



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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

Get in touch: hivcomm@lachiv.org

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<https://tinyurl.com/y83ynuzt>



Consumer Caucus "HYBRID" Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2024
12:30PM-2:00PM (PST)*

*Note Updated Meeting Time

Meeting materials can be found at
<https://hiv.lacounty.gov/meetings> *Other Meetings

MENTAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

What's Your Secret Sauce for Mental Wellness?

Please join us in sharing your "secret sauce" for nurturing mental health, whether it's mindfulness, hobbies, or self-care routines. We also encourage sharing resources and information to support each other's mental wellness journeys. Let's inspire and support each other in prioritizing mental health.

IN PERSON:

510 S. Vermont Avenue, 9th Floor, Terrace Conference Room, Los Angeles 90020

Validated Parking @ 523 Shatto Place, LA 90020

**As a building security protocol, attendees entering the building must notify parking attendant and security personnel that they are attending a Commission on HIV meeting.*

WEBEX VIRTUAL LOG-IN:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m0d81b64ca808558a54b5f73d7c21b8df>

Access Code: 2532 286 9237 Password: CONSUMER

*****If you are a person living with or at risk of HIV, we invite you to be a part of a unified effort to help improve HIV prevention & care service delivery in Los Angeles County*****

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



CONSUMER CAUCUS (CC)

“HYBRID” MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, May 9, 2024 @ 12:30PM-2:00PM **Note updated time*

In Person:

510 S. Vermont Avenue, 9th Floor, Terrace Conference Room*, Los Angeles 90020


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1. CO-CHAIR WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & HOUSE RULES 1:30PM – 1:35PM
2. COH MEETING DEBRIEF (*Opportunity to address specific items from the Commission meeting that directly impact consumers*) 1:35PM – 1:45PM
3. ED/STAFF REPORT 1:45PM – 1:50PM
 - County/Commission Updates
 - Housing Taskforce
 - Annual Conference Workgroup
 - Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Process
4. CO-CHAIRS REPORT 1:50PM – 1:55PM
 - April 11, 2024 Meeting Recap
 - 2024 Workplan Review (Ongoing)
5. DISCUSSION 1:55PM – 2:30PM
 - Review & Finalize Consumer Housing Letter to [Elected Officials](#)
6. MENTAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT  2:30PM – 2:45PM
 - *What's Your Secret Sauce for Mental Wellness?*
Share your "secret sauce" for nurturing mental health, whether it's mindfulness, hobbies, or self-care routines. We also encourage sharing resources and information to support each other's mental wellness journeys. Let's inspire and support each other in prioritizing mental health.
6. OVERFLOW & PARKING LOT (*Opportunity to continue discussions from previous agenda items or capture future discussion topics not agendaized.*) 2:45PM – 2:50PM
7. ACTION ITEMS, CALLS TO ACTION & NEXT STEPS 2:50PM – 2:55PM
8. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING 2:55PM – 2:57PM
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS 2:57PM – 3:00PM
10. ADJOURNMENT 3:00PM

#MIPA

Meaningful Involvement by People Living with HIV/AIDS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV



Approved by COH
6/8/23

510 S. Vermont Ave 14th Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90020 • TEL (213) 738-2816 • FAX (213) 637-6748

HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <http://hiv.lacounty.gov>

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.)

APPROVED BY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON 05/25/23; COH 06/08/23

Approved (11/12/1998); Revised (2/10/2005; 9/6/2005); Revised (4/11/19; 3/3/22, 3/23/23; 5/30/23)

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HOUSE RULES

Consumer Caucus Meetings



1. **Active Listening:** Practice active listening during discussions. Allow each member to express their thoughts without interruption and try to understand their perspective before responding.
2. **Stay On Topic:** Keep discussions focused on the agenda and relevant issues. Avoid veering off into unrelated topics to make the most of everyone's time and energy.
3. **One Person, One Voice:** Give everyone an opportunity to speak before allowing individuals to speak again. This ensures that multiple perspectives are considered and prevents domination of the conversation by a few individuals.
4. **ELMO Principle:** A acronym for "Enough, Let's Move On." When a topic has been thoroughly discussed, respectfully say "ELMO", signaling the need to transition to the next agenda item.
5. **"Vegas" Rule:** "What's discussed in the Caucus, stays in the Caucus." Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information shared within the Caucus unless there is explicit permission to share.
6. **Respect Diversity & Use Inclusive Language:** Embrace diversity of opinions, backgrounds, and experiences. Be open to different viewpoints and avoid making assumptions about others based on their beliefs. Be mindful of the language you use and strive to be inclusive and respectful. Avoid offensive or discriminatory language.
7. **Use Parking Lot:** Utilize the "parking lot" to capture ideas, questions, or discussions not directly related to the current agenda item to address later or offline with staff and/or leadership.





APRIL 11, 2024 CONSUMER CAUCUS (CC) Meeting Summary

Meeting packet available [HERE](#)

CO-CHAIR WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS. Co-chair Damone Thomas opened the meeting, led introductions, and reviewed “house rules”.

COH MEETING DEBRIEF. The Caucus provided the following feedback on the COH’s housing panel discussion:

- Panelists displayed a lack of cohesiveness in their approach.
- Concerns were raised about the potential delays in solution-seeking by establishing a housing-focused taskforce.
- It was emphasized that housing encompasses a spectrum of intersecting issues beyond its impact on PLWH, necessitating ongoing discussions.
- The disproportionate impact of housing challenges on Black and Latino communities was highlighted, emphasizing the unique barriers they face.
- Acknowledgment was made that the housing crisis transcends local boundaries and is a national concern.
- The complexity of identifying solutions was underscored due to the existence of diverse funding sources with varying criteria.
- There was a call to involve major decision-makers and stakeholders, such as HUD, in the discussion.
- Encouragement was given to think innovatively, suggesting a revisit of the coordinated entry system as a starting point.
- Despite discussions, concerns persist regarding overcoming barriers for PLWH to access housing programs.

ED/STAFF REPORT. Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, announced that the National Ending the HIV Epidemic Partnerships for Research Meeting will be held at UCLA on April 15-16, 2024. Hosted by UCLA CHIPTS and the UCLA-CDU Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), this gathering will bring together the CFAR/ARC Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) supplement project teams, community and public health partners, and other stakeholders interested in HIV implementation research and practice. The aim is to review supplement project findings and explore avenues for advancing impactful HIV implementation research. The COH recommended Jazmine Crayton's participation, with DHSP staff and several COH members also slated to attend and provide feedback.

C. Barrit also reported that the May – July COH meetings will be held back at the Vermont Corridor.

Lastly, C. Barrit reminded the Caucus that the HRSA technical assistance site visit will be conducted in person at the COH offices on May 21-23, 2024, and reported that staff are in the process of compiling the necessary requested reports and documentation.

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

March 8, Meeting Recap. The Co-Chairs briefly reviewed the meeting summary located in the meeting packet.

Workplan Review (Ongoing). The Co-Chairs led the Caucus in a review of its workplan. I Herrera., Co-Chair, suggested that the Caucus use project management tool – [Monday](#) app – to assist the Caucus with tracking and managing its workplan to better meet its goals and objectives.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. COH Housing Panel Discussion | Debrief & Next Steps

Letter Writing Campaign to Elected Officials Regarding Housing Challenges for PLWH.

- The Caucus proposed developing a form letter addressing housing challenges for PLWH. Additionally, individuals are encouraged to craft personalized letters to elected officials, sharing their experiences and recommended solutions.
- Concerns were raised about the scope of the Caucus's efforts in addressing the housing crisis. Discussion on scaling back focus to prioritize housing needs for PLWH.
- Questions were posed on how to think outside the box in addressing housing challenges.
- Emphasis was expressed on prioritizing housing needs for women within the Caucus's initiatives and recognizing housing as a public health crisis and its role in HIV transmission prevention.
- A request was made to add the formation of a housing taskforce to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda. I. Herrera committed to identifying participants for the task force.

2. Priority Setting & Resource Allocation (PSRA) Process | Consumer Participation

Kevin Donnelly, PP&A Co-Chair, reported that a DHSP presentation on LRP utilization will be featured on the agenda for the May 9, 2024, COH meeting. The presentation will include an overview of the program and details on expenditure within the service category. Additionally, PSRA process will commence in May 2024. A survey will be developed and distributed to all caucus members to gather their ranking preferences. A raffle will be conducted to incentivize participation. Lastly, a virtual training session on the PSRA and service standards development will be held on April 23, 2024 @ 3-4:30PM and all are encouraged to participate.

OVERFLOW & PARKING LOT

N/A

ACTION ITEMS, CALLS TO ACTION & NEXT STEPS

I. Herrera volunteered to coordinate feedback collection for the housing letter to elected officials via email to the Caucus. The deadline for submitting feedback is April 18. All consumers are strongly encouraged to share their input, which will be integrated into the letter. A final draft will be presented at the next Caucus meeting for review and discussion, determining next steps.

It was recommended that timelines must be included for all action items to move the work of the Caucus forward in a manner that is efficient.

AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING

- The agenda will be developed at the next Consumer Caucus Co-chairs meeting.
- Finalize housing letter to elected officials.
- Housing taskforce updates
- PSRA Updates

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Address the Housing Crisis Impacting People Living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County

Dear **[Elected Official's Name]**,

As constituents and individuals living with HIV, deeply impacted by the housing crisis in Los Angeles County, we, the members of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Consumer Caucus, are reaching out to bring attention to the pressing challenges faced by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) in accessing safe and stable housing.

The stories shared by members of our community reflect the harsh realities we face daily. For some of us, despite being residents of a building specifically designed for PLWH, we find ourselves grappling with neglect and disregard from building management. Requests for essential repairs and appliance replacements have languished unattended for years, leaving us vulnerable and our living conditions compromised. Worse still, advocating for necessary improvements often results in resistance and even threats of eviction, further exacerbating our distress.

One member shares, "The management's lack of attention to property maintenance affects our well-being and dignity. Requests for repairs and appliance replacements have been ignored for over two years." Another member echoes similar sentiments, stating, "To get housing is a huge barrier. People run out of time and lose their housing voucher or section 8. Owners are demanding too much such as making 4 times your income. We would not need a voucher or help w/housing if we made 3-4 times our income. The process to get housing is crazy. My paperwork process took 2 years." Another member underscores the critical importance of safety, a cornerstone of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. For PLWH, safety isn't just a basic necessity but a vital factor for survival. Ensuring safe housing conditions not only safeguards individual well-being but also plays a pivotal role in combating the HIV epidemic at large. These testimonies underscore the urgent need for action to address the systemic barriers preventing PLWH from accessing safe and stable housing.

Our community demands equitable treatment and accommodation. We call for housing solutions that integrate PLWH seamlessly into larger residential developments, sparing us from the stigmatization of dedicated buildings. Comprehensive support services are vital, particularly for those of us aging with HIV, ensuring access to critical programs such as nutritional support and case management.

It's crucial to also recognize that the housing crisis disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations who are part of our community. These vulnerable populations are people living with HIV but are key populations within the PLWH community. This includes women experiencing domestic violence, homeless youth, the elderly, individuals with co-morbidities, and those recovering from substance use. As fellow members of the PLWH community, they face intersecting challenges that compound the already daunting task of securing safe and stable housing.

Furthermore, data underscores the severity of the housing crisis and its disproportionate impact on PLWH in Los Angeles County:

- Since 2011, the percentage of newly diagnosed HIV cases among unhoused individuals in Los Angeles County has more than doubled, reaching 9.4% in 2020 (source: [Los Angeles County Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, 2022-2026](#)).
- According to CDC data, in 2020, 17% of people with diagnosed HIV experienced homelessness or other forms of unstable housing (source: [CDC. Behavioral and Clinical Characteristics of Persons with Diagnosed HIV Infection—Medical Monitoring Project, United States, 2020 Cycle \(June 2020–May 2021\). HIV Surveillance Special Report 2020;29.](#))
- People experiencing homelessness or housing instability have higher rates of HIV and mental health disorders than people with stable housing (source: [Issue Brief: The Role of Housing in Ending the HIV Epidemic](#)).
- Unstable housing is associated with lower rates of viral suppression among PLWH, undermining efforts to prevent transmission and manage the HIV epidemic effectively (source: [Issue Brief: The Role of Housing in Ending the HIV Epidemic](#)).

In light of the critical nature of this issue, we urge you to take immediate action:

- **Allocate resources** specifically earmarked for housing improvements for PLWH.
- **Invest resources** in housing programs for PLWH and invest in other supportive housing efforts for communities with highest risk for HIV who could benefit.
- **Enhance Section 8 housing programs** to better serve PLWH.
- **Advance policies** that address social determinants of health and increase access to affordable housing, including for PLWH.
- **Advocate for policies** that promote greater landlord accommodation and understanding of our unique needs.
- **Foster collaboration** between housing and healthcare sectors to address the intertwined challenges of housing instability and HIV/AIDS.

We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend an upcoming Consumer Caucus meeting to speak directly to the community and hear directly from PLWH to discuss practical solutions to addressing these issues. Alternatively, we suggest scheduling a time for the Caucus to come to you. Please contact Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, at cbarrit@lachiv.org to coordinate.

As elected officials entrusted with representing our interests, we implore you to heed our call for action. Together, we can build a more just and equitable housing system that upholds the dignity and holistic well-being of all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

In community,

Lilieth Conolly, Ishmael Herrera & Damone Thomas, Consumer Caucus Co-Chairs
Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Consumer Caucus

COMMENTS FOR CAUCUS FEEDBACK/DISCUSSION:

1. Prepare in advance by compiling a list of questions for a focused conversation when meeting with elected officials.
2. Compile a packet of written testimonies reflecting consumer experiences and provide to elected officials.
3. In the signature line, shall we list members by name or Co-Chairs as representatives? Will this be signed by all Caucus members and sent to elected officials that represent their areas of residence?

Key Housing Challenge and Themes

Lack of coordination
among housing systems
and providers

Duplicative and
confusing application
process

Lack of affordable
housing stock

Current efforts are not
addressing the root
causes of homelessness
(stagnant incomes,
poverty, racism, etc.)

Lack of homeless
prevention services

Lack of clarity about
eligibility requirements

Outdated and restrictive
federal policies and
regulations

Unclear how/where one
would access or start
looking for help



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



Key Service Entry Points for Housing Resources (Draft for Discussion Only)

PLWHA-SPECIFIC

HOPWA

DHSP

CHIRP/LA

APLA HEALTH/ ALLIANCE FOR H +H

GENERAL

STAYHOUSEDLA.ORG

<https://www.lahsa.org/get-help>

Section 8

<https://housing.lacounty.gov/>

<https://211la.org/>



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV





We're Listening

share your concerns with us.

**HIV + STD Services
Customer Support Line**

(800) 260-8787

Why should I call?

The Customer Support Line can assist you with accessing HIV or STD services and addressing concerns about the quality of services you have received.

Will I be denied services for reporting a problem?

No. You will not be denied services. Your name and personal information can be kept confidential.

Can I call anonymously?

Yes.

Can I contact you through other ways?

Yes.

By Email:

dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov

On the web:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/QuestionServices.htm>





Estamos Escuchando

Comparta sus inquietudes con nosotros.

**Servicios de VIH + ETS
Línea de Atención al Cliente**

(800) 260-8787

¿Por qué debería llamar?

La Línea de Atención al Cliente puede ayudarlo a acceder a los servicios de VIH o ETS y abordar las inquietudes sobre la calidad de los servicios que ha recibido.

¿Se me negarán los servicios por informar de un problema?

No. No se le negarán los servicios. Su nombre e información personal pueden mantenerse confidenciales.

¿Puedo llamar de forma anónima?

Si.

¿Puedo ponerme en contacto con usted a través de otras formas?

Si.

Por correo electrónico:
dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov

En el sitio web:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/QuestionServices.htm>



THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CONSUMER CAUCUS, PRESENT

A virtual lunch and learn two-part series

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO PROTECT & IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH



PART ONE:

MAY 20, 2024 @ 2PM - 3:30PM

Medical Labs & Medication Adherence

This workshop is designed to empower participants with skills to understand medical labs and the importance of antiretroviral medication adherence.



PART TWO:

JUNE 17, 2024 @ 2PM - 3:30PM

Peer Support for Optimal Health

This workshop will discuss the powerful role of peer support plays in achieving and maintaining optimal health.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



Register now at:

<https://tinyurl.com/27wdaw33>