



COMMISSION ON HIV: A LIVING HISTORY

Updated
July 2026

Background

Los Angeles County was among the first metropolitan areas in the United States to report documented cases of what is now known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). As the epidemic evolved, it had a devastating impact across Los Angeles County, particularly among communities facing poverty, limited access to health care, lack of insurance, and longstanding racial and social inequities.

In 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act to expand access to HIV-related medical care and support services for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured people living with HIV. Since its original passage, the law has been reauthorized multiple times and continues today as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors formally established the Commission on HIV Health Services in 1995 under County Code Chapter 3.29. In 2003, the County took steps to strengthen the Commission's autonomy, including changes related to membership, independence, and staffing support through the Board's Executive Office.

In April 2004, the Board of Supervisors appointed Craig Vincent-Jones as the Commission's first Executive Director. In 2005, the Board formally changed the body's name to the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV. In February 2016, Cheryl A. Barrit, MPIA, succeeded Mr. Vincent-Jones as the Commission's second appointed Executive Director. In September 2025, Dawn McClendon stepped into the role as Interim Executive Director.

In July 2013, the Commission integrated the County's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program planning body with the local HIV prevention planning function, creating a more unified prevention and care planning model. In 2021, the Commission relocated its office to 510 S. Vermont Avenue, 14th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90020.

On March 17, 2026, the Board of Supervisors adopted ordinance amendments updating the Commission's definitions, membership structure, terms, meeting requirements, duties, and compensation provisions as part of a broader modernization and restructuring effort.

Role and Responsibilities

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV is the federally required Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A planning council for Los Angeles County and serves as the County's integrated HIV prevention and care planning body. The Commission is appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and works in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP), the County's Ryan White Part A recipient.

Core responsibilities of the Commission include:

- assessing the scope and impact of the local HIV epidemic and identifying community needs;
- establishing service priorities and making recommendations for the allocation of Ryan White Part A resources;
- supporting integrated prevention and care planning, including community engagement and consumer participation;
- evaluating the effectiveness of HIV services and the administrative mechanisms used to deliver them; and
- helping ensure that HIV planning remains responsive, equitable, data-informed, and community grounded.

The Commission carries out much of this work through its committee structure, caucuses, workgroups, public meetings, and collaboration with community and government partners.

Past & Current Co-Chairs

Term	Co-Chairs	Term	Co-Chairs
January 2000 - April 2000	Mark Briggs and Eileen G. Chun, MD	January 2018 - December 2018	Ricky Rosales and Grissel Granados
May 2000	Mark Briggs	January 2019 - December 2019	Grissel Granados and Alvaro Ballesteros
June 2000 - January 2002	Nettie DeAugustine and Alvaro Ballesteros	January 2020 - December 2020	Alvaro Ballesteros and Bridget Gordon
February 2002 - January 2006	Alvaro Ballesteros and Nettie DeAugustine	January 2021 - December 2021	Bridget Gordon, David Lee (resigned August 2021), and Danielle Campbell
February 2006 - December 2010	Carla Bailey and Anthony Braswell	January 2022 - December 2022	Bridget Gordon and Danielle Campbell
January 2011 - June 2013	Carla Bailey and Michael Johnson, Esq.	January 2023 - December 2023	Joseph Green and Luckie Alexander
July 2013 - December 2015	Michael Johnson, Esq. and Ricky Rosales	January 2024 - December 2024	Joseph Green and Danielle Campbell
January 2016 - December 2016	Bradley Land and Ricky Rosales	January 2025 - December 2025	Joseph Green and Danielle Campbell
January 2017 - December 2017	Bradley Land and Ricky Rosales	March 2026 – Present	Katja Nelson and Alvaro Ballesteros