

Independent Perspective #1917
Renewal Center Health Fair with Renee Law

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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Supporting good mental health is part of the work we do at WNYIL through our Mental Health Peer Connection.

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One of the options we offer for someone who is experiencing

00:00:21 Speaker 1

or approaching a mental health crisis is the Renewal Center in Buffalo.

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New this year, the team at the Renewal Center is joining with other agencies to offer a community event designed to bring awareness to the services offered in the area of mental health.

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Joining us today to talk about the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair at the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center is MHPC Program Manager for the Renewal Center, Renee Law.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

Welcome to the show, Renee.

00:00:50 Speaker 2

Thank you for inviting me.

00:00:52 Speaker 2

Thank you.

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Renee, let's start with an overview of what the Renewal Center is.

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Absolutely.

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The Renewal Center is a hospital diversion program operated by Mental Health Peer Connection and located within the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center at 111 Maple Street in Buffalo.

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At its heart, the Renewal Center is a warm, welcoming place for people who may be experiencing or beginning to experience a mental health crisis.

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We use what is called the living room model, which means people are welcome into a warm, comfortable home-like space rather than a traditional clinic or hospital setting.

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Our goal is for every guest who walks through the door feels safe, heard, respected, and supported by people who truly understand.

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Most importantly, we meet people where they are, walk alongside them and help find hope in a path forward and respectful person-centered way.

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The Renewal Center is located at the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center in Buffalo.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

What is the Respite and Recovery Center and how does the Renewal Center fit as part of the model?

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Well, the Respite and Recovery Center is a haven for individuals in mental health crisis looking for a safe place to continue their journey to recovery.

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It's Recovery Options Made Easy (ROME) in collaboration with Mental Health Peer Connection and Spectrum Health and Human Services, offering crisis stabilization and continued recovery in one location.

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It's the first of its kind respite and recovery model, which offers recovery support across the continuum care with internal services working with external programs.

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It works alongside the other services in the building to ensure people receive the right level of care without automatically going to the hospital.

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This integrated model allows individuals to move between services based on their needs and support

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recovery in the community.

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Great.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

Let's switch gears and talk about the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair at the Respite and Recovery Center.

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When is it, who can attend, and what can people expect at the event?

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The Health and Wellness Fair will be held on Friday, August 21st from 1 p.m.

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to 5 p.m.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

in the parking lot of the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center at 111 Maple Street in Buffalo.

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It's free and open to anyone.

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We encourage people to bring a friend, family member, or anyone who may benefit from learning more about local health, wellness, and recovery support.

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Guests can expect a welcoming community event, health screenings, harm-reduction screening information, food and nutrition resources, survivor information, community service connections, and free food giveaways.

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It will also be a chance to meet staff, connect with community partners and learn about services that support overall wellness and recovery.

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Great.

00:04:12 Speaker 1

What types of workshops are taking place during the event?

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Well, the event will feature several engaging workshops, including creative expression activities, managing clutter, mobility and fitness, and self-care tips.

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How can someone get more information on the Health and Wellness Fair?

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Well, anyone can call myself.

00:04:37 Speaker 2

My phone number is 716-245-4200.

00:04:42 Speaker 1

Great.

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

00:04:45 Speaker 1

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

00:04:54 Speaker 1

Today's guest was Renee Law, the MHPC program manager for the Renewal Center, and I've been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.