



ADAP Advocacy Association
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adapadvocacyassociation.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Seats Board Members

New Faces include Theresa Nowlin from Dorchester, Massachusetts

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 27, 2018) – The ADAP Advocacy Association today announced that it has seated its Board of Directors for 2018-2020. Newly seated board members include Theresa Nowlin from Dorchester, Massachusetts.

“As a long-term survivor, Theresa Nowlin brings an important perspective to our leadership team because her life experiences reflect what many others have experienced fighting the epidemic,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Her vibrant spirit and tenacity has led her to educate others, and engage in community level advocacy in Massachusetts.”

aaa+[®] is governed by a dedicated, diverse volunteer board of directors. The organization’s leadership includes seven HIV-positive members, three ADAP recipients (and two former ADAP recipients), one physician, two pharmacists, and one disability rights champion. The board includes: **Guy Anthony** of New York, New York; **William E. Arnold** of Washington, DC; **Wanda Brendle-Moss** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; **Elmer L. Cerano** of Lansing, Michigan; **Eric Flowers** of Oakland, California; **Lyne Fortin**, B.Pharm, MBA of Montreal, Canada; **Philip A. Haddad**, MD of Shreveport, Louisiana; **Hilary Hansen** of Washington, DC; **Lisa Johnson-Lett** of Birmingham, Alabama; **Jen Laws** of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; **Theresa Nowlin** of Dorchester, Massachusetts; **Glen Pietrandoni** of Deerfield, Illinois; **Joey Wynn** of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and **Brandon M. Macsata** (ex-officio) of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Theresa Nowlin tested HIV positive in 1986, when she was 24 years old. Theresa contracted HIV through unprotected sex and or IV drug use. In 1991, Theresa started treatment after she found out she was pregnant with her first son, Mark, who was born September 3, 1992 (at 18 months old, Mark tested HIV negative). In 1994, Theresa gave birth to her second son, Sean, who at 6 months old also tested HIV negative. Theresa's physician was unsure about starting treatment during her pregnancy with Mark but by the time she was pregnant with Sean the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention cleared the way for pregnant women to take AZT.

Due to the harshness of medications in the 1990s, Theresa refused to take medication. In 2006, she only had 3 T-Cells and her viral load was in the millions. She had a nervous break down, followed by a stroke and ended up in the hospital in a coma. During the hospital stay, Theresa was put on Atripla. After completing her physical rehabilitation in the nursing home, Theresa was homeless in a wheelchair.

Theresa credits Peer Support and all of the professionals who cared for her as the reason for being alive today. She is now a vocal advocate for medication adherence after participating in a study at Fenway Health, which included a counseling component. Today, Theresa is in full compliance with taking her medication and attends all of her doctor appointments.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its Board of Directors, please email info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+**[®] works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational program, and foster greater community collaboration.