

Independent Perspective #1919

Taking Control Speaker Series – September and October Topics

## Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

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

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For people with disabilities or chronic health conditions, the ability to manage their lives and their health directly is paramount to maintaining their independence.

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The Taking Control self-directed home care program here at WNYIL is designed to support that level of independence.

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The Taking Control speaker series is a new component this year that touches on topics that are relevant to consumers living independently in the community.

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Returning to the show today to talk about some upcoming topics covered through the speaker series is Julie Andrews, the Director of Taking Control.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

Welcome back to the show, Julie.

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Thank you for having me once again.

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Julie, the Taking Control program offers support in three areas, veterans, the elderly and general consumers.

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Can you briefly remind us about those three programs?

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Certainly.

00:01:03 Speaker 2

So, our largest area of support is the consumer directed personal assistance facilitation program where we are assisting consumers of all ages and all disabilities with their experience with the single

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statewide fiscal intermediary which is known as PPL.

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So, we are assisting consumers with their navigation through that program.

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The second is the expanded in-home services for the elderly program.

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And we have locations in seven different counties at this point and we're continuing to expand a little further.

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That is for persons with disabilities who are 65 years and above.

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And the third area, which is of more recent and continued growth both here in New York State and in Pennsylvania, is the Veteran Directed Care program funded by the VA.

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Great.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

You have a broad range of topics for the speaker series this year.

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How did you determine what topics you were going to focus on?

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Really, it came from our feedback from consumers, the types of questions that we saw trends of them seeking assistance or some responses to.

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And so, we sort of mapped out the kinds of areas that they had given feedback on and in relation to certain months that are certain awareness months.

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Let's talk about the upcoming workshops in the speaker series.

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In September, we'll be speaking about emergency preparedness.

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Can you tell us a little bit about that event?

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Sure.

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So, it's known as National Emergency Preparedness Month where people are, there's a lot more conversation around how everyone should prepare for emergencies.

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And this is really interesting in particular to those of us who are in Western New York and have to deal with big weather emergencies.

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So, it is always a good topic to discuss and get it on the forefront of everyone's minds ahead of time in terms of what you would need to prepare and make sure

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have adequate items in the event of an emergency.

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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and your focus is on how to be a good employer.

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This topic is extremely relevant to our consumers who employ their own personal assistants through Taking Control.

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Can you tell us a little bit about that session?

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This session in particular is probably the number one area that consumers request assistance.

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So, there's often changes in their staffing, the aides that work for them, personal assistants or direct care workers, and always maintaining a level of staffing that is appropriate to their level of care needs.

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They will identify people, usually friends, family, loved ones who will provide that care.

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But as things change,

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there are oftentimes where they need additional support from outside of those circumstances.

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It's in this area we do some what we call wraparound services where we do some teaching and training for the consumers on how to post for positions, how to do screen for employees, but also really focusing on them, the consumer as an employer.

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And what does that

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look like?

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How does it look like to be an employer to manage your aides' time, their attendance, the tasks that they need to do and provide them with instruction on your specific needs?

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How can someone get more information on the speaker series?

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We have this posted on all of Western New York Independent Living family of agencies, social media outlets.

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and there are QR codes, and generally we post them on hard copy posters that have QR codes as well.

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People are invited to attend in person as well as.

00:05:05 Speaker 1

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

00:05:07 Speaker 1

Thank you for joining us, Julie.

00:05:08 Speaker 1

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

00:05:16 Speaker 1

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

00:05:21 Speaker 1

And I've been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.