



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 the Black community*

# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting

**Thursday, June 20, 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=mbb9ea448600ca46bbee48ddaab4ae78b>

### TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2532 217 9389

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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**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 20, 2024 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=mbb9ea448600ca46bbe48ddaab4ae78b>

To Join by Computer:

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2532 217 9389

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 4:10PM-4:20PM
  - 2024 Workplan Development | ONGOING
  - Organization Capacity Needs Assessment | UPDATES
  - Faith Based Community Listening Session | FOLLOW UP & UPDATES
4. DISCUSSION 4:20PM-4:50PM
  - June 14th Non-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean Community Listening Session | FOLLOW UP & FEEDBACK
  - Proposed Community Listening Session Schedule
  - Community Engagement Events/ Activities
    - Black PRIDE (July 6)
    - 2024 Taste of Soul (October 19)
    - 2024 World AIDS Day (December 6?)
    - Other?
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

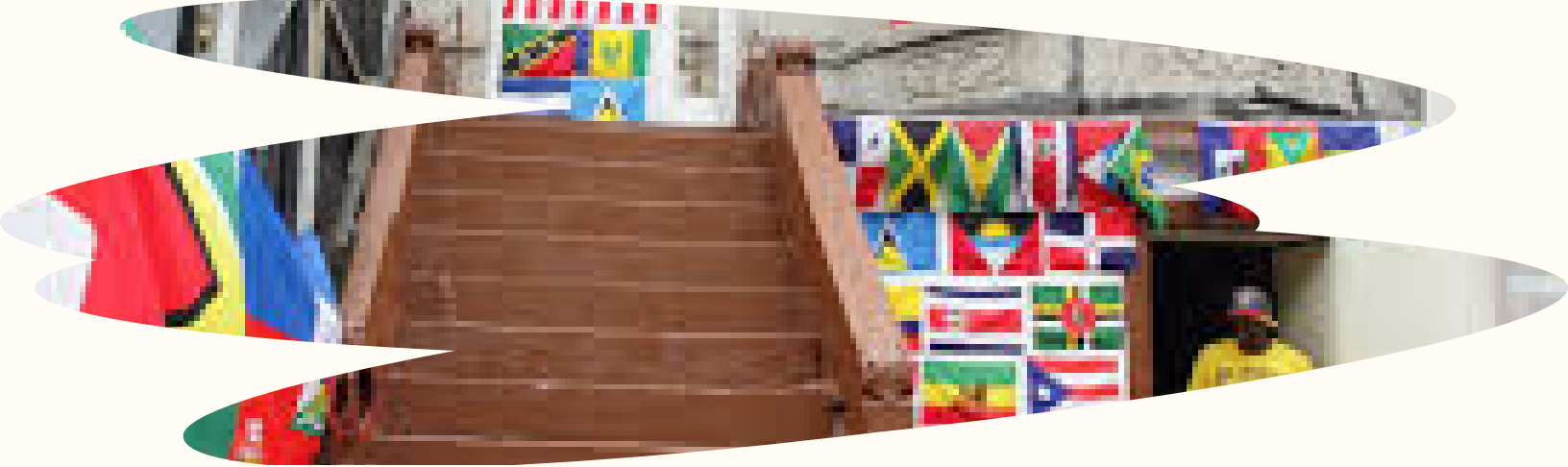
**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:** To identify activities and priorities the Black Caucus will lead and advance throughout 2024.

**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	<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.	2024	Final Report presented by EIS @ March 21, 2024 Caucus meeting.  Caucus to determine next steps.
2	<b>Community listening sessions to address the state of HIV in the Black community</b>	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	<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 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	<b>Next steps &amp; future of the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations</b>	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	<b>Community Engagement and Communications</b>	<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



**Empowering Health: Conversations on Sexual Health & HIV in  
Black Immigrant Communities**

**COMMUNITY  
LISTENING SESSION**

**FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024  
5:00-7:00PM**

**5:00-5:05PM: WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**Danielle M. Campbell, Phdc, MPH and Leon Maultsby, MHA  
Black Caucus Co-Chairs**

**5:05PM-5:15PM: INTRODUCTION, WORKING AGREEMENT , PURPOSE  
& DESIRED OUTCOMES**

**Damone Thomas & Dr. Donta Morrison  
Facilitators**

**5:15PM-6:45PM: FACILITATED DISCUSSION**

**6:45PM-7:00PM: CLOSING REFLECTIONS & NEXT STEPS**

**7:00PM: ADJOURNMENT**

*\*This is part of a multi-series community conversation among key populations of the Black community within Los Angeles County to address HIV and sexual health. These sessions are supported by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus and UCLA-CDU [Grant AI152501].*



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COMMISSION ON HIV







## BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

APRIL 26, 2024  
“BRIDGING FAITH AND SEXUAL HEALTH  
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV”

### 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 Mark LA United Methodist Church. 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.

### 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

**Culture of Silence:** Within the church, there is a pervasive silence surrounding sexuality and romantic feelings, fostering confusion and encouraging individuals to hide due to prevailing stigma and shame.

**Sexuality as Sin:** Sexuality is often deemed sinful within church discourse, leading to a widespread avoidance of discussions on the topic.

**Harmful Practices:** Practices such as attempting to "pray the gay away" persist within certain church circles, perpetuating discrimination and harm.

**Safe Spaces for Youth:** Some churches prioritize creating safe spaces for youth through dedicated services and panels, fostering an environment where young individuals feel comfortable discussing sensitive topics.

**Challenges for Traditional Churches:** Traditional churches encounter challenges adapting to the evolving needs of younger generations, often struggling to maintain relevance and engagement.

**Eroded Safe Spaces:** Historical shifts have eroded the status of Black churches as safe spaces, where they once served as vital sources of information and community resources.

**Programs for Youth:** Investing in programs tailored to the needs of young people, including dedicated budget allocations, demonstrates a commitment to their well-being and engagement.

**Youth Inclusion:** Youth inclusion in decision-making processes and leadership development is crucial for ensuring the relevancy and sustainability of church communities.

**Progressive Attitudes:** While some churches embrace progressive attitudes and demonstrate LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in leadership, many others lag behind in this regard.

**Community-Centric Approaches:** There is a pressing need for community-centric approaches and increased opportunities for dialogue within faith spaces to address community needs.

**Patriarchy:** Churches must address the entrenched danger of patriarchy and actively work to dismantle systems that marginalize and silence women's voices.

**Collaboration and Unity:** Building collaboration and unity among churches is essential, moving away from division and competition towards collective efforts to address societal challenges.

**Sexual Health Education:** Implementing sexual health education and awareness programs within churches can address stigma and promote understanding of diverse sexualities and identities.

## CONTACT INFO

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

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

**TEL:** 213.738.2816





## FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Involvement of Healthcare Professionals in Church Leadership:

- Integrate healthcare professionals into church leadership to provide expertise in addressing sexual health issues within faith communities.

### 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.
- The majority lack awareness of where to refer individuals for sexual health resources, emphasizing the need for accessible and culturally responsive referral systems.
- There is a consensus on the importance of vetting resources to ensure their cultural relevance and effectiveness in supporting sexual health initiatives.

### 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 educational materials into various church settings and community events can help destigmatize the topic.

### Youth Involvement and Advocacy:

- Incentivize youth involvement and include advocacy and training on STIs and HIV as essential components of comprehensive sexual health initiatives.

- Listening sessions throughout faith communities can provide a platform for individuals to share their experiences and needs.

### County Support and Funding:

- Establish 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.
- Create an incubation academy specific to faith communities to provide technical assistance and support to churches in implementing sexual health programs.
- Propose the creation of a Los Angeles County Coalition of Black Churches, funded via a Request for Proposal (RFP), aimed at combating STIs and HIV, providing comprehensive support and resources, and advocating for the sexual health needs of the community.
- Provide basic HIV, STI, and sexual health training and education to equip faith leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- Offer 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.



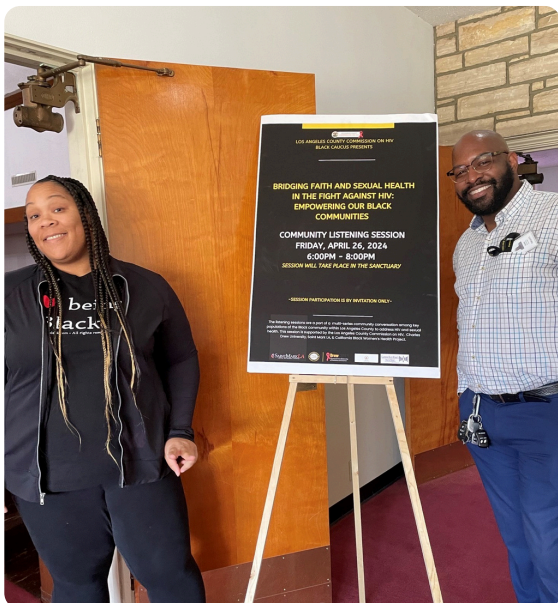
## FINAL THOUGHTS

The insights gathered from the "Bridging Faith and Sexual Health in the Fight Against HIV" listening session underscore the critical need for culturally responsive HIV prevention and care services within LA County's Black interfaith communities. The session highlighted the pervasive culture of silence and stigma surrounding sexuality, particularly within church settings, and emphasized the importance of fostering open, empathetic dialogue.

Key recommendations include integrating healthcare professionals into church leadership, providing comprehensive sexual health education and resources, and employing creative marketing strategies to normalize sexual health discussions. Additionally, prioritizing youth involvement and establishing a county ambassador program within faith networks were identified as essential steps to enhance community engagement and support.

The proposed creation of a Los Angeles County Coalition of Black Churches, supported by targeted funding and technical assistance, aims to build infrastructure and collaboration among faith leaders. This coalition will play a pivotal role in addressing the sexual health needs of the community, advocating for the inclusion and support of individuals living with or at risk of HIV.

By implementing these recommendations, we can work towards a more inclusive, informed, and supportive environment within our Black interfaith communities, ultimately improving the overall health and well-being of our Black communities.





## 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	Completed
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