



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Virtual Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2025

2:00-3:00pm (PST)

Agenda and meeting materials will be posted on
<http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Meetings> *Other Meetings

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED + SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION IN SPANISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES NOW AVAILABLE VIA CLOSED CAPTION FEATURE WHEN JOINING VIA WEBEX. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO.

TO JOIN BY COMPUTER:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=ma61e898aae75f626e53c7878c87ddc09>

TO JOIN BY PHONE:

Dial +1-213-306-3065 Access Code: 2534 772 8420

Meeting Password: WOMEN

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.

together.

WE CAN END HIV IN OUR COMMUNITIES ONCE & FOR ALL

Apply to become a Commission member at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COHMembershipApp>

For application assistance, call (213) 738-2816 or email hivcomm@lachiv.org



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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 17, 2025 @ 2:00PM-3:00PM

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Password: WOMEN

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- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS + CHECK-IN | 2:00 PM – 2:05 PM |
| 2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT | 2:05 PM – 2:15 PM |
| • Operational and Programmatic Updates | |
| 3. CO-CHAIR'S REPORT | 2:15 PM – 2:25 PM |
| • National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | |
| • Listening Session Objectives: | |
| ○ Provide Women Living with HIV an opportunity to share their lived experience and assure you that you are not alone | |
| ○ Create a shared understanding of the issues impacting women living with HIV in Los Angeles County | |
| ○ Engage with one another to create recommendations and innovative solutions to address the needs of women | |
| 4. DISCUSSION PLANNING FOR LISTENING SESSIONS | 2:25 PM – 2:50 PM |
| • Listening Session Community Partners | |
| • Review Listening Session Discussion Questions | |
| • Identify Listening Session Locations and Dates | |
| 5. MEETING RECAP + NEXT MEETING AGENDA | 2:50 PM – 2:55 PM |
| 6. PUBLIC COMMENT + ANNOUNCEMENTS | 2:55 PM – 3:00 PM |
| 7. ADJOURNMENT | 3:00 PM |

Women’s Caucus 2025 Strategic Priorities

Draft

- **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:** To identify activities and priorities the Women’s Caucus will lead and advance throughout 2025
- **CRITERIA:** Select activities that 1) represent the core functions of the COH and Caucus, 2) advance the goals of the [2022-2026 Comprehensive HIV Plan \(CHP\)](#), and 3) align with COH staff and member capacities and time commitment.
- **CAUCUS RESPONSIBILITIES:** 1) Facilitate dialogue among caucus members, 2) develop caucus voice at the Commission and in the community, 3) provide the caucus perspective on various Commission issues, and 4) cultivate leadership within the caucus membership and consumer community.

#	ACTIVITY	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	STATUS
1	Women-focused Needs Assessment - <i>Collaborate with the Planning, Priorities and Allocations Committee and the Transgender Caucus to develop needs assessment focusing on the needs of Women Living with HIV.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify locations and target populations. 2. Develop needs assessment questionnaire(s). 3. Analyze results and share findings and recommendations to address the needs of women living with HIV in LA County. 	Ongoing	
2	Women-Centered HIV-Related Programming	Work in collaboration with DHSP to Identify programs and services centered around women, assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of women, provide specific strategies to address gaps.	Ongoing	
3	Provide Caucus Perspective - on various Commission/HIV-related issues impacting the Ryan White Program	Provide feedback on relevant Commission on HIV action items and motions including, but not limited to, service standards, priority setting and resource allocation, membership and recruitment, and needs assessments.	Ongoing	

IN 2022, WOMEN ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 1 IN 5 (19%) NEW HIV DIAGNOSES IN THE U.S.

DYK? Women are less likely to be tested for HIV in part due to the perception that they are not at risk. Only 37% of women in the U.S. ages 18–64 report having been tested for HIV at some point in their lives.

Knowing your HIV status puts the power in your hands. Take charge of your health and get tested. For more information on HIV testing and services in LA County, visit [GetProtectedLA.com](https://www.getprotectedla.com).





WOMEN'S CAUCUS Listening Sessions for Women

Discussion Questions

- What have been your experiences with obtaining sexual health services? Can you share your most ideal experience with a provider? (e.g., Did the nurse or staff listen? Was childcare provided?)
- Have you experienced any challenges or barriers in accessing or receiving sexual health services on a consistent basis? If so, please describe them. What do you find most difficult about using sexual health services?
- In what ways do current sexual health services fail to support the unique needs of women? What specific changes would make these services more responsive and effective for meeting the needs of women?
- What role, if any, do sexual trauma, stigma, and shame play in your sexual experiences with partners or your engagement in sexual health services?
- What challenges do you experience as a woman? What are the three greatest challenges in your life that you are struggling with right now? How do you balance your sexual health with other priorities? How much do you prioritize sexual health services?
- How do you manage your mental health? What resources do you use when overwhelmed? Other than your medical or support service providers, who do you turn to or depend on for support? What types of community support and resources are most beneficial to you?
- Where do you go to find supportive services? Are there specific programs, services, or resources that you feel are missing or need improvement to better support women in LA County? What innovative approaches or support do you need to help regular and consistent engagement in sexual health services?
- What made you seek medical care or other HIV services when you were first diagnosed with HIV? If you did not seek care right away, what would have helped you seek medical care or other HIV services sooner? Who helped you the most to get into medical care or HIV services?



WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Listening Sessions for Women

Demographic Questionnaire

1. What is your age?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 and older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | |

2. How do you describe your gender?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman | <input type="checkbox"/> Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming/Gender fluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trans woman | <input type="checkbox"/> Questioning/Unsure/Exploring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two-spirit | _____ |

3. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Questioning/Unsure/Exploring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual or straight | <input type="checkbox"/> A sexual orientation not listed here (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pansexual | |

4. What is your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Another race (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latinx/e | _____ |

5. What language do you speak at home?



WOMEN'S CAUCUS Listening Sessions for Women

6. What zip code do you live in?

7. Do you have internet access when you want it?

- Yes, I have my own computer, tablet or smart phone and am comfortable using my device
- Yes, I have a place I can go to access the internet (friend's house, library, etc.) and am comfortable using the device (computer, tablet or smart phone) available to me
- No, it is difficult to access the internet. I only use it when I really need to and struggle with using a computer, tablet or smart phone.
- No, I don't have any way to access the internet
- Unsure

8. What kind of housing do you have now?

- Own house/condo/apartment
- Rent house or apartment (no rental assistance)
- Staying with family/friends
- Shelter
- Public housing or housing voucher program
- On the street (no shelter)
- Housing for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Transitional housing (i.e. halfway house or drug treatment program)
- Other, not listed. Please specify:

9. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Technical/trade/vocational school
- Some college, but no degree
- College degree
- Graduate degree
- Other, please specify:

10. How many adults live in your household (18 years or older)? _____

11. How many children live in you household (under 18 years old)? _____



WOMEN'S CAUCUS Listening Sessions for Women

12. What was your total household income in 2024? _____

13. What were the sources of this income? (Select all that apply)

- My own full-time, part-time or seasonal job
- My spouse/partner's job
- Child support or Alimony
- Support from family members
- Unemployment benefits
- Social Security
- CalWORKS
- Financial aid from school
- Other, please specify: _____

14. Do you have health insurance? Yes No

If yes, what kind of insurance? (Please check all that apply)

- Medi-Cal
- Health insurance or coverage bought directly by yourself or spouse/family member
- Covered California
- Indian or Tribal Health Service
- Medicare
- Health insurance or coverage through your employer or spouse/partner, parent, or someone else's employer
- TRICARE or Veteran's benefits
- Other, please specify: _____

15. During the past 12 months, was there a time when you were not able to pay for...

- Mortgage/rent Yes No
- Utility bills Yes No
- Medical bills (including premium, co-pay, medication) Yes No
- Groceries Yes No
- Child care Yes No
- Phone Yes No



WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Listening Sessions for Women

Facilitation Script

Hello and welcome to the Commission on HIV Women's Caucus community listening session. We are conducting listening sessions to listen and learn about your experiences as women living with HIV who have received sexual health services from the Ryan White Program within Los Angeles County. This listening session is intended to collect important information from women accessing HIV prevention and care services to better understand sexual health service gaps and explore opportunities for improvement in the community. Our objectives for today are to:

- Provide Women Living with HIV an opportunity to share their lived experience and assure you that you are not alone
- Create a shared understanding of the issues impacting women living with HIV in Los Angeles County
- Engage with one another to create recommendations and innovative solutions to address the needs of women

During our time together, we will ask some questions about your experience accessing sexual health services and you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings, and suggestions. There are no right or wrong answers. We are hoping to hear your genuine responses about experiences with the system. We value your input and your responses will help to identify ways on how we can improve sexual health services for women in Los Angeles County. We are interested in learning about what is working well and what is not working so well. We are having discussions like this with several groups of women across the county to capture a broad range of experiences and perspectives. Some of the questions may ask you about events that you consider traumatic. We want to acknowledge that today's discussion will touch on sensitive topics that may lead to feelings of discomfort, sadness, and/or anger. It may also bring up difficult or painful memories. If you have any questions or need to take a break during our time together, please let us know and we will support you.

The listening session is confidential. Whatever you share today will stay within our internal team and our findings will be reported out very broadly; your responses will not be connected to you. Please note that all information you share here should remain in this group and not be discussed outside of our time together. We also ask that you honor the confidentiality of others who share their stories during this session. Your participation will not impact your status in or eligibility for any programs or services.

We will be recording this session to ensure that we capture everyone's responses and can transcribe your responses afterwards. Recordings will only be shared with our internal team. If you are not comfortable with your responses being recorded, please let us know.



WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Listening Sessions for Women

Finally, as a token of our appreciation for your time and willingness to share, each participant will receive a \$XX gift card.

As a reminder, these are the ground rules to help facilitate today's discussion:

- We want you to do the talking and encourage everyone to participate.
- There are no right or wrong answers. Every person's experience and opinion are important. Speak up whether you agree or disagree. We expect and want to hear a wide range of opinions and we do not anticipate consensus, just sharing.
- We emphasize that what is said in this room should remain here. Please don't criticize the opinions of others. Be sure to allow one speaker at a time.
- This session will be recorded to capture everything that is said. We won't identify anyone by name in our findings - you will remain anonymous.
- The discussion will last for one hour. Please silence your mobile phones and give everyone the chance to express their opinion during the conversation. You can address each other if you like. We are only here to assist in the discussion.