Detroit HIV/AIDS Advocate Harry L. Simpson Dies

July 9, 2014

Harry L. Simpson, the former executive director of Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG) in Detroit, died June 13, according to his obituary. He was 64. Simpson struggled for many years with health problems. He recently developed pneumonia followed by a heart attack.

CHAG is the largest minority HIV/AIDS service organization in Michigan, according to its website. After serving as CHAG executive director, Simpson served the organization as the director of its substance abuse services program. His experience as a former heroin user informed his leadership.

During his career as an HIV/AIDS advocate, Simpson also was an HIV/AIDS trainer for the state of Michigan, developed a peer education program for prisons and schools, and presented at the White House and the Detroit City Council seeking support for needle exchange programs.

In his personal life, Simpson was a professional DJ for more than 30 years. He also served two terms in the armed forces. He received an associate's degree in social work from Oakland Community College. He leaves behind his wife and children, as well as an extensive extended family.

To read the obituary, click here.

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