



ICHHS-Partner/Ally Mutual Commitments

Spirit of This Agreement

“It is our assertion that any response to the impact of HIV must be rooted in a racial justice framework.”¹

The Idaho Coalition for HIV Health and Safety (ICHHS) is committed to community building and organizing in Idaho with a racial justice lens. We recognize that no person leads a single-issue life. We all have intersecting points of oppression in our daily lives and the ICHHS is determined to make room at our table for all of those points while respecting each point. The ICHHS further commits to a “whatever it takes” attitude to continually make changes as needed and proactively to have our organization’s voices mirror all peoples affected by the HIV epidemic. ICHHS agrees to use any privilege to deconstruct white supremacy. We further agree language, actions, and policy must be appropriate and welcoming to people of color encompassing all class backgrounds; trans and cisgender women and men; queer-identified and gender non-conforming persons; immigrants with and without documentation; people of all religious practices, all languages, and all ages.

The ICHHS also recognizes one marginalized group – people living with HIV (PLHIV) is currently under the additional risk of felony conviction(s) and long periods of incarceration. We believe it is possible to build a PLHIV network here in Idaho with a focus on racial justice issues while targeting the majority of efforts to modernize Idaho’s HIV criminalization laws. Once PLHIV are no longer under the risk of felony conviction(s) with 15-year prison sentence(s) coalition efforts will be communally rediscussed and reallocated.

The ICHHS also focuses management, recruiting, and internal structural decisions through the lens of “Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS.” (MIPA) Leadership, coalition management structures, coalition-building activities, and daily operational decisions will remain with PLHIV per accepted MIPA principles. The ICHHS firmly believes that organizations that embrace the principles of MIPA give PLHIV safe and empowering spaces to self-advocate and

¹ A Declaration of Liberation: Building a Racially Just and Strategic Domestic HIV Movement; Racial Justice Framework Group; November 9, 2017

work through HIV stigma issues. This Coalition will always strive to work towards significant, impactful victories, i.e., HIV modernization and education. We further realize the path to substantial achievements *MUST* be scattered with smaller wins of individual Idahoans living with HIV by eradicating and learning to live without the horrendous weight of stigma that currently accompanies each HIV diagnosis.

The ICHHS further pledges to respect our partner’s and ally’s organizations, coalitions, and tables in which we may be invited. The ICHHS guarantees that we will leave our “organizational hats” on at all times when working with other’s efforts. Our “individual cause hats” will never be worn when given the privilege to sit as partners and allies. The ICHHS understands and supports all marginalized people and their meaningful involvement to end stigma for all Idahoans. Members of the ICHHS will act as good partners and allies in all situations, never infringing on “meaningful involvement” from other marginalized communities trying to effectively work through stigma issues or build strong coalitions for issues that affect them most. ..

Agreement

If a situation arises when a coalition member believes or feels this spirit of this agreement is not being honored, we agree to first respectfully discuss the case with the other coalition member(s) involved to encourage the building of strong working relationships. If the conversation doesn’t resolve the matter, we agree to discuss the case with the ICHHS, Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator, Terrence Sharrer. If the issue still does not reach resolution, the matter will be referred to the leadership of the ICHHS.

We acknowledge receipt of AIDS United “Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS” and “A Declaration of Liberation: Building a Racially Just and Strategic Domestic HIV Movement.”

Date

Partner/Ally Organization

Idaho Coalition for HIV Health and Safety

Representative Signature

Terrence Sharrer,
Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator