

06/20/2023

Greetings,

My name is Russell Campillo. I am writing to you as a “PLWHIV” (person living with HIV) and “PWSUD” (person with experience of a substance use disorder). There are many people like me throughout our communities and just as many who fear expressing their needs and or feel they have no voice. I am a community organizer and advocate for people like us.

At my previous organization, I worked as a Peer Educator, which has led me across the US and its territories to connect and educate many people and other organizations. I currently work as a Clinical Case Manager for a rehabilitation facility called ReDiscover Mental Health. I am dedicated to meeting people where they are in their health and wellness journeys, educating myself, and showing others how to live and thrive while living with HIV.



I am certified as a Missouri Peer Support Specialist via MCB and a Community Health Worker through Penn Valley Community College as well as certified by the MCB- Missouri Credentialing Board. In my free time, I am an avid fisherman and competitive dart player. I am also your current North Dakota HIV Advisory Board (NDHAB) Facilitator.

We are the North Dakota HIV Advisory Board (NDHAB) and we would like to invite you to join our team of advocates, community members, and dreamers! Over the last year, the board has been a part of some significant projects that impacted people living with HIV — and others affected by HIV — across the state. We have advocated for the inclusion of education and stigma-reduction activities in the statewide Integrated HIV Prevention and Care plan; we have provided feedback on a variety of materials and social support opportunities for people living with and recently diagnosed with HIV; and we have been a part of the development of a peer-to-peer program. We want to continue this momentum through 2023 and beyond, and hope that you'll join us!

A few of the projects that the board will be working on are the following:

- Creating multilingual prevention and care materials to ensure that vital information is reaching all communities;
- Seeking out opportunities to create a virtual “one-stop shop” for holistic health and wellness care for people living with HIV;
- Hosting community events to outreach to priority communities, especially in rural areas of North Dakota; and
- Provide education to city and local representatives on HIV, helping to bring a face to HIV-related matters.

We are always hoping to expand the board and include more voices, of both people living with HIV and those who care deeply about public and community health. If you are interested in applying, you may reach me by email at russelldcampillo@gmail.com or visit www.health.nd.gov/HIV/Community. Thanks for your time and I look forward to working beside you in the future.

Yours in the struggle,
Russell