



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF EDWARD "EDDIE" HAMILTON

July 19, 2022



The Board of Directors for the ADAP Advocacy Association and the Community Access National Network (CANN) issued the following joint statement in response to the news about Edward "Eddie" Hamilton's [passing on Tuesday, July 12th](#).

Eddie's commitment to CANN – which he served as a board member from 2014 to 2022 – as well as his unapologetic loyalty to CANN's Founder & longtime President & CEO, Bill Arnold (1938-2021), and his fierce advocacy on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS are only some of the things that made him very, very special. Eddie was a recognized leader in Ohio's HIV advocacy community, and an influential voice at the national level. He was the Founder and Executive Director of the ADAP Educational Initiative, which assisted clients enrolled under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). In 2012, Eddie was honored as the ADAP Champion of the Year for fighting the Ohio Department of Health's attempts to implement medical eligibility criteria to qualify for ADAP services.

Speaking on behalf of the Community Access National Network, Jen Laws said, "Needless to say, we're all feeling the loss of a rather remarkable, determined advocate who spent his life working for the betterment of the patient above all other interests. Eddie's middle name should have been 'Accountability' because his drive to ensure patients received the *full* benefit of the HIV-related public health programs. Personally, I'll never forget Eddie's habit of taking out his teeth just before going on a tirade about dental care – it was subtle and poignant, nonetheless, as whomever he was talking to finally realized what he had done. This was also a deep reminder that he took this work seriously but never himself so much. I try hard in these moments to take comfort in the knowledge that Eddie has simply joined Bill Arnold outside for yet another smoke."

Speaking on behalf of the ADAP Advocacy Association, Brandon M. Macsata summarized, "I vividly recall the day when I first met Eddie, right after Bill Arnold recruited him to join the HIV advocacy efforts at the national level, and recalling this guy is an interesting fella, but wow he is going to be a force among advocates. Eddie didn't disappoint. He held state and local health departments to account; he held commercial healthcare providers and retail pharmacies to account; he held community-based organizations to account; he held advocacy coalitions to account; and he also held all of us to account, always reminding anyone who could hear his voice why we are here doing this work...*for the patient*. Our community has lost a true hero."

Friends and colleagues are invited to share memories on Eddie's online guest book: www.newcomercolumbus.com/Obituary/251933/Eddie-Hamilton/Columbus-OH.