

NAP advocates healthcare and homelessness awareness

By Susan M. Payne

In a society where people are misunderstood and have less access to resources they need, it can be difficult to suffer from HIV.

Jordan Delmundo, executive director of the Nebraska AIDS Projects (NAP), agrees.

"HIV doesn't choose anyone based on sexual orientation, gender or skin color," Delmundo says. "It thrives in areas stricken with more poverty and more homelessness and that's what makes it a social justice issue."

NAP, committed to overcoming HIV/AIDS and its stigma through education, is one of the few community-based service organizations in Nebraska.

"If we don't find ways to deal with social determinants," Delmundo says, "we won't find an answer for HIV."

"With history rooted in advocacy and activism, Nebraska AIDS Project serves Nebraska, 11 counties in Southwest Iowa and two counties in Eastern Wyoming.

"We have staff who educate the community about stigma and how HIV/AIDS is perpetuated," Delmundo says.

"We provide educational services to the community, universities and medical agencies."

Delmundo joined NAP almost a year ago. He says many people ask him why HIV still matters? Didn't we solve it in the 80s?

NAP provides testing for anyone in need. "If you're HIV positive, we are here to help with any information we can," Delmundo says.

As a member partner to Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area collective impact homeless service organization, NAP works directly with the homeless review team, as many NAP clients are also part of the homeless population.

Homelessness is a social determinant to healthcare. Meaning, if one does not have a home, it is harder to focus on healthcare.

"We work together across agencies to fight homelessness," Delmundo says. "If we can provide housing to people, they can better focus on healthcare."

