

Lue Ann: Hey Derek, how's it going?

Derek: Hey, Lue Ann welcome back.

Lue Ann: Thank you so much, and thank you for covering me when I was out. I really appreciate it. I'm so glad that we're such a close, helpful team for each other.

Derek: Yeah no problem. I'm just glad you're back, and it was no problem at all. I have a vacation coming up at the end of the month, so I'll be looking for you-

Lue Ann: Oh okay.

Derek: To help me out. So no problem, don't worry about it-

Lue Ann: I will, I will of course. Thanks so much. So I guess you better fill me on what's been happening.

Derek: Yeah, lot's been going on. Let me tell you first about our most, well the biggest crisis that's been going on is with my friend Michela. So not sure if you heard, but she ended up having a bit of legal trouble. She ended up getting arrested last week for DWI. She was with this guy, this new guy she met, and the guy had a bunch of drugs on him. So they ended up going to jail right here in town. They were in this town when they got caught.

So I spoke with our supervisor Kate, and we talked about what to do. I ended up going down to the police station, and I met with Michela for a little bit. It was a pretty short meeting. Surprisingly enough while I was there, who should show up but Max her old boyfriend. She had actually broken up with him a few weeks ago, that's what she told me, and then was seeing this new guy and was so happy about it. And so I thought Max was done, but apparently she called him after she called me, and he was down there at the station bailing her out. So I guess they're a thing again.

Lue Ann: Wow.

Derek: Yeah, and then I'd asked her if she had talked to her mom, and she did not have any nice things to say about her mom. She did call her mom. Her mom, when she heard when she was in jail basically hung up on her and said, "I can't deal with you anymore." So that must have been hard for Michela to hear, but I guess I can relate in that her mom must go through a lot with Michela, and I know that this is not the first time that Michela's called her in dire straits. I don't know if it's the first time she's called her from jail, but I know there's been a lot of other issues where she's, and I think she's just had enough.

So yeah Michela apparently is not really interested in my help anymore either. So she said, she was respectful with me she said, "Thanks for trying, and thanks for helping me with what you did help, but I'm good." And her and Max are gonna go at it on their own she said. So I mean, I don't know if I'm gonna see Michela again to be honest. She is just

like, "Listen, I don't know what's gonna happen, but we're gonna do it." And the last I saw, she was getting in max's car, and heading somewhere. She didn't really know-

Lue Ann: God.

Derek: Yeah.

Lue Ann: Wow, I mean it's kinda cool on the one hand that at least she spoke to you about it, and expressed some of her wishes. Sometimes we don't even get to see our folks. Sometimes people just sort of drop out, or something happens with a hospitalization, or move, or something serious, and we don't really get to follow up or try to follow up.

Derek: Yeah I mean I definitely give her credit, because we didn't end on very good terms the last time we talked. And she kind of stormed off because I tried to, I was trying to approach her about the housing problem. And so I respect her for being mature to kind of say, "Thank you for the help that you have given me. I'm good now. I don't really want your help anymore. And I'm gonna take my recovery into my own hands." So I wish her the best.

Lue Ann: Yeah, wow but that's still very surprising. Especially when you were going down there to intervene at such a crucial time.

Derek: Yeah.

Lue Ann: Wow.

Derek: So she used her natural supports in her life. You gotta give her credit for that. She called on a friend, and a friend thought enough of her to help her out, so like I said I wish them well, but I have better news about George. So if you remember before you left he was looking into the apartment in his old building, and a spot opened up and he moved, if you could believe it. He's back in his old place with his friends right down the hall again.

So he couldn't be happier. He's really, really impressed me in the last month I have to say, with getting all of the paperwork in, and arranging all of the utilities to be disconnected, and reconnected in the new place, and packing up his apartment. I mean I did next to nothing, and he checked in with me every couple days to say what he did, and he had a couple questions about what to do next, and I helped him out with that. But other than that, you could tell he was really motivated to achieve this goal. Because he was inspired, and took a lot of the steps into his own hands, and when he had a barrier he side stepped it and tried something else, or he called somebody like me or one of his friends to help him out so it's great.

Lue Ann: Wow.

Derek: Yeah he actually, the funniest thing was, in the last couple weeks he was at his old place. He actually ended up meeting a person that lives there, in the building, this woman Kim. And I'm not sure if they're, what kind of relationship, if they're romantic an item kind of

thing or what. But so he was asking me now, he wants to go back to the place where he was living, and visit her from time to time. So I'll have to explore some of the options in the community to get him to back and forth. 'Cause he had tried with the bus lines and it was a challenge. So I'm gonna see if there's something else other than the bus route that we had tried to map out in the past. If there's a better way for him to go visit his friend Kim, or maybe they can meet half way or something.

Lue Ann: Yeah, wow that's so sweet. He was unhappy moving there. Something cool came out of it. Now he's back in the old neighborhood, but he's still gonna have a connection to that place he moved to and with that cool, I mean she's probably pretty cool. I mean if he's already getting to know her, he hadn't even been living there that long.

Derek: Yeah I mean I was pretty, pretty proud of him for how far he's come. He even told me as I'd gone to see him in his new place, and he wanted me to see it, and show him how nice he's keeping it and he said that he saw a job posting on the wall in the building for some kind of landscaping work or something. And he's thinking about giving it a call, I'm like, "Wow already on to the next goal, okay." It was almost like he had in his mind to achieve this goal of getting back to where he wanted to be, and his mind's already onto the next. So I'm ready to, we're gonna meet next week, and he said he was gonna think about giving them the call. So he's gonna let me know then if he called them or not. So I told him it's great, if that fits what you want to do, go for it.

Lue Ann: Talk about living, working, social...

Derek: Yes for sure. Really proud of him-

Lue Ann: That is so good.

Derek: Yeah.

Lue Ann: Okay cool. So I know you did a lot stepping in when I needed some coverage. I also spoke to a couple other people on the team earlier who were catching me up, and I just finally started connecting to mainly make Bianca, and what's been going on. So remember when we were talking? I guess it was about three, four weeks ago when Bianca wanted to go to work. She actually found a full time job in the city, with some kind of design company, design, clothing design firm or something like that-

Derek: Wow!

Lue Ann: Yeah! And it's what she used to be interested in, what she used to do. What she's had some studying and preparation in, but it's in the city. It pays pretty well, but she still has to make sure that she can continue to get there, to find the best, most economical transportation and all of that. Especially because she did tell me that she and Mick are pregnant.

Derek: Wow!

Lue Ann: Yeah-

Derek: Okay, well congratulations to them! I can't say I'm too surprised because of one thing. So I meant to bring this up today, so I'd seen Mick while you were gone, and he had actually given me a call and was like, "Hey, can I meet with you?" And I was like, "Sure." I thought it was he needed something in your absence, but it turned out he wanted to kind of talk to me, because I was one of the guys on the team. And one of the things he brought up was that they were talking about having a baby. And honestly he was a little apprehensive about it, and was looking for just kind of a male perspective, and he knew I had a son. And actually I talked to him about Adam on our team, who's the peer specialist, and I think they actually talked. So wow, I'm really proud of them. And Mick must have I guess, well I hope that he feels good about the conversation. Have you talked to Mick about it?

Lue Ann: Well I mean Bianca told me she was bubbling, and she was happy about it-

Derek: I'm sure she was yeah.

Lue Ann: It sounds good. She's still a few months off, so she's happy about the move, she's happy about the job, and now this is happening. And actually that job that she got that I said pays well, also has good benefits and all of that. So I'm sure they'll accommodate her with whatever she needs.

Derek: Yeah that's gonna really help her when she does end up having the baby. I guess she's probably not due for a while.

Lue Ann: Yeah.

Derek: And she can have medical benefits, and get maternity leave if that's available-

Lue Ann: Right.

Derek: That's great yeah.

Lue Ann: Right yeah, well but about what you were saying about Mick talking to you, and then Mick talking to Adam. Mick really wanted to find some kind of support. Some kind of support group, but it doesn't necessarily have to be people with psychiatric disabilities, or anything like that. But he wanted to find some kind of a men's group. He was actually looking online self-help clearing house, and stuff like that. And you know how sometimes the groups are, the wellness center, the local wellness center doesn't always have everything that people are looking for. So he found a group in a church, but it's actually not really very close, because again there's not always the right group that you need very handy and close by. So it's not even on a main bus route or anything, there's kind of like no public transportation to this church. It's several towns away, it's sort of more residential. Not rural, but residential, and that kind of a neighborhood.

Derek: Yeah.

Lue Ann: So he really wants to be able to get to it though, because it does meet twice a month. And like as you said, he's got those mixed feelings. His job isn't so hot. He's worried about the growing family. Being supportive, being the breadwinner all that kind of male role concerns, which are valid. So we need to sit down, and we need to figure out how he's going to be able to go to this group.

Derek: Yeah I think that, well we should be able to figure out some resource in the community that can help him. And even if there isn't a resource, 'cause I know some of the services will transfer people to medical appointments, and psychiatrist, or therapist appointments. But I don't know if all of those services would transport somebody to a support group. That might be something we may lean on our colleagues to look into a little bit more, but I'm wondering if he could maybe use some of his natural supports.

If it's kind of heading west at a certain time of day, maybe I could, I live out that way. I could drop him on the way, if he could find his own way home. Something like that at least to kind of get him started, 'cause I definitely, I'm really happy he found the group. 'Cause when he talked to me, he was definitely searching for something. And I'm glad he felt comfortable now to talk to you about it, because he was a little apprehensive. He was saying all the supports in his life are female, you and Bianca. So I'm happy he seems to feel comfortable now, and maybe he's got Adam, and he felt good talking in this group. So good for him. So I would help him any way I could if it's somewhat convenient.

Lue Ann: That would be really great. That's huge. He actually did, when he did speak to me it was with a little bit of brevity, but I mean at least he did tell me the important details. And if you did help him, that would be cool. We'll have to sit down and think, like you said, talk to some colleagues. I'll have to think, 'cause a family member had helped him and Bianca move to where they live now, but I'm not sure where that family member lives, and how that person knows about the neighborhood. Maybe he or she also knows about some of the stuff that's going in the direction, like you say, west where this group is, where you live, where it's a little bit further from the city and stuff. Okay all right cool.

Derek: Wow it's so cool to talk with you this week, and just hear some of the goals that our people that we've been working with have actually seemed to achieve in the last of couple weeks. Having George get back to the apartment building he really wanted to live in. That's something you know he's been focused on for months. And then to hear Bianca get a job that she, a couple weeks ago, didn't even really seem like she believed she could get, and just a little bit of curiosity and talking to you, and you could hear the passion, and it sounds like it led to her fulfilling that goal.

And then to hear Mick with them with the baby, and then getting the support group. It's just an array of good stuff. I'm sorry to hear that, I'm sorry it can't all be good. With Michela it's unfortunate, but she survived at least, and she left, and she was stable, and making decisions for herself. And so you have to respect that in a human, and an adult. But it's good amongst, that was a little disappointing, but it's good that we've gotten to hear some good things today about some of the people we've been working with. It just sounds like we need to kind of link them, or help them figure out the ways to access

those things in the community. The job, the support group, the friend. So I think we could do that though, right?

Lue Ann: Oh totally, I mean I'm so excited too about all these things that have happened. I mean when you think about how it's only been a few months ago that when things weren't going so great. Mick and Bianca's housing, Mick's job, Mick's car accident, and Bianca's hospitalization, and George's move, and Michela being brand new and and kind of scared, and timid, and stuff like that. I obviously think it's very unfortunate about her too, and it saddens me, but on the other hand when we think about our work overall, and how we can motivate other service recipients to have hope for the future.

I hope maybe Mick will also go to a self-help center, and share some of his stories with people who could say, "Wow I used to be in those shoes." I know George goes to the self-help center. It's so cool when other folks can be motivated and think, "Wow there's hope." When they talk to the people who had reached their goals, like these people.

Derek: Certainly, I'm sure Mick's story could certainly help other people out there going through similar situations so.

Lue Ann: Yeah, and George's wow. Yeah it is yeah. Okay cool, cool. So I guess we better get cracking. I better get busy and caught up on all that since my absence.

Derek: Yeah.

Lue Ann: And I can check in with you at the end of the week?

Derek: Yep let's do that. Sounds good.

Lue Ann: Okay cool, thank you so much.

Derek: All right talk to you soon.

Lue Ann: Okay bye.

Derek: Bye ... Okay I just wanted to quickly thank a couple people that helped us with this project. I wanted to thank Brittany Stone for playing Michela. Anthony Zazzarino for playing George. Ken Kinter for playing Mick, and Jenifer George for playing Bianca. And lastly, Kate Colucci for playing our supervisor. It's been a real enjoyment doing this recording with them. Thank you guys very much for your help, and hope to see you guys again next season, take care.

Lue Ann: I'm so grateful too, thanks everybody, team.

Derek: Bye.

Lue Ann: Bye.

