



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*

# BLACK CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting

**Wednesday, June 18, 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 VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)**

### TO JOIN BY COMPUTER:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m54f49b014a39757186217db6932c29d0>

### TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2530 132 0457

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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

To Join by Computer:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m54f49b014a39757186217db6932c29d0>

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2530 132 0457

- |    |   |               |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES   | 4:00PM-4:05PM |
| 2. | COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operational/County Updates</li></ul>   | 4:05PM-4:10PM |
| 3. | CO-CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2025 Workplan Review &amp; Updates</li><li>• WeCanStopSTDsLA Updates</li></ul>  | 4:10PM-4:15PM |
| 4. | PLANNING DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Listening Sessions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Non-Traditional HIV Provider   UPDATE</li><li>✓ Transgender Listening Session – July 9, 2025</li><li>✓ Youth/Justice Involved and Men who don't identify MSM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Planning and determine logistics</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Juneteenth Commemoration<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Solidarity activities</li></ul></li></ul> | 4:20PM-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 VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV



Approved by COH  
6/8/23

510 S. Vermont Ave 14<sup>th</sup> 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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## Black Caucus Workplan 2025

(Updates in Highlights 6.18.25)

**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.
3	<b>Community listening sessions to address the state of HIV in the Black community</b>	Hold remaining candid community conversations by Black folx, for Black folx, addressing stigma and its relation to the faith-based community.	May – Sept 2025	<u>Non-Traditional HIV Providers</u> <del>Date: May 13</del> <del>Venue: Charles Drew University (CDU)</del> <del>Facilitator: Drs. Spencer &amp; King</del>

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
				<p><u>Transgender Community</u> Date: July 9 Venue/Facilitator: Diamond Paulk @ AMAAD Inc <i>In collaboration w/ the Transgender Caucus</i></p> <p><u>Youth (Ages 15-29)/Justice Involved</u> Target Date: TBD Venue: TBD Facilitators: Dr. Morrison &amp; Youth Co-Facilitator</p> <p><u>Men Who Do Not Identify as MSM</u> Target Date: Week of June 23–27 Venue: Barbershop (TBD) Facilitator: TBD <i>*reflective of community</i></p>
4	Juneteenth Community Picnic	<p>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.</p>	June 2025	<p><del>Determine interest, confirm date and logistics, and solicit members to assist with planning.</del></p> <p><del>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></p> <p><i>In light of 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></p>

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
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.





## May 15, 2025 Meeting Cancelation & Updates

Black Caucus, the May 15, 2025 Caucus meeting is canceled. We appreciate your continued leadership and want to be mindful of your time as we shift our focus to several key upcoming efforts.

### Non-Traditional HIV Provider Listening Session

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM**


If you are a Black-serving provider offering non-traditional healthcare services—including doulas, holistic healers, and community-based providers—we invite you to join this critical conversation.

 [Register here](#) [Flyer here](#)


### Black Transgender Community Listening Session Confirmed

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

We're excited to announce our upcoming listening session centering the experiences of Black Transgender community members.

 Flyer and registration info to follow soon.

### Organizational Needs Assessment Focus Group Summary

Thank you to all who participated in our recent focus group with Black-led and Black-serving HIV organizations.  [Click here to review draft summary](#)

### June Meeting Reschedule

Our regularly scheduled June meeting falls on Juneteenth, so we're moving it to:

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 4:00 – 5:00 PM (Virtual)**

We're developing a dynamic agenda as a prelude to Juneteenth—more details to come.

### Community Picnic Postponed (not canceled)

Due to time constraints, the Juneteenth Community Picnic will be rescheduled to later this year. We remain committed to creating meaningful engagement spaces and will continue building our community needs assessment in the meantime.

## Storytelling Campaign – Share Your Voice

We're launching a storytelling campaign to uplift real experiences and strengthen advocacy for continued funding of HIV prevention and care services. If you're interested in sharing your story, please email me at [dmccclendon@lachiv.org](mailto:dmccclendon@lachiv.org). We hope to launch by Juneteenth, so please submit your interest by May 30.

Thank you, as always, for your continued presence, advocacy, and commitment to our community. We look forward to seeing many of you at the May 13 listening session and reconnecting in June.

***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.***

**Black Caucus Co-Chairs:  
Dr. Leon Maulsby and Dechelle Richardson**

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 TO VIEW THE BLACK CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Black Caucus April 17, 2025 Meeting Recap

*Meeting Materials Can Be Found [HERE](#)*

Thank you to everyone who joined our April 17 meeting. Below is a brief recap of the discussions and next steps:

### Commission Updates

The Commission is currently conducting contingency planning for Program Year 35 considering anticipated funding cuts. A proposed contingency plan will be presented at the May 8, 2025 Commission meeting at St. Anne's Conference & Event Center.


Restructuring conversations are underway to make the Commission more efficient and effective, with an emphasis on community-centered, data-driven decision-making.

### Community Concerns & Advocacy

Community members continue to express growing fear, stress, and anxiety around potential losses in housing, food access, and critical services as political threats to HIV funding and public health infrastructure intensify. In response, the Caucus emphasized the urgent need for bold advocacy and strategic action to preserve HIV prevention and care efforts. Proposed strategies include:

- ✓ Targeted social media campaigns
- ✓ Public statements of solidarity
- ✓ Coordinated letter-writing campaigns
- ✓ Direct engagement with pharmaceutical companies, foundations, and state leadership

***If you're interested in helping facilitate or support these strategies—whether it's messaging, organizing, or community engagement—please contact COH staff, Dawn Mc Clendon at [dmcclendon@lachiv.org](mailto:dmcclendon@lachiv.org)***

 For reference, you can view the Black Caucus' prior Statements of [Unity](#) and [Solidarity](#)—originally launched in response to the murder of George Floyd and the 2024 presidential elections. These statements remain a powerful reflection of our values and ongoing commitment to justice and community.

## Organizational Needs Assessment – Focus Group

The Caucus will host a virtual focus group on April 30 from 12:00–1:00 PM for Black-led and Black-serving organizations that were not part of the initial round of the organizational needs assessment conducted by Equity Impact Solutions. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## Community Listening Sessions

As part of our ongoing commitment to center Black voices and lived experiences, the Caucus will continue hosting community listening sessions to help shape recommendations that improve culturally responsive HIV prevention and care services in Los Angeles County. Upcoming sessions will focus on engaging:

- ✓ Non-Traditional HIV Providers
- ✓ Transgender individuals
- ✓ Youth
- ✓ Justice-involved persons
- ✓ Heterosexual men and men who do not identify as MSM

Given the significant funding cuts impacting communities across the board, some listening sessions may be held virtually to ensure accessibility while maximizing available resources.

*Interested in helping with planning or logistics? If you'd like to support the sessions, or if you know of a potential venue, please contact COH Staff Dawn Mc Clendon at [dmccclendon@lachiv.org](mailto:dmccclendon@lachiv.org).*

## Proposed Juneteenth Community Picnic

The Caucus is exploring plans to host a Juneteenth Community Picnic centered on Black sexual health, community building, and celebration. We are currently identifying no-cost venue options to host the picnic and exploring a BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) approach. The proposed event aims to bring together community to:

- ✓ Celebrate Black freedom and joy
- ✓ Elevate conversations about sexual health and wellness
- ✓ Launch a community needs assessment survey focused on improving culturally responsive HIV prevention and care services for Black communities

*Interested in being a part of the planning? Please contact COH Staff Dawn Mc Clendon at [dmccclendon@lachiv.org](mailto:dmccclendon@lachiv.org).*



## Next Steps

- ✓ Mark your calendars! The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at St. Anne's Conference & Event Center. The proposed contingency plan for PY35 will be presented and discussed.
- ✓ Additional updates on advocacy efforts, partner engagement, and resource planning will be shared as part of our ongoing work to protect and strengthen services for Black communities in LA County.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 5/13/25 NON-TRADITIONAL HIV PROVIDER LISTENING SESSION: BEYOND TRADITIONAL CARE: UPLIFTING NON-TRADITIONAL PROVIDERS IN BLACK SEXUAL HEALTH

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#### INTRODUCTION

On May 13, 2025, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus hosted a community listening session focused on the experiences of non-traditional HIV providers—including doulas, pharmacists, nurses, mental health professionals, holistic healers, and other care practitioners who serve as critical access points to sexual health services for Black communities.

The session, held at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and facilitated by Dr. LaShonda Spencer and Dr. William King, invited candid dialogue around provider comfort discussing sexual health, awareness and use of biomedical interventions, barriers to access and referral, cultural responsiveness, and capacity-building needs. Participants received a \$50 Visa gift card, refreshments, and community resources. A total of six participants attended the session.

#### OBJECTIVE

This listening session is part of the Black Caucus' ongoing community engagement initiative aimed at identifying gaps in the HIV care continuum and strengthening culturally responsive systems of care. By centering the voices of non-traditional providers, the session sought to uncover opportunities to integrate these providers into the broader HIV prevention and care infrastructure.

#### 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.

## PROPOSED 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.



## **FUTURE OUTLOOK**

The Black Caucus will use insights from this session to shape its ongoing recommendations for LA County's sexual health and HIV prevention infrastructure. The 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.

DRAFT