



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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

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

BLACK CAUCUS

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2024
4:00PM-5:00PM (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=mfc96d54522e6fc742e070ac8aa29bec7>

TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2534 648 2520

Meeting Password: BLACK

together.

WE CAN END HIV IN OUR COMMUNITIES ONCE & FOR ALL

Apply to become a Commission member at:

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



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Virtual Meeting Agenda

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|----|---|---------------|
| 1. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES | 4:00PM-4:05PM |
| 2. | COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES | 4:05PM-4:10PM |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Operational/County Updates | |
| 3. | CO-CHAIR REPORT | 4:10PM-4:15PM |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2024 Workplan Development ONGOINGOrganization Capacity Needs Assessment UPDATES | |
| 4. | DISCUSSION | 4:15PM-4:50PM |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">April 26, 2024 Faith Based Community Listening Session FOLLOW UP & FEEDBACKNon-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean Community Listing Session PlanningProposed Community Listening Session Schedule2024 World AIDS Day (WAD) Planning | |
| 5. | RECAP AND NEXT STEPS | 4:50PM-4:55PM |
| 6. | PUBLIC COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS | 4:55PM-5:00PM |
| 7. | ADJOURNMENT | 5:00PM |



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 Workplan 2024

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT: To identify activities and priorities the Black Caucus will lead and advance throughout 2024.

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), 3) identify strategies to address the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations, and 4) 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.

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
1	Organizational Capacity Needs Assessment for Black-led Organizations	Administer a qualitative and quantitative needs assessment to the nine selected, Black-led organizations to help inform and implement a TA program so that Black-led organizations can better compete for County contracts.	2024	Final Report presented by EIS @ March 21, 2024 Caucus meeting. Caucus to determine next steps.
2	Community listening sessions to address the state of HIV in the Black community	Hold candid community conversations by Black folx, for Black folx, addressing stigma and its relation to the faith-based community	2024	Faith-based session scheduled for April 26, 2024 @ 6-8PM; venue TBD. Non-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean proposed for June 2024 in commemoration of national HIV awareness day. CLS workgroup to lead planning.
3	National Black/AA HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)	Plan activity(ies) promoting health/wellness, lifting the Black community, and addressing stigma and the disproportionate impact of HIV within the Black community	February 2024	Highlight Community Listening Sessions, with focus on faith-based session as a kick-off.

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
4	Next steps & future of the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations	Review recommendations for revisions/updates and determine next steps.	2024	Add a demographic section for those who are incarcerated, ultimately addressing the industrial prison complex.
5	Community Engagement and Communications	<p>Efforts around active recruitment, social media engagement, amplifying other Black HIV-centered communications (ex. A Black women’s focus during NGWHAAD, Black men’s focus during National Gay Men’s Awareness Day (NGMHAAD, etc.), and World AIDS Day (WAD).</p> <p>Communications to serve recruitment and retention. Ex. What does recruitment look like? Do we want at least one representative from Black-led, Black-serving orgs? What are the members’ responsibilities?</p>		Better amplify the Caucus’s work through strategic communications. This would also look at effective delegation and engagement, getting more folks active in the room



SUMMARY SESSION REPORT

“Bridging Faith and Sexual Health in the Fight Against HIV: Empowering our Black Communities”
Community Listening Session
Friday, April 26, 2024

Introduction

The “Bridging Faith and Sexual Health in the Fight Against HIV” listening session took place on Friday, April 26, from 6-8 PM at Saint Marks LA. Facilitated by Dr. Donta Morrison and Lilieth Conolly, the session brought together 16 participants from LA County's Black interfaith communities. It fostered engaging dialogue, resulting in actionable insights addressing the root causes of stigma and shame within the Black interfaith communities, addressing the disproportionate impact of STIs and HIV. Participants were provided with a \$50 gift card, a nourishing meal, and community resources.

Participant Analytics/Profile

- 43 registered, 21 confirmed.
- Represented organizations include Christ the Good Shepard Church City of Refuge, Metro Church of Christ, Vision Church LA, Faithful Central Bible Church, N da Lord’s Will, Greater New Light, GCFHH, Breath of Life SDA Church, Keep it under Control Anger Management, Church 1, United Methodist Church, and Saint Mark UMC
- Gender breakdown: 7 women, 9 men.

Key Discussion Takeaways

- Within the church, there's a pervasive culture of silence surrounding sexuality and romantic feelings, fostering confusion and encouraging individuals to hide due to prevailing stigma and shame.
- Sexuality is often deemed sinful within church discourse, leading to a widespread avoidance of discussions on the topic.
- Women face disproportionate marginalization within church communities, often enduring punishment for pregnancies while men escape consequences.
- It's imperative for churches to confront stigma, promote the normalization of sexuality, and prioritize love over judgment in their teachings.
- Harmful practices such as attempting to "pray the gay away" persist within certain church circles, perpetuating discrimination and harm.
- Some churches prioritize creating safe spaces for youth through dedicated services and panels, fostering an environment where young individuals feel comfortable discussing sensitive topics.
- Traditional churches encounter challenges adapting to the evolving needs of younger generations, often struggling to maintain relevance and engagement.

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- Historical shifts have eroded the status of Black churches as safe spaces, where they once served as vital sources of information and community resources.
- While some churches embrace progressive attitudes and demonstrate LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in leadership, many others lag behind in this regard.
- There's a pressing need for community-centric approaches and increased opportunities for dialogue within faith spaces to address the needs of its community.
- Churches must address the entrenched danger of patriarchy and actively work to dismantle systems that marginalize and silence women's voices.
- Encouraging open dialogue within congregations, focused on teaching rather than lecturing, can foster greater understanding and empathy among members.
- Building collaboration and unity among churches is essential, moving away from division and competition towards collective efforts to address societal challenges. Dismantle “spiritual gangbanging.”
- Prioritizing relationship-building and collective efforts over individual church growth fosters stronger community bonds and more impactful social change.
- Youth inclusion in decision-making processes and leadership development is crucial for ensuring the relevancy and sustainability of church communities.
- Implementing sexual health education and awareness programs within churches can address stigma and promote understanding of diverse sexualities and identities.
- Investing in programs tailored to the needs of young people, including dedicated budget allocations, demonstrates a commitment to their well-being and engagement.

Follow Up Key Points, Proposed Actions & Recommendations

1. Involvement of Healthcare Professionals in Church Leadership:
 - Healthcare professionals should be integrated into church leadership to provide expertise in addressing sexual health issues within faith communities.
2. Need for Sexual Health Education and Resources:
 - Half of participants feel ill-equipped to discuss sexual health, highlighting a crucial gap in knowledge and resources within faith communities.
 - Majority of participants lack awareness of where to refer individuals for sexual health resources, emphasizing the need for accessible and culturally responsive referral systems.
 - There's a consensus on the importance of vetting resources to ensure their cultural relevance and effectiveness in supporting sexual health initiatives.

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3. Marketing and Education Strategies:

- Creative marketing strategies, mirroring approaches used on platforms like TikTok, are suggested to promote faith-based sexual health education.
- Normalizing sexual health discussions and incorporating education materials into various church settings and community events can help destigmatize the topic.

4. Youth Involvement and Advocacy:

- Incentivizing youth involvement and including advocacy and training on STIs and HIV are essential components of comprehensive sexual health initiatives.
- Listening sessions throughout faith communities can provide a platform for individuals to share their experiences and needs.

5. County Support and Funding:

- Establishment of a county ambassador program within faith networks to disseminate information and resources effectively.
- Participants express dissatisfaction with current county services and emphasize the need for specific funding and technical assistance tailored for faith communities.
- Technical assistance is needed to build infrastructure, address barriers in grant applications, and provide grant writing training to enhance skills and collaboration among faith leaders.
- Creation of an incubation academy specific to faith communities (similar to the County’s [Department of Mental Health](#) and [Justice Care & Opportunities Department](#)) to provide technical assistance and support to churches in implementing sexual health programs.
- Proposal for the creation of a Los Angeles County Coalition of Black Churches, funded via a RFP, aimed at combating STIs and HIV, providing comprehensive support and resources, and advocating for the sexual health needs of the community.
- Requests for basic HIV, STI, and sexual health training and education to equip faith leaders with necessary knowledge and skills.
- Need for guidance on how to communicate with individuals living with or at risk of HIV, and how to bridge the gap between faith teachings and scientific knowledge.



Black Caucus Community Listening Sessions Proposed 2024 Schedule

	Key Population	Month	Date Proposed	Notes/Comments
1	Faith-Based	April	Friday, April 26, 2024 @ 6-8PM	Completed
2	Non-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean	June *6/8 National Caribbean HIV Awareness Day	Friday, June 14, 2024	Damone Thomas to provide details/programming.
3		July		
4		August		
5		September *9/27 National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day		
6		October		
7		November		
8		December *World AIDS Day Commemoration		

1. ~~Faith-Based~~
2. Women
3. Same Gender Loving Men (MSM)
4. Justice-Involved
5. Youth/Young Adults
6. Non-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean
7. Non-HIV Traditional Provider
8. Transgender

***Considerations:**

- alignment w/ population-specific HIV/AIDS awareness days
- collaboration with population-specific Caucuses, i.e., Women Caucus