



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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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

BLACK CAUCUS

Virtual Meeting

**Monday, September 22, 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=m4aa1719d0e0b60d0dcd5e83518e5deca>

TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2534 176 2468

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.

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



BLACK CAUCUS

Virtual Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

To Join by Computer:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m4aa1719d0e0b60d0dcd5e83518e5deca>

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2534 176 2468

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES | 4:00PM-4:05PM |
| 2. | COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operational/County Updates | 4:05PM-4:10PM |
| 3. | CO-CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8/21/25 Meeting Recap• Caucus Structure & Meeting Schedule• DEI Sanitization• 2025 Workplan Review• Community Listening Sessions Update | 4:10PM-4:15PM |
| 4. | PLANNING DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taste of Soul – October 18, 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness Community Led Story-Telling Campaign“Mic’d Up!” featuring Dechelle Richardson – Debut @ Taste of Soul• 2025 World AIDS Day Planning | 4:15PM – 4:50PM |
| 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 Overview

The Commission on HIV established the Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force in response to the 2019 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day panel discussion, recognizing the urgent need to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in Black communities across Los Angeles County. The Task Force developed strategic [recommendations](#) to take immediate action toward eliminating the health disparities experienced by Black/African American individuals. These recommendations were crafted by both Commission members and community stakeholders with direct ties to the populations they serve.

Building on this foundation, the Black Caucus was established as a dedicated space for Commission and community members to engage in open, judgment-free discussions about their lived experiences and insights. The Caucus fosters meaningful dialogue among those who share and understand the unique challenges facing Black communities in HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

Beyond fostering dialogue, the Black Caucus ensures that Black voices are effectively heard in Commission discussions and decision-making. Through advocacy and strategic engagement, it amplifies the perspectives of Black people affected by and working in HIV-related fields.

To fulfill its mission, the Black Caucus upholds four core responsibilities:

- **Facilitating a forum for dialogue** – Providing a safe space for candid discussions that drive shared learning and problem-solving.
- **Developing the caucus voice** – Strengthening its presence within the Commission and the broader community to advocate for policies and initiatives that serve Black communities.
- **Providing the caucus perspective** – Ensuring that Black experiences, concerns, and priorities shape the Commission's work and improve culturally responsive services.
- **Cultivating leadership** – Empowering members to take on leadership roles in advocacy, mentorship, and community-driven change.

Through these efforts, the Black Caucus remains steadfast in its mission to elevate Black voices, dismantle health disparities, and drive meaningful change in HIV prevention, care, and support throughout Los Angeles County.

The Black Caucus meets virtually on the third Thursday of each month from 4:00 to 5:00 PM and is led by two co-chairs who guide its discussions and initiatives.

For more information about the role and responsibilities of Caucuses, please review the [Policy #08.1102: Subordinate Commission Working Units](#)



Black Caucus Virtual Meeting Recap

Thursday, August 21, 2025

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting Highlights

Commission Meeting Cancellations

The September Commission meeting has been cancelled to support internal restructuring and strategic planning efforts. The next Commission meeting will be held on October 9, 2025, at Jesse Owens Community Park Auditorium.

COH Leadership Transition

Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, will officially resign on August 31, 2025. We thank her and are incredibly grateful for her nine years of service and leadership.

Caucus Structure and Meeting Schedule

- The Commission is working with County Counsel to ensure Brown Act compliance in terms of caucus structure and meeting schedule. Caucuses, workgroups, and task forces are considered subordinate working units and not official legislative bodies, so they should not have standing or fixed recurring meeting schedules. Standing meetings make the caucuses subject to the Brown Act, which requires in-person meetings and other formal rules.
- The current standing schedule of every 3rd Thursday puts the caucus in potential violation of the Brown Act.
- To maintain flexibility and virtual meeting benefits, caucuses will move away from standing schedules. Instead, after each meeting, co-chairs and members will decide if and when the next meeting should be, with specific goals and agendas aligned with caucus purposes.
- Clarification was sought on the difference between “standing” (fixed recurring) and “recurring” or flexible scheduling. Scheduling meetings on varying dates, even if on a similar day of the week, is acceptable as long as it is not a fixed, unchanging schedule.
- Going forward, each meeting will end with scheduling the next meeting date rather than having a recurring date.

Sanitization of Documents

- Due to current federal executive orders and guidance from the HRSA project officer, there is a need to "sanitize" the language used to classify some caucuses (i.e., the Transgender



Caucus and the Black Caucus). This possibly means changing the names or how the caucuses are described to maintain federal funding compliance. Concrete examples have not been provided, but additional guidance is expected in September.

- Concerns were raised as sanitizing language around racial identity feels problematic and risks disconnecting from the community and the caucus's purpose.
 - One proposed option is to have the caucus absorbed by agencies or organizations under the Commission umbrella, allowing work to continue but with less direct connection. Some worry this could dilute the caucus's mission.
 - Another idea is creating acronyms or creative naming (e.g., "BLAC" standing for "Building Legacy and Addressing HIV Care") to comply while preserving identity.
- It was emphasized that this is an ongoing conversation, and no immediate decisions will be made. More information will be shared as it becomes available, and caucus members will be involved in brainstorming solutions.

Community Listening Sessions

- Five completed sessions covering diverse groups including MSM, women, transgender women, non-US born immigrants, and faith-based providers.
- Planning sessions underway for:
 - Youth & Justice-Involved Youth: The Black Caucus is partnering with Street Poets to host a listening session centering Black youth and youth impacted by the justice system. The session is targeted for August-September—details coming soon.
 - Black Men Who Do Not Identify as MSM: In collaboration with WalkGoodLA, the Caucus is planning a session specifically for Black men who do not identify as MSM (e.g., heterosexual men and others). More information will be shared as planning progresses.
- Listening Session Series Wrap-Up: The Black Caucus' 2025 listening session series will conclude by the end of September, capturing key themes and community-led recommendations to inform future priorities.

Presentation: "Pretty and PrEPped Campaign

- Pretty and PrEPped is a pilot campaign focused on HIV prevention among marginalized populations in Lancaster and Antelope Valley.
- Target populations include Black women, transgender individuals, survival sex workers, formerly incarcerated persons, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Goals:
 - Serve 300+ participants in 12 months.



- Increase PrEP awareness by 40%.
 - Normalize conversations about sexual health.
 - Host culturally affirming events monthly.
- The campaign is seeking partnerships and financial support; plans for expansion to New Orleans and other regions.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

Taste of Soul – October 18, 2025

- The Commission will not financially support the event this year due to the county's fiscal climate.
- Sponsorship is needed to cover costs of approximately \$2,000, including booth rental and promotional materials.
- Three options:
 1. Participate independently, as in prior years, which requires funding.
 2. Join the County Pavilion at a low or no cost, but this reduces autonomy and the event's unique spirit.
 3. Partnering with Dr. William King, however, the caucus will have a smaller footprint at the event.
- A "Mic'd Up" outreach idea was mentioned where Commissioner Dechelle Richardson would engage the community informally with a mic, asking questions about HIV/STI knowledge.

Check out our past participation and impact:

 [2023 Taste of Soul Summary](#)

 [2024 Taste of Soul Summary](#)

2025 World AIDS Day Planning

- The caucus discussed keeping and expanding upon last year's successful format, such as featuring hosts with lived experience, providers, researchers, changemaker awards, live music, and community engagement activities. There was a suggestion to incorporate findings from recent listening sessions into the event as a comprehensive report or community assessment.
- December 5th was suggested as the event date.



Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness: Share Your Story

As a reminder, at the Caucus' direction, we launched [Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness](#) campaign—an ongoing, community-led storytelling initiative led by the Black Caucus of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV. Whether you're a consumer, provider, advocate, or ally, your experience matters. This campaign centers the real-life stories of Black people living with HIV, working in the field, and caring for those impacted in Los Angeles County. At a time when HIV services and funding are under attack, it's more critical than ever that we raise our voices and push for the resources our communities deserve. Click [HERE](#) for more information on how to participate.

Next Meeting

The next virtual Caucus meeting will be Monday, September 22nd @ 4PM – see you then. In the meantime, stay encouraged and empowered.

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' RECOMMENDATIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)



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	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 2025	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.
2	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.	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. Date: April 30 Time: 12:00–1:00 PM (Virtual) Mr. Maultsby to facilitate the session. 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>Non-Traditional HIV Providers Date: May 13 Venue: Charles Drew University (CDU) Facilitator: Drs. Spencer & King</p> <p>Transgender Community Date: July 9 Venue/Facilitator: Diamond Paulk @ AMAAD Inc In collaboration w/ the Transgender Caucus</p> <p>Youth (Ages 15-29) & 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	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.	June 2025	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.

#	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	Next steps & future of the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations	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.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



AMPLIFY
YOUR
VOICE

Join Us

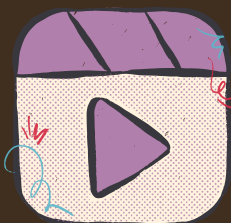
BLACK VOICES FOR HIV HEALTH & WELLNESS

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.**

Subordinate Working Units Meeting Decision-Making Tool

(July 2025)

For Caucuses, Task Forces & Work Groups – refer to [Policy #08.1102](#) for a description of the role(s), structures and governing rules of the Commission’s various types of subordinate committees and working groups.

This tool is designed to help leadership for subordinate working units to decide when to hold a meeting and why, ensuring that meetings are intentional, legally compliant, and aligned with strategic Commission goals.

The PURGE Test

Use the acronym **PURGE** to determine whether a meeting should be scheduled. *All five criteria must be met.*

Decision Criteria	Guiding Questions	Proceed with Meeting?
Purpose	Is there a clear purpose or deliverable (e.g., planning an event, responding to a directive, presenting to full Commission)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if deliverable is identified
Urgency	Is there a time-sensitive issue that must be addressed before the next scheduled Commission meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if time-sensitive and cannot be addressed elsewhere
Readiness	Are the necessary materials, leadership, facilitators, or information available to conduct a productive meeting? Is there confirmed leadership capacity, including commitment from at least two Commissioners in good standing to lead the subgroup?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if ready
Goal Alignment	Does the topic support the goals of the Commission, integrated plan, or specific motion/request? Can an existing committee fulfill the function or task?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if aligned
Engagement	Will there be sufficient participation or community input to inform a meaningful discussion? Consider time, date, competing/conflicting events, meeting format (hybrid/in person/virtual)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if members/stakeholders are confirmed
<p><i>If one or more PURGE criteria are not met, consider using an alternative format—such as email, workgroup, or leadership/staff facilitation—instead of holding a full meeting.</i></p>		