

## **2026-2-17 NDHAB Q1 Meeting**

### **Quick recap**

The meeting focused on reviewing progress and discussing the development of the North Dakota Integrated HIV Plan for 2027-2031. NDHHS provided an update on the plan's status, noting that the state is ahead of schedule and working to meet the June 30th submission deadline. The group discussed maintaining four key projects from the previous plan, including developing resources for people living with HIV, improving multilingual materials, increasing testing access in rural areas, and providing education on legislation and policy. Participants shared ideas for public education initiatives, including potential public service announcements and personal stories to reduce stigma. The advisory board also reviewed a sample testing video created by member and discussed plans for future in-person meetings, potentially moving them to late summer or early fall to accommodate the April meeting for plan review.

### **Next steps**

#### **NDHHS**

- [Develop goals, activities, and outcomes \(SMART and measurable\) for the new integrated HIV plan and present to the board around April; also develop a work plan to accompany the integrated plan, all to be submitted before June 30th.](#)
- [Send Jason a message tomorrow to schedule a meeting to review and address "homework" items discussed.](#)

#### **NDHAB**

- [Compile and share new project/PSA ideas \(including public service announcement concepts, anonymous stories, and Good Health TV suggestions\) with the health department for consideration in the integrated plan.](#)
- [Send out reminder information and scripts to advisory board members interested in creating testing videos, and coordinate assistance for those who need help with video creation.](#)
- [Complete and share the next part of the testing video \(how to use the test kit\) with the group.](#)
- [Advisory board members interested in creating testing videos: Notify if assistance is needed for video creation.](#)

## **Summary**

### **North Dakota HIV Plan Review**

The meeting focused on reviewing progress for the North Dakota Integrated HIV Plan, with Jordan working alongside Alicia, Lindsey, and Sarah to refine the plan for advisory board review. The Department of Health and Human Services has been receptive to feedback and is incorporating information from the recent needs assessment into the draft plan.

### **2027-2031 Integrated Plan Update**

Jorden provided an update on the new integrated plan for 2027-2031, noting that the team is ahead of schedule and positioned well to transition from the current plan. He explained that the new plan needs to be submitted by June 30th and will include goals, activities, and outcomes that are SMART and measurable. Jorden is currently working on developing the plan, incorporating feedback from the board and previous literature, and will present it around April for further discussion. The team is also developing a work plan to accompany the integrated plan, with all documents to be submitted to federal authorities by July 1st.

### **SMART Goals and EHE Planning**

Christopher raised a question about the SMART goals for the integrated plan, inquiring about the guidance from CDC and HRSA. They discussed the EHE (ending the HIV epidemic) goal by 2030, which remains on the books but lacks specific guidance. Christopher suggested keeping goals small and obtainable to demonstrate success, which Jason agreed with. They also touched on the advisory board's role in the plan and the use of needs assessment data for decision-making.

### **North Dakota HIV Advisory Board**

The group discussed the North Dakota HIV Integrated Plan, focusing on the role and recognition of the North Dakota HIV Advisory Board (NDHAB). Jason shared that the board's projects and activities would be retained in Table 2 of the plan, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging NDHAB's guidance on policy and HIV response strategies. They highlighted two key initiatives: developing a one-stop shop for HIV resources and creating multilingual materials, with plans to enhance accessibility and expand language options.

### **HIV Project Integration Plan Review**

The meeting focused on reviewing an integrated plan for HIV-related projects, with Jason reporting that four key projects would be retained. The discussion covered the development of multilingual resources, HIV testing in tribal and rural areas, and legislation

education for those living with HIV and community workers. Jolene provided guidance on resuming HIV testing at Turtle Mountain Community College, suggesting that contact be made with President Wanda Persian to establish protocols and procedures.

### **HIV Training and Education Initiatives**

Jason discussed ongoing work with the board, focusing on training providers about HIV and addressing stigma within healthcare settings, particularly in emergency rooms. He highlighted the results of a needs assessment survey that revealed widespread ignorance about HIV in North Dakota, including within faith communities, and emphasized the need for public education. The group agreed to contact Wanda Persian, the college president, and Jamie Asher, the tribal chairman, to explore testing opportunities and gather further information.

### **HIV Awareness and Education Planning**

The group discussed creating public service announcements and educational content to reduce HIV stigma and increase testing awareness. Taj shared a sample TikTok-style video about home STI testing, which Jason will review for potential use. The advisory board agreed to meet again in April (likely on the 21st) to review the state health department's revamped integrated plan, with a potential in-person meeting in late summer or early fall. Paul suggested exploring affordable housing options for people living with HIV, and Christopher raised concerns about the effectiveness of certain healthcare provider initiatives. The group also discussed the possibility of creating anonymous messages from community members to address misconceptions about HIV.