



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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****Regularly Scheduled 1/16/23 Meeting
Rescheduled Due to the MLK, Jr. Holiday****

WOMEN'S CAUCUS Virtual Meeting

**Monday, January 23, 2023
2:00-4:00pm (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=m32738e3901713b6fc72a64a715ef4a13>

Meeting Password: WOMEN

TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2599 740 5834

For a brief tutorial on how to use WebEx, please check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQSSJYcrglk>

**For those using iOS devices - iPhone and iPad - a new version of the WebEx app is now available and is optimized for mobile devices. Visit your Apple App store to download.*

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV



510 S. Vermont Avenue, 14th Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90020 • TEL (213) 738-2816
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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Virtual Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 23, 2023 @ 2:00-4:00PM

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Password: WOMEN

To Join by Phone

Dial +1-213-306-3065 Access Code: 2599 740 5834

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Welcome + Introductions + Check-In | 2:00 PM – 2:05 PM |
| 2. Executive Director/Staff Report | 2:05 PM – 2:10 PM |
| • Operational and Programmatic Updates | |
| 3. Co-Chair's Report | 2:10 PM – 2:30 PM |
| • 2023 Co-Chair Nominations & Elections | |
| • 2023 Meeting Frequency & Schedule | |
| • 2023 Workplan Development | |
| 4. Discussion: | 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM |
| • Psychosocial Support Services Programmatic Development | |
| 5. Meeting Recap + Next Meeting Agenda | 3:45 PM – 3:50 PM |
| 6. Public Comment + Announcements | 3:50 PM – 4:00 PM |
| 7. Adjournment | 4:00 PM |



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CODE OF CONDUCT

We welcome commissioners, guests, and the public into a space where people of all opinions and backgrounds are able to contribute. We create a safe environment that celebrates differences while striving for consensus and is characterized by consistent, professional, and respectful behavior. Our common enemies are HIV and STDs. We strive to be introspective and understand and clarify our assumptions, while appreciating the complex intersectionality of the lives we live. We challenge ourselves to be self-reflective and committed to an ongoing understanding. 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 strive for consensus and compassion in all our interactions.**
- 2) We respect others' time by starting and ending meetings on time, being punctual, and staying present.**
- 3) We listen, don't repeat what has already been stated, avoid interrupting others, and allow others to be heard.**
- 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) We give and accept respectful and constructive feedback.**
- 7) We keep all issues on the table (no "hidden agendas"), avoid monopolizing discussions and minimize side conversations.**
- 8) We have no place in our deliberations for homophobic, racist, sexist, and other discriminatory statements and "-isms" (including misogyny, transphobia, ableism, and ageism).**
- 9) We give ourselves permission to learn from our mistakes.**

Approved (11/12/1998); Revised (2/10/2005; 9/6/2005); **Revised (4/11/19; 3/3/22)**



Women's Caucus November 21, 2022 Virtual Meeting Summary

In attendance:

Mikhaela Cielo, MD (Co-Chair)	Guadalupe Morales Avendano, PhD, PsyD	Jayda Arrington
Aide Castro	Stefany Cruz	Arlene Frames
Pricela Garcia	Katja Nelson	Ilish Perez
Nicole Perez	Jazmin Rojano	Juliana Rojas
Elia Silveyra	Rosalie Valladolid	Paulina Zamudio
Catherine Lapointe (COH Staff)	Jose Rangel-Garibay (COH Staff)	

1. Welcome + Introductions + Check-In

Dr. Mikhaela Cielo, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and led introductions.

2. Executive Director/Staff Report

- Operational and Programmatic Updates**

Catherine Lapointe, Commission on HIV (COH) Staff, provided the staff report. November 21, 2022 is the last day to submit public comments for the Comprehensive HIV Plan. The plan can be found on the COH Website [here](#). Comments can be submitted to hivcomm@lachiv.org.

The 2022 COH Annual Meeting had over 180 attendees. A post-meeting evaluation survey has been sent out to participants. There have been 22 responses, with 12 who indicated they were very satisfied with the meeting, 7 who were satisfied, and 2 who were neutral. The general feedback for the meeting was positive.

The next virtual COH meeting will be held on December 8, 2022.

3. Co-Chair's Report

- 2023 Co-Chair Nominations**

Co-Chair nomination for the 2023 co-chairs for the Women's Caucus are now open. Guadalupe Morales Avendano nominated Dr. Cielo, who accepted the nomination. Dr. Cielo nominated Jayda Arrington, who was unable to accept the

nomination at the time. The nomination period will be open until the next Women's Caucus meeting. Nominations can be e-mailed to COH staff.

- **2022 Holiday Meeting Schedule**

The Women's Caucus decided to cancel their December 2022 meeting. Their January meeting was scheduled for January 16, 2023; however, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the meeting was rescheduled to January 23.

4. DISCUSSION:

- **Virtual Lunch & Learn: Women Living with HIV & Sexuality | FEEDBACK**

The group discussed their feedback on the two-part Lunch and Learn event on Women Living with HIV and Sexuality held on September 21 and October 17, 2022. Highlights from the discussion were as follows:

- Arlene Frames commented that the event was empowering and informative and she would like to see similar events take place in the future. She noted that there were challenges with technology, which can hinder participation for some. She also felt that the event provided a lot of information in a short amount of time.
- J. Arrington stated that hosting the event on Webex can come with several complications. She felt that the sessions went well and were informative; however, she would have liked to have seen more people with lived experiences as invited speakers.

- **2023 Workplan Brainstorming**

Dr. Cielo went over the 2022 Women's Caucus Workplan; see meeting packet for details. The group began discussing potential ideas for 2023, but will discuss in greater detail at their January meeting.

5. Meeting Recap + Next Meeting Agenda

- **Psychosocial Support Services Programmatic Development**

The Caucus held a discussion regarding recommendations for potential funding opportunities for Psychosocial Support Services through the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP). Key points from the discussion were as follows:

- Paulina Zamudio requested feedback from the Caucus to assist in developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a women's peer support group. She was interested in knowing what elements need to be included and what models can be looked at for guidance.
- Elia Silveyra and Jazmin Rojano shared their experiences with implementing women support group programming that includes social events and opportunities for attendees to connect with other women

living with HIV to share experiences and develop bonds. They identified offering childcare services and transportation as the two main challenges/barriers to program success. They recommended purchasing gas cards and contracting rideshare companies as options for transportation services. They added that centering gatherings around sharing experiences and creating community was critical in their success versus simply setting meeting agendas around HIV.

- The Caucus came to the consensus that there is a need to create opportunities for women to get together, learn, share experiences, and create community. This programming should include transportation and childcare services and Spanish-language interpretation.
- E. Silveyra asked what the data collection requirements will be for program participants citing that the process can be lengthy and places undue burden on program participants. Paulina Zamudio stated that the minimum requirements are set by the Ryan White Program. Based on the discussion, there is a potential need for explaining what data collection requirements are in place, why they are important, what their purpose is, and the opportunity to change or limit the amount data requested for program participants.

The Women's Caucus will not be meeting in December. Their next meeting will take place on January 23, 2023. The Caucus will discuss their co-chair election, ideas for 2023, and continue their conversation on psychosocial support services.

6. Public Comment + Announcements

J. Rojano announced that the Los Angeles Women's HIV/AIDS Task Force will be holding their 17th Annual Women's Treatment Summit on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM at the California Endowment Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Cielo.



Women's Caucus Workplan 2023

****For Review @ 1/23/23 Meeting***

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT: To identify activities and priorities the Women's Caucus will lead and advance throughout 2023.

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 \(CHP\)](#), and 3) 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	ACTION STEPS/TASKS	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	STATUS/COMMENTS
1	2023 Virtual Lunch & Learn Series	Identify topics centered around women living with and at risk for HIV and STDs to promote community engagement, awareness and education.	Ongoing	
2	Women-Centered HIV-Related Programming: <i>Identify programs and services centered around women, assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of women, provide specific strategies to address gaps.</i>	Psychosocial Support Services Programmatic Development: Propose recommendations for potential funding opportunities for Psychosocial Support Services through the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP)	Ongoing	At the November 17, 2023 Caucus meeting, Paulina Zamudio requested feedback from the Caucus to assist in developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a women's peer support group. She was interested in knowing what elements need to be included and what models can be looked at for guidance
3	Women's Caucus 2019 Recommendations: <i>Review for Updates and Implementation Status</i>	Review DHSP's Response to PP&A Directives which include the Caucus' recommendations.	Ongoing	Review DHSP's Response for updates and possible revisions to recommendations.
4	Biomedical HIV Prevention for Women	1. Request update from DHSP re: women-centric programming under the new biomedical prevention RFP 2. Plan awareness strategies	Ongoing	Request updates from DHSP.

LA County Comprehensive HIV Plan

2022-2026



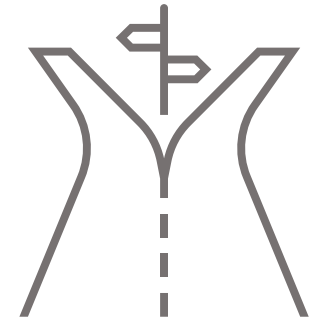
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health
DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS

PURPOSE

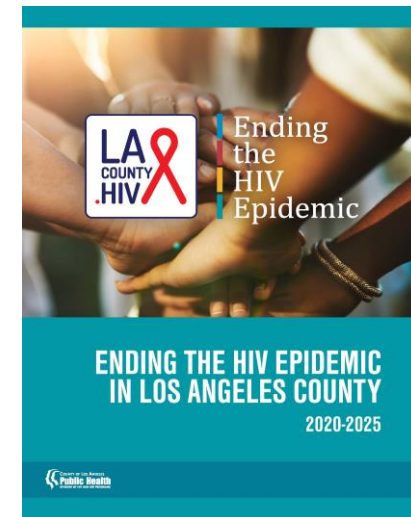
- Serves as a jurisdictional HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- Living document and roadmap to guide HIV prevention and care planning throughout the year.
- Addresses local needs and opportunities for improvement.
- Emphasizes collaboration and coordination.



Full document can be found at: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov/our-work/>

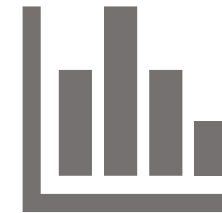
DESIGN

- Designed to reflect local HIV vision, values, needs and strengths.
- Aligns with:
 - California's Integrated Statewide Strategic Plan for Addressing HIV, HCV, and STIs (2022-2026)
 - The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2022-2025)
 - The Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan (EHE Plan) for Los Angeles County (2020-2025)



NEEDS ASSESSMENT


- Plan was developed using existing/previous assessments including the *Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy for 2020 and Beyond* (LACHAS) and the *Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan for Los Angeles County, 2020-2025* (EHE Plan)
- HIV/STD Surveillance Data and reports
- Qualitative data from priority populations, community members and providers
 - Listening sessions
 - Online survey
 - Facilitated stakeholder meetings



SNAPSHOT: HIV IN LA COUNTY

- In 2020, there was an estimated 59,4008 PLWH aged 13 years and older in LAC. Also includes:
 - 1,401 who had been newly diagnosed (in 2020)
 - 6,800 persons who were unaware of their infection (undiagnosed)
- Of the approximately 52,000 people living with diagnosed HIV:
 - 87% were cisgender men, 11% were cisgender women and 2% were transgender persons
 - 46% were Latinx, 26% were White, 20% were Black/African American, 4% were Asian, 4% identify as multi-racial, and less than 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI)

SNAPSHOT: HIV IN LA COUNTY

- Since 2011, the percentage of persons newly diagnosed with HIV who were unhoused has more than doubled from 4.2% to 9.4%. 
- In 2020:
 - Cisgender men made up most of the new HIV diagnoses in 2020
 - Among males, those aged 20-39 and Black/African Americans had the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses
 - Among females, those aged 30-39 and Black/African Americans had the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses
- The percentage of persons newly diagnosed with HIV who had one or more STDs in the same year nearly doubled from 25% in 2012 to 46% in 2021.

KEY PRIORITIES– identified during planning & community engagement process

- Embrace a status neutral approach
- Address social determinants of health, especially housing
- Address co-occurring disorders including STDs, mental health issues & meth use disorder
- Expand harm reduction services
- Address HIV-related disparities, particularly those experienced by Black/African Americans
- Increase health literacy among PLWH & people at risk for HIV
- Increase workforce capacity
- Meet the needs of PLWH ages 50 and older and/or long-term survivors
- Create more holistic services, especially for cisgender and transgender women
- Align funding streams and resources to ensure seamless access to high quality services

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Latinx men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Black/African American MSM
- Transgender persons



- Cisgender women of color
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
- People under the age of 30
- People living with HIV who are 50 years of age or older

Goal:

380 or less new HIV infections by 2025
150 or less new HIV infections by 2030



Diagnose



Treat



Prevent



Respond



Build HIV Workforce Capacity



System and Service Integration



**Equity, Social Determinants of Health &
Co-occurring Disorders**

DIAGNOSE



Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible

- Expand routine opt-out HIV screening in healthcare and other settings, such as emergency departments (EDs) and community health centers (CHCs) in high prevalence communities.
- Develop locally tailored HIV testing programs in non-healthcare settings, including home/self-testing
- Increase the rate of annual HIV re-screening among persons at elevated risk for HIV in both healthcare & non-healthcare settings. Implement technology to help providers identify clients due for HIV re-screening & increase ways of maintaining communication with clients.
- Increase timeliness of HIV diagnoses from point of infection by increasing access to testing and increasing awareness of risk

TREAT



Treat people with HIV rapidly & effectively to reach sustained viral suppression

- Ensure rapid linkage to HIV care and antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation for all persons newly diagnosed with HIV.
- Support re-engagement & retention in HIV care and treatment adherence
- Expand the promotion of Ryan White Program services to increase awareness, access to, and utilization of available medical care and support services for PLWH
- Develop and fund a housing service portfolio that provides rental subsidies to prevent homelessness among PLWH
- Explore the impact of conditional financial incentives to increase adherence to treatment for high acuity out-of-care PLWH
- Increase capacity to provide whole-person care to people living with HIV (PLWH) age 50 & older and long-term survivors

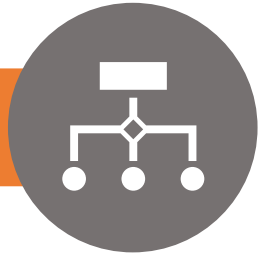
PREVENT



Prevent new transmission by using proven interventions

- Accelerate efforts to increase PrEP use
- Finalize PrEP campaigns for Black/African American MSM, transwomen and cisgender women
- Increase availability, use and access to comprehensive Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) & other harm reduction services

RESPOND



Respond quickly to HIV outbreaks to get prevention & treatment services to people in need

- Refine processes, data systems, and policies for robust, real-time cluster detection, time- space analysis, and response
- Refine current processes to increase capacity of Partner Services to ensure people newly diagnosed are interviewed and close partners are identified and offered services in a timely and effective manner.
- Develop and release Data to Care RFP

WORKFORCE CAPACITY



Increase HIV workforce capacity to diagnose & treat PLWH, prevent new HIV infections and reduce HIV-related disparities

- Increase the diversity and capacity of the workforce that delivers HIV prevention, care and supportive services to optimally reflect and serve the populations most impacted by HIV
- Ensure that the workforce is adequately prepared to deliver high-quality services in a culturally responsive manner

SYSTEM & SERVICE INTEGRATION



Integrate systems and services to address the syndemic of HIV, STDs, viral hepatitis, and substance use/mental health disorders in the context of social and structural/institutional factors

- Increase cross-training and TA opportunities across fields/disciplines
- Leverage the [Alliance for Health Integration](#) initiative to integrate services within LA County publicly funded care systems

EQUITY, SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS



Achieve health equity by addressing social determinants of health, stigma, & co-occurring disorders that fuel the HIV epidemic and HIV disparities

- Advocate for an effective countywide response to SUDs, especially methamphetamine disorder
- Advocate for an effective countywide response to the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) epidemic
- Address social determinants of health and stigma
- Identify root causes and directly call-out systematic racist practices that have adversely affected Black/African American communities
- Add Quality of Life (Q of L) Indicators for PLWH to the Integrated Plan by 2023

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Use the Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP) as a planning tool within your agencies
- Adopt some of the goals, objectives, and strategies
- Engage in the local community planning process
- Assess strengths and capacities of your agency
- Advocate for local, state and federal policies and legislation that align with CHP goals and strategies
- Identify and recruit additional stakeholders, including non-traditional stakeholders
- Provide ongoing feedback



Contact Information

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