

# Audio file

[Independent Perspective #1844 \(Tracy LeBlanc\).mp3](#)

Independent Perspective 1844 with Tracy LeBlanc on the Summit for Aging, Independence, and Transportation

## Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL). Our guest today is Tracy LeBlanc, chief community engagement officer of WNYIL.

And I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell.

Welcome to the program, Tracy.

00:00:18 Speaker 2

Thank you, Ernie.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

And you're here because you have all the lowdown on an exciting new event that is coming on in the near future. However, the time to register is coming rapidly upon us.

So, we need to get the word out to our listeners.

What can you tell us about the Summit on Aging, Independence and Transportation?

00:00:45 Speaker 2

Well, the Summit's a great opportunity to connect, learn and share best and next practices for addressing current and future needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

It's a daylong event that features 2 keynote speakers and 14 workshops that run concurrently throughout the day.

It's being held on Wednesday, March 26th at the Buffalo Marriott Niagara at 1340 Millersport Highway, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

00:01:17 Speaker 1

Alrighty, can you give us some details about your guest speakers?

00:01:22 Speaker 2

Yes, we have two really great keynote speakers.

The first one is Katherine Freund, who's president and CEO of an organization called Independent Transportation Network of America, and she'll be speaking about their volunteer transportation program.

A local solution with national support, so we'll be really interested to hear her experiences throughout the country and then our luncheon keynote is Melissa Gray, who is the assistant director of transportation at USAging and the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center.

Her keynote is *"The Road to Independence: Rethinking Transportation for Aging with Dignity and Choice."*

So those are our two keynote speakers.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

But of course, they do not occupy the entire day.

You have a number of workshops that people can fill the rest of their time with.

Can you tell us something about those.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

Yes, we have a total of 16 different workshops. Some of them include creating accessible and inclusive communities with representatives from the UB Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, or the IDEA Center. We also have empowering Community re engaging through individual service plans with two representatives from the New York Association on Independent Living.

Universal accessibility with Dave Weyland, who is the director of the Institute on Disability Awareness at Niagara University.

Working towards sustainability of self-directed services for people with IDD, with two long time advocates. And reflecting on aging years mine and ours through song reflection, silence and discussion with Rabbi Foster from the Jewish Family Services of Western New York.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

And for people that are not part of the social services. What is IDD?

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Intellectual developmental disability.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

So that kind of covers a whole swath of issues for people.

I believe that folks have a deadline to register for this event.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

Yes, we'd like people to register by March 14th.

It's \$125.00 for registration and \$85 for students.

00:03:50 Speaker 1

Well, that's definitely something to keep in mind then.

And I take it you would recommend anyone who can to be able to attend this event.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

Yes, it's really geared for caregivers, seniors, people on social services.

It's really kind of the crowd runs the gamut of people.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

If people have questions on this event, how can they reach you?

00:04:19 Speaker 2

They can call 716-836-0822 ext. 146.

00:04:26 Speaker 1

Thank you so much for being with us to tell us all about this exciting event.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

Thank you for having me.

00:04:35 Speaker 1

You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of WNYIL.

Our guest today was Tracy LeBlanc, chief community engagement officer of WNYIL.

And I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.