



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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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*

**\*\*RESCHEDULED\*\***

# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting

**Thursday, July 24, 2025**

**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 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?MTID=m6706627e2dc01235a72dbf05900296ac>

### TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2539 545 1417

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:

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# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 24, 2025 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

To Join by Computer:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m6706627e2dc01235a72dbf05900296ac>

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2539 545 1417

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES 4:00PM-4:05PM
2. COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES 4:05PM-4:10PM
  - Operational/County Updates
3. CO-CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES 4:10PM-4:15PM
  - 2025 Workplan Review & Updates
  - Explore Sponsorship/Funding Opportunities to Sustain Efforts of the Black Caucus
4. PLANNING DISCUSSION 4:20PM-4:50PM
  - Community Listening Sessions
    - ✓ 7/9 Transgender Community in Partnership with Transgender Caucus x AMAAD – Follow up & Feedback
    - ✓ Youth & Youth/Justice Involved Community in Partnership w/ Street Poets
    - ✓ Men who Don't Identify as MSM Community in Partnership w/ WalkGoodLA
  - Community Engagement & Outreach Opportunities
    - ✓ South LA Pride – August 9, 2025
    - ✓ Taste of Soul – October 18, 2025
    - ✓ [Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness Community Led Story-Telling Campaign](#)
      1. “Mic’d Up!” – Debut @ Taste of Soul?
5. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS 4:50PM-4:55PM
6. PUBLIC COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS 4:55PM-5:00PM
7. ADJOURNMENT 5:00PM

*The Caucus’ mission is to address the disproportionate impact of HIV and STIs within the Black communities of Los Angeles County through advocacy, education, and mobilization.*

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](#)



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV



Approved by COH  
6/8/23

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### 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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# Black Caucus Workplan 2025

(Updates in Highlights 7.23.25)

**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:** To identify activities and priorities the Black 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), 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	<b>National Black/AA HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)</b>	Plan activity(ies) promoting health/wellness, lifting the Black community, and addressing stigma and the disproportionate impact of HIV within the Black community	February 2025	<del>Suggestion: Develop a PSA campaign to highlight Black Caucus initiatives and/or launch targeted recruitment efforts for the focus group with Black-led and Black-serving organizations.</del>
2	<b>Organizational Capacity Needs Assessment for Black-led Organizations</b>	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.	April 30, 2025	Lead the next phase of the assessment by convening a focus group with Black-led and Black-serving organizations to engage those who did not participate in the initial phase.  <del>Date: April 30 Time: 12:00–1:00 PM (Virtual) Mr. Maultsby to facilitate the session.</del>  Next Step: Upon receipt, review DHSP's findings to EIS recommendations and coordinate next steps.

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
3	Community listening sessions to address the state of HIV in the Black community	Hold remaining candid community conversations by Black folx, for Black folx, addressing stigma and its relation to the faith-based community.	May – Sept 2025	<p><del>Non-Traditional HIV Providers</del>  Date: May 13  Venue: Charles Drew University (CDU)  Facilitator: Drs. Spencer &amp; King</p> <p><del>Transgender Community</del>  Date: July 9  Venue/Facilitator: Diamond Paulk @ AMAAD Inc  In collaboration w/ the Transgender Caucus</p> <p>Youth (Ages 15-29) &amp; Youth/Justice Involved in partnership w/ Street Poets  Target Date: August-September  Venue: TBD  Facilitators: TBD *reflective of community</p> <p>Men Who Do Not Identify as MSM (in partnership w/ WalkGoodLA)  Target Date: August- September  Venue: TBD  Facilitator: TBD *reflective of community</p>
4	Juneteenth Community Picnic	<del>Host a Juneteenth Community Picnic focused on community building, in response to ongoing feedback from listening sessions. The event will include a facilitated discussion on the state of Black sexual health and serve as the launch of the Community Organizational Needs Assessment. Suggested format: BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) at a County or City park.</del>	June 2025	<del>Determine interest, confirm date and logistics, and solicit members to assist with planning. Develop a community needs assessment to complement the organizational needs assessment and ongoing listening sessions. This effort will gather direct input from community members to identify current needs, service gaps, and opportunities to improve culturally responsive sexual health services. The findings will help inform future programming, guide funding priorities, and shape advocacy efforts across systems of care.</del>

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
				<i>Considering the current fiscal constraints and shifting social landscape, the Black Caucus will pivot from hosting an in-person event and instead launch a digital campaign to commemorate Juneteenth.</i>
5	<b>Next steps &amp; future of the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations</b>	Review recommendations for revisions/updates and determine next steps.	2025	Add a demographic section for those who are incarcerated, ultimately addressing the industrial prison complex.





## **Black Caucus Virtual Meeting Recap**

**Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

**Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence to honor all members of our communities facing hardships—from immigration raids and HIV prevention funding cuts to job loss and broader social injustices. The group acknowledged the ongoing challenges impacting mental health and well-being and emphasized the importance of community support, resilience, and collective care in the face of mounting societal pressures.

### **COH Staff Report/Updates**

COH staff shared operational updates, noting the cancellation of the Commission's June, August, and September meetings due to restructuring efforts. They emphasized the importance of continued community engagement and announced the next Commission meeting on July 10, 2025, at the Vermont Corridor, followed by a Consumer Caucus-hosted listening session on Navigating the RWP and Medi-Cal.

### **Co-Chair Report/Updates**

The Co-Chairs reviewed the 2025 Workplan, highlighting continued efforts around community engagement and cross-Caucus collaboration. Dr. Leon Maultsby, Black Caucus Co-Chair, provided an update on WeCanStopSTDsLA, noting the Caucus' intention to support ongoing youth sexual health initiatives aligned with the network's goals. The meeting addressed recent challenges in the HIV sector due to funding cuts, emphasized the need for community support and training, and discussed upcoming events and collaborations.

### **Community Listening Sessions**

- **Non-Traditional HIV Provider Session:** A summary of key findings was provided, including major themes around trust-building, accessibility of services, and the need for expanded support of culturally rooted care models.
- **Transgender Listening Session – July 9, 2025:** The upcoming session co-hosted with the Transgender Caucus and AMAAD Institute will center the voices of Black transgender individuals. Recruitment, facilitation, and logistics were discussed. For flyer and registration, click [HERE](#).
- **Youth/Justice-Involved and Non-MSM-Identifying Men:** The Caucus identified this population as a priority for future engagement. Members agreed to revisit and refine the framing language to ensure cultural relevance and avoid exclusionary terminology.



Suggestions for potential community partners were welcomed to support outreach and planning efforts.

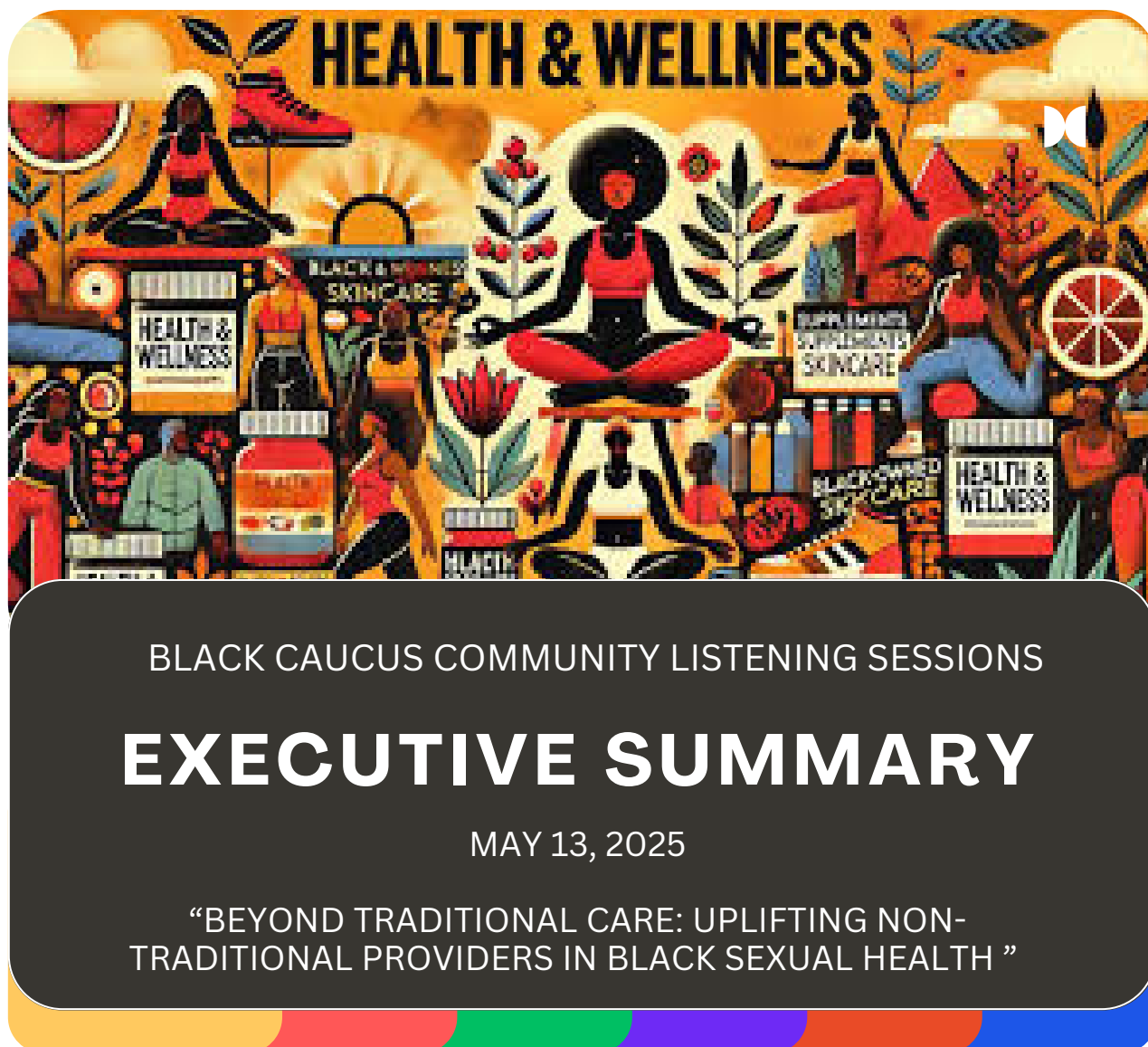
### **Juneteenth Commemoration & Solidarity Activities**

Members highlighted various Juneteenth celebrations and community events occurring over the holiday weekend. Participants shared what Juneteenth meant to them. Plans for broader solidarity and awareness-building efforts were brainstormed for future implementation, teasing a social media campaign lifting Black voices through storytelling.

### **Recap and Next Steps**

1. Finalizing logistics and facilitation plans for the July 9 Transgender Listening Session.
2. Finalize the summary of the Non-Traditional Provider Listening Session for public dissemination.
3. Continuing planning for the Black HIV Storytelling Social Media Campaign.
4. Exploring dates and framing for the next listening session focused on justice-involved youth and non-MSM-identifying men. Members were encouraged to suggest potential partners to collaborate with.
5. Next virtual meeting will be July 17, 2025 @ 4PM.





BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAY 13, 2025

“BEYOND TRADITIONAL CARE: UPLIFTING NON-TRADITIONAL PROVIDERS IN BLACK SEXUAL HEALTH”

## INTRODUCTION

On May 13, 2025, the Black Caucus of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV hosted a community listening session at Charles R. Drew University, centering non-traditional HIV providers—such as doulas, pharmacists, nurses, mental health professionals, and holistic healers—who play vital roles in Black sexual health. Facilitated by Dr. LaShonda Spencer and Dr. William King, the session explored provider comfort, biomedical awareness, access barriers, cultural responsiveness, and support needs. Six participants attended and received a \$50 Visa gift card, refreshments, and community resources.

## OBJECTIVE

Through community listening sessions focusing on seven key populations identified in the Black Caucus (formerly the Black/African American Community Taskforce [BAAC]) recommendations, we aim to quantify the sexual health needs of Black communities in Los Angeles County. These discussions will guide improvements in HIV prevention and care service delivery, ensuring cultural responsiveness and a comprehensive understanding of the diverse sexual health care needs of our Black communities in Los Angeles County.



## KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

### **Sexual Health Comfort & Training Gaps:**

Participants reported that while they regularly encounter clients with sexual health questions, they often feel ill-equipped to address them due to a lack of formal training on HIV prevention tools and culturally responsive communication. There is strong interest in trainings that bridge this gap.

### **Limited Awareness & Utilization of Biomedical Interventions:**

While some participants were familiar with PrEP, PEP, and Doxy-PEP, most expressed uncertainty around how to refer clients or discuss these tools confidently. Several indicated that clearer referral pathways and informational materials tailored for non-clinical providers would help.

### **Barriers to Access & Referral Systems:**

Participants described fragmented and inconsistent referral systems, noting difficulties in identifying LGBTQ-affirming, Black-serving clinics. Many rely on personal networks or online searches, which can be unreliable. There was a call for a vetted, user-friendly resource guide.

### **Cultural Responsiveness & Client Trust:**

Participants emphasized that mistrust in medical systems, fueled by racism and historical trauma, continues to be a barrier for Black clients. Participants' noted that their cultural alignment and lived experience often serve as bridges to trust, and this should be formally recognized and supported.

**Support & Integration Needs:** There was a strong desire to be included in future HIV prevention efforts. Participants called for ongoing partnerships, mentorship opportunities, and compensation for time spent referring and educating clients about sexual health. Ideas included collaborative workshops, access to HIV prevention materials, and peer support spaces.

## CONTACT INFO

**EML:** [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)

**WEB:** <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>

**TEL:** 213.738.2816



## FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a Centralized Resource and Referral Directory:** Develop a living directory of Black-affirming, culturally competent HIV service providers and clinics accessible to non-traditional providers.
- Expand Training & Certification Opportunities:** Offer tailored continuing education on HIV/STI prevention, PrEP navigation, and trauma-informed care for non-traditional providers.
- Formalize Partnerships with HIV Systems of Care:** Fund collaborative pilots that integrate non-traditional providers into HIV prevention initiatives with defined roles, reimbursement, and support.
- Develop Culturally Responsive Materials & Campaigns:** Co-create educational resources that providers can share with clients to reduce stigma and promote HIV prevention tools in a relatable way.
- Fund and Validate Non-Traditional Provider Roles:** Recognize the unique impact of these providers in community health by creating pipelines for inclusion in public health initiatives and contract opportunities.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

This session underscored the need to reimagine partnerships, elevate community-rooted care models, and acknowledge that health equity requires expanding beyond traditional silos. This session marks an essential step in building an inclusive, responsive, and culturally competent system of care.





LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON HIV



AMPLIFY  
YOUR  
VOICE

Join Us

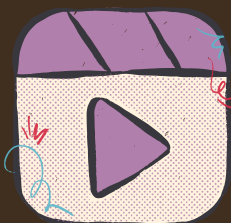
## BLACK VOICES FOR HIV HEALTH & WELLNESS

Join the movement by sharing and using [#LACOHBlackCaucus](#) and [#BlackVoices4HIVHealthWellness](#)

**Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness** is a community-led storytelling campaign led by the **Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus** that honors the real-life experiences of Black people living with, working in the field of, and caring for those impacted by HIV in Los Angeles County. Whether you're a consumer, provider, advocate, or ally—**your story matters**.

At a time when HIV funding and services are being threatened across the country, our Black communities are at greater risk of being left behind. That's why now, more than ever, **we must speak up**.

By **sharing our truths** through **short videos**, **written reflections**, and **creative expressions**, we shine a light on the continued need for **accessible, affirming, and culturally responsive HIV services**. Together, we'll raise awareness, inspire action, and remind the world that behind every number is a name, a face, and a story that deserves to be heard—and protected.



Short videos (up  
to 2 minutes)



Written  
testimonials (250  
words or less)



Artwork or creative  
content that reflects  
your experience

All submissions will be reviewed and may be featured on our social media and advocacy platforms as part of our campaign to center Black voices and push for the resources we deserve. Let's raise our voices—together. **Send your submissions along with your social media handle(s) or any questions to [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org).**