



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



Visit us online: <http://hiv.lacounty.gov>

Get in touch: [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)

Subscribe to the Commission's Email List:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y83ynuzt>



# WOMEN'S CAUCUS

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Monday, March 17, 2025**  
**2:00-3:00pm (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=ma61e898aae75f626e53c7878c87ddc09>

## TO JOIN BY PHONE:

Dial +1-213-306-3065 Access Code: 2534 772 8420

Meeting Password: WOMEN

*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:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COHMembershipApp>

For application assistance, call (213) 738-2816 or email [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)



---

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.

---

# WOMEN'S CAUCUS

## Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 17, 2025 @ 2:00PM-3:00PM

### To Join:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=ma61e898aae75f626e53c7878c87ddc09>

Password: WOMEN

To Join by Phone Dial +1-213-306-3065 Access Code: 2534 772 8420

- |                                                                                                                      |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS + CHECK-IN                                                                                | 2:00 PM – 2:05 PM |
| 2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT                                                                                   | 2:05 PM – 2:15 PM |
| • Operational and Programmatic Updates                                                                               |                   |
| 3. CO-CHAIR'S REPORT                                                                                                 | 2:15 PM – 2:25 PM |
| • National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day                                                                    |                   |
| • Listening Session Objectives:                                                                                      |                   |
| ○ Provide Women Living with HIV an opportunity to share their lived experience and assure you that you are not alone |                   |
| ○ Create a shared understanding of the issues impacting women living with HIV in Los Angeles County                  |                   |
| ○ Engage with one another to create recommendations and innovative solutions to address the needs of women           |                   |
| 4. DISCUSSION   PLANNING FOR LISTENING SESSIONS                                                                      | 2:25 PM – 2:50 PM |
| • Listening Session Community Partners                                                                               |                   |
| • Review Listening Session Discussion Questions                                                                      |                   |
| • Identify Listening Session Locations and Dates                                                                     |                   |
| 5. MEETING RECAP + NEXT MEETING AGENDA                                                                               | 2:50 PM – 2:55 PM |
| 6. PUBLIC COMMENT + ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                    | 2:55 PM – 3:00 PM |
| 7. ADJOURNMENT                                                                                                       | 3:00 PM           |



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS

### January 27, 2025 Virtual Meeting Summary

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – Dr. Cielo welcomed the members and led introductions.

2. **Executive Director/Staff Report**

- Executive Director, C. Barrit shared the Commission on HIV (COH) will host its first meeting of the year on February 13, 2025, from 9am – 12pm at the California Endowment. See [Commission website](#) for meeting details and info. The meeting is open to the public and interested parties are invited to attend.
- The Consumer Caucus, in collaboration with all COH caucuses, will host a FREE Consumer Resource Fair directly after the February 13<sup>th</sup> COH meeting at the California Endowment from 12pm-5pm. The event, themed “Love Begins with Me” will provide a variety of workshops, presentations and resources promoting self-care among individuals living with or impacted by HIV. Parking is free and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Please see the [event flyer](#) for more details and share widely among your networks.
- C. Barrit provided a brief overview of the 2025 COH Workplan. She noted that all caucus activities help fulfill the goals and activities outlined in the workplan. See [meeting packet](#) for more details.

3. **Co-Chairs Report**

- 2025 Co-chair Elections
  - Elections were held for two co-chair seats, one seat requiring Commission membership.
  - Community member, Shary Alonzo, and Commission member, Dr. Mikhaela Cielo, were both nominated and re-elected as co-chairs.
- 2025 Women's Caucus Meeting Schedule
  - M. Cielo reported that at the October Women's Caucus meeting there was a discussion to meet more frequently instead of quarterly to ensure that important information is not missed, with some feeling that monthly meetings were more engaging. Group members offered suggested meeting times and frequency, and a survey was sent to the wider group to gather additional input. Based on feedback, the caucus revised its meeting schedule to meet bimonthly on the third Monday of the month from 2pm-3pm, with longer meetings being held, if needed. See [meeting packet](#) for meeting schedule including exact meeting dates.

#### **4. Discussion**

- 2025 Women's Caucus Strategic Priorities
  - M. Cielo reviewed the 2025 Women's Caucus Strategic Priorities with the group. The main priorities for the group include conducting a needs assessment for women living with HIV and collaborating with DHSP to develop women-centered programming and services. should consider childcare, housing, mental health, physical health, and other individual needs. See [meeting packet](#) for more details.
  - Needs assessments will help inform collaborative discussions with DHSP and the development of recommendations for women-centered programming.
  - The caucus will gather input from members on suggested questions to include in assessments/listening sessions.
    - Recommendations to include sex workers and transgender women in assessments/listening sessions.
  - Initial recommendations for women-centered programming include:
    - Exploring ways to connect women to resources for childcare, housing, mental health, and mutual support
    - Creating a network for education and support outside of federal funding limitations
    - Focusing on whole-person care and creating women-led programs/services
  - DHSP staff recommended that, once identified, needs/services to address needs should be prioritized based on available funding

#### **5. Meeting Recap and Next Meeting Agenda**

- Commission staff will work with co-chairs to begin developing listening session discussion questions and will seek input from caucus members via email. Caucus members are encouraged to submit potential listening session discussion questions to Commission staff, Lizette Martinez, at [lmartinez@lachiv.org](mailto:lmartinez@lachiv.org).
- Commission staff will work with co-chairs to identify potential partners to engage in the listening sessions.
- Next virtual meeting will be on March 17, 2025; Webex login information will be posted on the [COH website](#) one week before the meeting under "Other Meetings".

#### **6. Public Comment and Announcements**

- There were no public announcements.

#### **7. Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned by S. Alonzo at 3:04pm.

## Women's Caucus 2025 Strategic Priorities

*Draft*

- **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:** To identify activities and priorities the Women's 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 \(CHP\)](#), 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.

#	ACTIVITY	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	STATUS
1	<b>Women-focused Needs Assessment -</b> <i>Collaborate with the Planning, Priorities and Allocations Committee and the Transgender Caucus to develop needs assessment focusing on the needs of Women Living with HIV.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify locations and target populations.</li> <li>2. Develop needs assessment questionnaire(s).</li> <li>3. Analyze results and share findings and recommendations to address the needs of women living with HIV in LA County.</li> </ol>	Ongoing	
2	<b>Women-Centered HIV-Related Programming</b>	Work in collaboration with DHSP to Identify programs and services centered around women, assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of women, provide specific strategies to address gaps.	Ongoing	
3	<b>Provide Caucus Perspective -</b> on various Commission/HIV-related issues impacting the Ryan White Program	Provide feedback on relevant Commission on HIV action items and motions including, but not limited to, service standards, priority setting and resource allocation, membership and recruitment, and needs assessments.	Ongoing	



# IN 2022, WOMEN ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 1 IN 5 (19%) NEW HIV DIAGNOSES IN THE U.S.

DYK? Women are less likely to be tested for HIV in part due to the perception that they are not at risk. Only 37% of women in the U.S. ages 18–64 report having been tested for HIV at some point in their lives.

Knowing your HIV status puts the power in your hands. Take charge of your health and get tested. For more information on HIV testing and services in LA County, visit [GetProtectedLA.com](https://www.getprotectedla.com).





## **WOMEN'S CAUCUS**

### **Listening Sessions for Women**

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What have been your experiences with obtaining sexual health services? Can you share your most ideal experience with a provider? (e.g., Did the nurse or staff listen? Was childcare provided?)
- Have you experienced any challenges or barriers in accessing or receiving sexual health services on a consistent basis? If so, please describe them. What do you find most difficult about using sexual health services?
- In what ways do current sexual health services fail to support the unique needs of women? What specific changes would make these services more responsive and effective for meeting the needs of women?
- What role, if any, do sexual trauma, stigma, and shame play in your sexual experiences with partners or your engagement in sexual health services?
- What challenges do you experience as a woman? What are the three greatest challenges in your life that you are struggling with right now? How do you balance your sexual health with other priorities? How much do you prioritize sexual health services?
- How do you manage your mental health? What resources do you use when overwhelmed? Other than your medical or support service providers, who do you turn to or depend on for support? What types of community support and resources are most beneficial to you?
- Where do you go to find supportive services? Are there specific programs, services, or resources that you feel are missing or need improvement to better support women in LA County? What innovative approaches or support do you need to help regular and consistent engagement in sexual health services?
- What made you seek medical care or other HIV services when you were first diagnosed with HIV? If you did not seek care right away, what would have helped you seek medical care or other HIV services sooner? Who helped you the most to get into medical care or HIV services?



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS Listening Sessions for Women

### Demographic Questionnaire

1. What is your age?

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74

☐ 75 and older

2. How do you describe your gender?

☐ Woman

☐ Trans woman

☐ Non-binary

☐ Two-spirit

☐ Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming/Gender fluid

☐ Questioning/Unsure/Exploring

☐ Prefer to self-describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

☐ Asexual

☐ Bisexual

☐ Heterosexual or straight

☐ Lesbian

☐ Pansexual

☐ Queer

☐ Questioning/Unsure/Exploring

☐ A sexual orientation not listed here (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply.

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black/African American

☐ Hispanic/Latinx/e

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ White/Caucasian

☐ Another race (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. What language do you speak at home?

\_\_\_\_\_





## WOMEN'S CAUCUS Listening Sessions for Women

6. What zip code do you live in?

---

7. Do you have internet access when you want it?

- ☐ Yes, I have my own computer, tablet or smart phone and am comfortable using my device
- ☐ Yes, I have a place I can go to access the internet (friend's house, library, etc.) and am comfortable using the device (computer, tablet or smart phone) available to me
- ☐ No, it is difficult to access the internet. I only use it when I really need to and struggle with using a computer, tablet or smart phone.
- ☐ No, I don't have any way to access the internet
- ☐ Unsure

8. What kind of housing do you have now?

- |                                                                         |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Own house/condo/apartment                      | <input type="checkbox"/> On the street (no shelter)                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent house or apartment (no rental assistance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for people living with HIV/AIDS                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staying with family/friends                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing (i.e. halfway house or drug treatment program) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, not listed. Please specify:<br>_____                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing or housing voucher program      |                                                                                              |

9. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- |                                                            |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school             | <input type="checkbox"/> College degree                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED        | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate degree                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical/trade/vocational school | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:<br>_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, but no degree       |                                                          |

10. How many adults live in your household (18 years or older)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How many children live in you household (under 18 years old)? \_\_\_\_\_



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS

### Listening Sessions for Women

12. What was your total household income in 2024? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What were the sources of this income? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ My own full-time, part-time or seasonal job
- ☐ My spouse/partner's job
- ☐ Child support or Alimony
- ☐ Support from family members
- ☐ Unemployment benefits
- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ CalWORKS
- ☐ Financial aid from school
- ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have health insurance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what kind of insurance? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Medi-Cal
- ☐ Health insurance or coverage bought directly by yourself or spouse/family member
- ☐ Covered California
- ☐ Indian or Tribal Health Service
- ☐ Medicare
- ☐ Health insurance or coverage through your employer or spouse/partner, parent, or someone else's employer
- ☐ TRICARE or Veteran's benefits
- ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

15. During the past 12 months, was there a time when you were not able to pay for...

- |                                                                                |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage/rent                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility bills                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical bills (including premium, co-pay, medication) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groceries                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child care                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |



## **WOMEN'S CAUCUS**

### **Listening Sessions for Women**

#### **Facilitation Script**

Hello and welcome to the Commission on HIV Women's Caucus community listening session. We are conducting listening sessions to listen and learn about your experiences as women living with HIV who have received sexual health services from the Ryan White Program within Los Angeles County. This listening session is intended to collect important information from women accessing HIV prevention and care services to better understand sexual health service gaps and explore opportunities for improvement in the community. Our objectives for today are to:

- Provide Women Living with HIV an opportunity to share their lived experience and assure you that you are not alone
- Create a shared understanding of the issues impacting women living with HIV in Los Angeles County
- Engage with one another to create recommendations and innovative solutions to address the needs of women

During our time together, we will ask some questions about your experience accessing sexual health services and you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings, and suggestions. There are no right or wrong answers. We are hoping to hear your genuine responses about experiences with the system. We value your input and your responses will help to identify ways on how we can improve sexual health services for women in Los Angeles County. We are interested in learning about what is working well and what is not working so well. We are having discussions like this with several groups of women across the county to capture a broad range of experiences and perspectives. Some of the questions may ask you about events that you consider traumatic. We want to acknowledge that today's discussion will touch on sensitive topics that may lead to feelings of discomfort, sadness, and/or anger. It may also bring up difficult or painful memories. If you have any questions or need to take a break during our time together, please let us know and we will support you.

The listening session is confidential. Whatever you share today will stay within our internal team and our findings will be reported out very broadly; your responses will not be connected to you. Please note that all information you share here should remain in this group and not be discussed outside of our time together. We also ask that you honor the confidentiality of others who share their stories during this session. Your participation will not impact your status in or eligibility for any programs or services.

We will be recording this session to ensure that we capture everyone's responses and can transcribe your responses afterwards. Recordings will only be shared with our internal team. If you are not comfortable with your responses being recorded, please let us know.



## **WOMEN'S CAUCUS**

### **Listening Sessions for Women**

Finally, as a token of our appreciation for your time and willingness to share, each participant will receive a \$XX gift card.

As a reminder, these are the ground rules to help facilitate today's discussion:

- We want you to do the talking and encourage everyone to participate.
- There are no right or wrong answers. Every person's experience and opinion are important. Speak up whether you agree or disagree. We expect and want to hear a wide range of opinions and we do not anticipate consensus, just sharing.
- We emphasize that what is said in this room should remain here. Please don't criticize the opinions of others. Be sure to allow one speaker at a time.
- This session will be recorded to capture everything that is said. We won't identify anyone by name in our findings - you will remain anonymous.
- The discussion will last for one hour. Please silence your mobile phones and give everyone the chance to express their opinion during the conversation. You can address each other if you like. We are only here to assist in the discussion.