2026 Data Summit Summary Report

Data to Decisions: Preparing for Ryan White Planning

Friday, October 30, 2026

Overview

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV in partnership with the Department of Public Health Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) hosted its 2026 Data Summit: Data to Decisions – Preparing for Ryan White Planning to help community members, Commissioners, providers, and partners better understand the data used in Ryan White Program planning.

The goal was simple: make the data easier to understand, create room for questions, and help attendees feel more comfortable using data in Ryan White planning, especially when participating in Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA).

The Summit hosted approximately 70 participants at the height of the day.

Setting the Tone

Dawn McClendon, Interim Executive Director, and Stephanie Johnson, Planning, Priorities and Allocations Committee Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, opened the Summit and welcomed participants. AJ King facilitated the day and helped keep the conversations and activities moving. Gilead Sciences provided the proper sustenance to keep everyone fueled and energized throughout a full day of learning, conversation, and community engagement.

What We Learned

Throughout the day, participants learned about how the Commission uses data to inform HIV program planning and resource allocation in LA County.

- **Dr. Sonali Kulkarni** (DHSP) presented HIV data collection and surveillance methods in LA County, explaining the difference between case reporting (required by law) and program data (collected from funded providers). She detailed how various HIV-related data points including test results, demographics, and behavioral information are collected and used to inform public health programs and policies.
- **Miguel Martinez** provided a comprehensive overview of Ryan White funding 101, explaining that Part A funds require 75% allocation to core medical services and 25% to support services, with an additional 10% for administrative costs and 5% for CQM (Clinical Quality Management) programs. The discussion included a practical exercise where participants identified which costs were allowable under Ryan White funding guidelines, confirming that items like HIV medications and transportation assistance are allowed while items like cash gifts, clothing, and prevention services are not permitted.

- **Jasmine Brown** presented on PSRA Basics, explaining how the Planning Council determines which HIV services are most needed and how funding should be allocated. She outlined the process of reviewing data on local HIV epidemic trends, priority setting for service categories, resource allocation decisions, and implementation through directives.
- **Dr. Siri Chirumamilla** (DHSP) from DHSP provided an overview of HIV statistics and terminology, explaining key concepts including incidence, rates, and proportions. She also provided an overview of Ryan White program data and case reporting, explaining how program data is collected and used for resource allocation and priority setting. She detailed the HIV care continuum measures used to evaluate the program, including engagement in care, retention in care, viral suppression, and durable viral suppression. Dr. Chirumamilla concluded her presentation with an overview of several Ryan White services data summary sheets.
- **Dr. Paul Nash** presented a session on how to ask better questions when interpreting data, emphasizing that commissioners should view data as a starting point rather than a final answer. The session focused on the importance of triangulating different data sources, understanding data quality, and considering what information might be missing, with the goal of making more effective planning and decision-making decisions as an evidence-based body.
- **Dr. Dontá Morrison** closed the day by emphasizing that community voice is an essential part of Ryan White Part A planning. He shared how lived experiences help identify barriers and solutions that numbers alone may miss, highlighting past community-driven changes such as including women in PrEP messaging and providing cultural humility training to more than 300 providers. During his presentation, the Commission also launched its new 2024–2026 Community Engagement Findings Report, which brings together community feedback to help inform planning, priorities, and decisions. **Click here to view the 2024–2026 Community Engagement Findings Report .**

The day was originally scheduled to conclude with two mock planning activities. By late afternoon, however, participants had already contributed to a full and productive day of presentations, questions, and discussion. In response to participant feedback and the overall pace of the day, we chose to hold the activities for a future session. This decision gave attendees time to process the information shared and preserve the activities for a future opportunity when greater participation could support a more robust and thoughtful discussion. The session concluded slightly early, allowing participants to leave feeling positive and engaged.

What We Heard

The Summit was highly participatory. Participants asked questions, challenged terminology, shared their experiences, and encouraged presenters to connect the data to what people are actually experiencing in community.

A total of 29 post-event evaluations were submitted. Among respondents: 24 of 29 said they felt more prepared to participate in Ryan White planning and PSRA. Five said they felt somewhat more prepared but wanted additional learning opportunities. No respondents said they felt unprepared.

Participants especially valued the interactive activities, questions, short presentations, and opportunities to learn with others. The evaluation also showed strong interest in Data 101, Ryan White Funding 101, Ryan White planning data, and Community Voice sessions.

What We Will Carry Forward

Participants gave us some clear directions for future Data Summits:

- Use more real-life examples and analogies.
- Use more consumer- and community-friendly language.
- Spell out acronyms and explain technical terms.
- Spend more time explaining how data is collected and how to interpret it.
- Go deeper into resource allocation and surveillance data.
- Continue making the Summit interactive and creating space for questions, discussion, and group learning.

One participant captured the spirit of the day well: “Every data point is a person, a story, and an opportunity to improve access to care and support services.”

A Little Fun Along the Way

The day also included raffles, Halloween costumes, the Commission step and repeat, lots of candy, and the Data Summit Interactive Game Sheet. Congratulations to TJ Griffin, aka Borax, who won Best Costume!

Keep Learning

The 2026 Data Summit presentations, materials, and Interactive Game Sheet are available on the Commission’s website: **https://hiv.lacounty.gov/member-resources.**

Thank You

A special thank you to AJ King, our presenters, DHSP, Gilead Sciences, Commission staff, and most importantly, everyone who showed up, asked questions, shared their experiences, and helped make the day what it was.

Understand the data. Hear the community. Make better planning decisions.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE 2026 DATA SUMMIT