

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Statewide Consumer Advisory Board is to provide advice to the staff and senior management of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Office of HIV/AIDS about policies, and programmatic issues affecting the lives of consumers and individuals at risk. We work with the OHA to achieve these three goals:

- Increase the number of persons at risk who know their HIV status.
- Decrease the number of new HIV infections.
- Improve the quality of life of HIV-infected and high-risk uninfected persons.

*"I have served on the Statewide CAB for five years. It has enriched my life in more ways than I could ever say. It has opened up a whole world of possibilities that I could never have imagined."*

*Bill B.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the SWCAB, what we do, and what we can do for you, please call the number below. If you are interested in joining the group please ask for an application — our recruitment is done during the summer. SWCAB meetings are usually open to the public — if you would like to attend a meeting please ask for the time, date, and location when you call to confirm.

*Joining the [SWCAB] is the best thing I could have done, it has opened up a whole new world for me, meeting people, getting involved, and always learning!*

*Diane H.*

Massachusetts Statewide  
Consumer Advisory Board

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Boston, MA 02108-4619

Phone: 617-624-5389 Fax: 617-624-5399  
Visit the office of HIV/AIDS website at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/aids>

## MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD



**STRENGTH,  
WILLINGNESS,  
CARING,  
ADVOCACY &  
BELONGING**

**NOTHING ABOUT US  
WITHOUT US...**

The Statewide Consumer Advisory Board (SWCAB) is a group of up to 30 people living with HIV/AIDS. We are the voice of the HIV/AIDS community and the connection between the community and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA). Our membership reflects the profile of the HIV epidemic in Massachusetts in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, mode of transmission, and geographic region.

*The SWCAB has proven to be a unique and extremely rewarding experience for me. I have had a chance to meet and work beside many amazing people. I have been given the chance to give back to the system that has supported me so well for so many years and it feels really good.*

*Anthony D.*

We work in partnership with the Office of HIV/AIDS to provide input into the services and policies that impact our lives. We are all openly living with HIV/AIDS and are connected to our communities in various ways; this is to ensure that information from the SWCAB is brought to the community and back from the community to the SWCAB. Our work is coordinated by the OHA's Consumer Office.

## HOW WE DO IT

SWCAB membership is open to any person living with HIV, or the parent or guardian of a person under 18 living with HIV, in Massachusetts. Member recruitment is done through an annual application process, and members are appointed for three-year terms. There is no limit to how many terms a member can serve. SWCAB meetings are held once a month in the evening in downtown Boston. Members are also expected to participate in smaller, project-based teams; how often, when, and where team meetings take place varies depending on the team's current project.

In the last several years, the SWCAB has worked with the Office of HIV/AIDS on:

- Now That You Know guide for newly diagnosed individuals
- Take Control testing campaign
- Face The Truth anti-stigma campaign
- Peer Support interventions
- HIV/AIDS Surveillance system
- Planning and hosting Common Visions, the Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Conference
- Reviewing proposals from agencies for DPH funding
- Developing the Consumer Advisory Board Handbook
- Providing technical assistance to CABs
- Participating on the Scientific Advisory Board for the MA HIV Drug Assistance Program
- Participating in the CDC Medical Monitoring Project

*“Serving on the Statewide Consumer Advisory Board allowed me to lend my voice to that of other concerned individuals and it has empowered me by giving me access to vital information.”*

*Ron M.*