pride Month.

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Appropriately, your July workshop is focused on disability awareness.

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What can you tell us about that session?

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So, we're really excited about this in terms of honoring the peer supported nature of our program, the self-directed care.

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The staff, of course, all have a variety of disabilities and they provide those relatable suggestions and guidance for navigating the systems of the three different programs within the Taking Control

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department.

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For example, we have veteran peers in our department who really help with the veteran directed care program.

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And they have that experience of being able to navigate those, the VA system benefits, programs that are available within the VA and also just like their portal

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familiarity.

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So those are all ways that peers can support the veteran peers in the veteran directed care program as an example.

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August is National Wellness Month and your workshop focuses on the C's of mental health.

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Can you tell us a little bit about that workshop?

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The August workshop is going to focus on those C's, which include connection with each other,

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coping strategies, compassion, control, having confidence, having competence, and care.

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So those are the Cs that we'll be talking about in that August workshop.

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And how can someone get more information about the speaker series?

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Posted and pinned in all of our social media platforms.

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So that can be found on Facebook, in LinkedIn, for example.

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We also have posters throughout all of our programming areas.

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That includes our subcontracting spaces across the state.

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And if anyone wants to get a hold of us, they can certainly reach out to our phone number at WNYIL or reach out to us through the website.

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

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Thank you for joining us, Julie, and thank you for tuning in to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

Today's guest was Julie Andrews, the director of the Taking Control Program here at WNYIL.

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And I have been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.