



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



Visit us online: <http://hiv.lacounty.gov>

Get in touch: [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)

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*Join us in developing a progressive and inclusive agenda to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/STDs in our Black communities*

## BLACK CAUCUS Virtual Meeting



Thursday, February 26, 2026  
4:00PM-5:00PM (PST)

Agenda and meeting materials will be posted on  
<https://hiv.lacounty.gov/caucus-taskforce-and-workgroups>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BLACK CAUCUS, CLICK [HERE](#)  
TO VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)

### TO JOIN BY COMPUTER:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTI=D=m08260dbeb0c829a21ff78168169458d1>

### TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2539 878 3111

Meeting Password: BLACK

*If you experience challenges in logging into the virtual meeting, please refer to the WebEx tutorial [HERE](#) or contact Commission staff at 213.509.9199 or [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org).*

# together.

WE CAN END HIV IN OUR COMMUNITIES ONCE & FOR ALL

Apply to become a Commission member at: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov/membership>

For application assistance, email [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)



# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

To Join by Computer:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m08260dbeb0c829a21ff78168169458d1>

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2539 878 3111

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|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES  | 4:00PM-4:05PM |
| 2. | COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operational/County Updates</li></ul>  | 4:05PM-4:10PM |
| 3. | CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2026 NBHAAD Follow Up &amp; Feedback</li><li>Youth Listening Session Follow Up &amp; Feedback</li></ul> | 4:10PM-4:15PM |
| 4. | DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Future of the Black Caucus: Aligning with the Commission's Vision, Mission, and Integrated HIV Plan</li></ul> | 4:15PM-4:50PM |
| 5. | RECAP AND NEXT STEPS   | 4:50PM-4:55PM |
| 6. | PUBLIC COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS   | 4:55PM-5:00PM |
| 7. | ADJOURNMENT  | 5:00PM        |

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BLACK CAUCUS, CLICK [HERE](#) | TO VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS WORK, CLICK [HERE](#)  
TO VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)



## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Commission on HIV welcomes commissioners, guests, and the public into a space where people of all opinions and backgrounds are able to contribute. In this space, we challenge ourselves to be self-reflective and committed to an ongoing understanding of each other and the complex intersectionality of the lives we live. We create a safe environment where we celebrate differences while striving for consensus in the fights against our common enemies: HIV and STDs. We build trust in each other by having honest, respectful, and productive conversations. As a result, the Commission has adopted and is consistently committed to implementing the following guidelines for Commission, committee, and associated meetings.

**All participants and stakeholders should adhere to the following:**

- 1) We approach all our interactions with compassion, respect, and transparency.**
- 2) We respect others' time by starting and ending meetings on time, being punctual, and staying present.**
- 3) We listen with intent, avoid interrupting others, and elevate each other's voices.**
- 4) We encourage all to bring forth ideas for discussion, community planning, and consensus.**
- 5) We focus on the issue, not the person raising the issue.**
- 6) Be flexible, open-minded, and solution-focused.**
- 7) We give and accept respectful and constructive feedback.**
- 8) We keep all issues on the table (no "hidden agendas"), avoid monopolizing discussions and minimize side conversations.**
- 9) We have no place in our deliberations for racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and other discriminatory statements, and "-isms" including misogyny, ableism, and ageism.**
- 10) We give ourselves permission to learn from our mistakes.**

In response to violation of the Code of Conduct which results in meeting disruption, Include provisions of SB 1100 which states in part, ". . . authorize the presiding member of the legislative body conducting a meeting or their designee to remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting . . . . Removal to be preceded by a warning to the individual by the presiding member of the legislative body or their designee that the individual's behavior is disrupting the meeting and that the individual's failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal." Complaints related to internal Commission matters such as alleged violation of the Code of Conduct or other disputes among members are addressed and resolved in adherence to Policy/Procedure #08.3302." (Commission Bylaws, Article VII, Section 4.)



## Black Caucus Check-In: What's Ahead for February January 13, 2025

**Black Caucus — happy new year!** While we haven't yet convened in the new year, the work of the Black Caucus has absolutely not stalled. We've continued moving things forward behind the scenes and wanted to share a few key updates.

### Listening Session Series

As shared previously, the Caucus is continuing its listening session series, with two communities remaining:

- **Youth Listening Session**
- **Black men who do not identify as MSM**

We are currently working closely with the **LA County Youth Commission** to host a Youth Listening Session on **February 7** for Black youth ages **15–29**. This session will create a safe and affirming space to talk openly about sexual health. A flyer will be released soon—stay tuned.

### Black History Month Community Event

We've partnered with **LA County Parks & Recreation** to participate in their Black History Month event to commemorate NBHAAD:

- **Thursday, February 5**
- **6:00–8:00 PM**
- **Jesse Owens Park**

The Black Caucus will be tabling and partnering with AHF to provide a mobile HIV testing van on-site. If you're interested in volunteering to table and/or contributing promotional materials or swag, please let me know as soon as possible.

### Commission Membership Drive Update

As many of you know, the Commission is currently undergoing a comprehensive restructure. As part of that process, the membership drive for the first cohort—scheduled to be seated on **March 12, 2026**—closed on **January 9**.



## Black Caucus Check-In: What's Ahead for February January 13, 2025

We received approximately **91 applications**, including:

- **48 applications for full membership**
- Remaining applications for **committee-only membership**

Staff are working tirelessly behind the scenes reviewing applications and scheduling interviews. Applications will reopen to fill any vacancies, and submissions received will be held on file for up to **one year**. Moving forward, applications will be accepted on a **rolling basis** to fill open seats as they arise.

### Black Caucus Co-Chairs

Once the new Commission membership has been seated on **March 12, 2026**, we will open **co-chair nominations for the Black Caucus** at the Caucus's subsequent meeting in March. This will provide an opportunity for newly seated members to step into leadership and help shape the direction of the Caucus moving forward. As a reminder, the Black Caucus maintains an **open membership**, and we welcome all who are aligned with the Commission's goals, mission, and vision to address the disproportionate impact of HIV and STIs in our Black community.

Staff will follow up soon to schedule a Black Caucus meeting toward the **end of February**. Until then, stay well—and thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to this work.



## Black Caucus x LAC Youth Commission Listening Session Summary Report

**Partnership:** First Star Bruin Guardian Scholars & Los Angeles County Youth Commission

**Session Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2026

**Participants:** 25 Youth and Young Adults

**Survey Responses:** 24–25 per question

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### Purpose

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus, in partnership with First Star Bruin Guardian Scholars and the Los Angeles County Youth Commission, convened this youth listening session to better understand young people's sexual health needs and healthcare experiences, particularly as they relate to HIV prevention and culturally responsive care.

This session is part of the Black Caucus' broader community listening series aimed at hearing directly from Black communities about their sexual health needs. The goal is to translate lived experience into actionable insights that can be shared with community partners and providers to strengthen a culturally responsive system of care for communities disproportionately impacted by HIV.

Given the age range and lived experiences of participants, facilitators approached sexual health thoughtfully and framed the discussion through a whole-person healthcare lens. This allowed youth to speak openly about trust, communication, autonomy, and system navigation, all of which directly influence sexual health engagement.

While the conversation extended beyond sexual health specifically, this was instructive. Youth experiences affirm that sexual health is deeply interconnected with mental health, family dynamics, trauma, and system trust. Strengthening sexual health outcomes therefore requires strengthening the overall healthcare experience.

Follow-up sessions may be needed to more intentionally focus on the specific sexual health needs of youth and young adults to further inform prevention and care strategies aligned with the Commission's Integrated HIV Plan.

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## Quantitative Highlights

### Comfort & Confidence in Healthcare

- 96% feel okay visiting a doctor, nurse, or clinic
- 80% feel treated respectfully
- 72% believe healthcare visits can be safe and positive
- 60% feel safe discussing personal topics
- 48% feel confident asking questions
- 36% responded “maybe” when asked about confidence in asking questions
- 62% expressed some level of nervousness about appointments

**Insight:** Youth generally feel comfortable accessing care; however, confidence in self-advocacy and emotional ease during appointments varies. Empowerment and intentional provider communication remain critical.

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### Access & System Navigation

- 84% have transportation to appointments
- 84% know where to go for healthcare or support
- 83% know who to seek for health advice
- 46% know how to change their doctor if needed

**Insight:** Access barriers are relatively low among this group, but understanding how to exercise choice within healthcare systems remains limited. Autonomy requires not only entry into care but clarity around navigation.

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### Support Systems & Relational Health

- 92% feel their concerns are taken seriously by trusted adults
- 88% have at least one healthy adult they can talk to about their health
- 67% believe schools or community groups support youth health
- 54% report that family, friends, or culture influence how they think about health

**Insight:** Strong relational ecosystems exist for many youth. Trusted adults play a protective and reinforcing role in health behaviors and decision-making.

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## Health Beliefs & Behaviors

- 100% believe healthy habits create a better lifestyle
- 100% believe mental health is just as important as physical health
- 60% report taking daily steps to stay healthy
- 29% report eating junk food when stressed, with 42% responding “maybe”
- 48% can go a full day without scrolling social media
- 52% wish there were more creative activities related to health education

**Insight:** Youth strongly value holistic health and mental health equity. However, stress management and digital balance present opportunities for skill-building. There is clear interest in innovative and engaging health education approaches.

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## Qualitative Themes from Listening Session Dialogue

### 1. COVID-19’s Lasting Impact

Many participants experienced the loss of family members during the pandemic. These experiences shaped their trust in healthcare systems. For some, it created skepticism; for others, it inspired greater awareness and proactive health engagement.

### 2. Family Health Influences

Several youth have parents or caregivers with chronic medical conditions, increasing early exposure to healthcare systems and shaping their understanding of prevention and advocacy.

### 3. Clear Communication Builds Trust

Youth emphasized the importance of providers explaining diagnoses and procedures in accessible language. Being “walked through” processes fosters understanding and comfort.

### 4. Holistic Check-Ins Matter

Participants appreciate when providers inquire about both physical and mental health. Whole-person care increases relational trust.

### 5. Flexibility Supports Equity

Youth face scheduling challenges due to school, work, caregiving responsibilities, and transportation barriers. Grace and flexibility in appointment management were described as meaningful.

## 6. Choice Creates Safety

Autonomy increases trust. Youth feel safer when given options regarding treatment plans and next steps.

## 7. Power Dynamics in Clinical Settings

Comfort levels varied when it came to asserting needs or saying “no” to providers. This highlights ongoing power dynamics and reinforces the importance of shared decision-making practices.

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### Overall Insights

- Youth value holistic, trauma-informed, and autonomy-affirming care.
- Trust in healthcare is present but shaped by lived experience, particularly during crisis events such as COVID-19.
- Access barriers are relatively low within this group, but empowerment and navigation require strengthening.
- Relational support systems are a key protective factor.
- Youth are open to creative, culturally responsive, and interactive health education models.
- Sexual health engagement must be understood within the broader context of whole-person care.

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### Recommendations

1. Expand provider training on youth-centered communication and shared decision-making.
  2. Normalize consent language and actively encourage youth questions during appointments.
  3. Develop creative and interactive health-related programming.
  4. Provide clearer guidance for youth on how to change providers and navigate healthcare systems independently.
  5. Continue youth listening sessions to ensure ongoing feedback into policy and practice.
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## Moving Forward

This listening session reaffirmed that young people are thoughtful, self-aware, and deeply influenced by relational and systemic factors in their healthcare experiences. Their insights underscore the importance of youth-centered, trauma-informed, and autonomy-affirming practices within healthcare and prevention systems.

As the Black Caucus continues to advance strategies aligned with the Commission's Integrated HIV Plan, youth voice must remain central. Strengthening sexual health outcomes requires not only access to services, but trust, agency, and environments where young people feel heard and respected.

The work ahead is not only about care ... it is about agency, equity, and building systems worthy of youth trust.

