

together.

WE CAN END HIV IN OUR
COMMUNITIES ONCE & FOR ALL



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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REMEMBER AND COMMIT


End HIV, Once and For All

VISION

A comprehensive, sustainable, accessible system of prevention and care that empower people at risk, living with or affected by HIV to make decisions and to maximize their lifespans and quality of life.

MISSION

The Los Angeles County (LAC) Commission on HIV (Commission) focuses on the local HIV/ AIDS epidemic and responds to the changing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) within the communities of Los Angeles County. The Commission provides an effective continuum of care that addresses consumer needs in a sensitive prevention and care/ treatment model that is culturally and linguistically competent and inclusive of all Service Planning Areas (SPAs) and Health Districts (HDs).



In 2022 in Los Angeles County, there are approximately 53,599 persons living with diagnosed HIV. There are approximately 1,400 new HIV transmissions a year in Los Angeles County. This disease continues to be a serious health epidemic necessitating continued local, state, and federal legislation, policies, planning, and service delivery efforts.

The Commission serves as the local planning council for the planning, allocation, coordination and delivery of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) services.

The Commission is composed of 51 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and represents a broad and diverse group of providers, consumers, and stakeholders. Thirty-three percent of the members are people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) who are consumers of the federally- funded Ryan White Program.

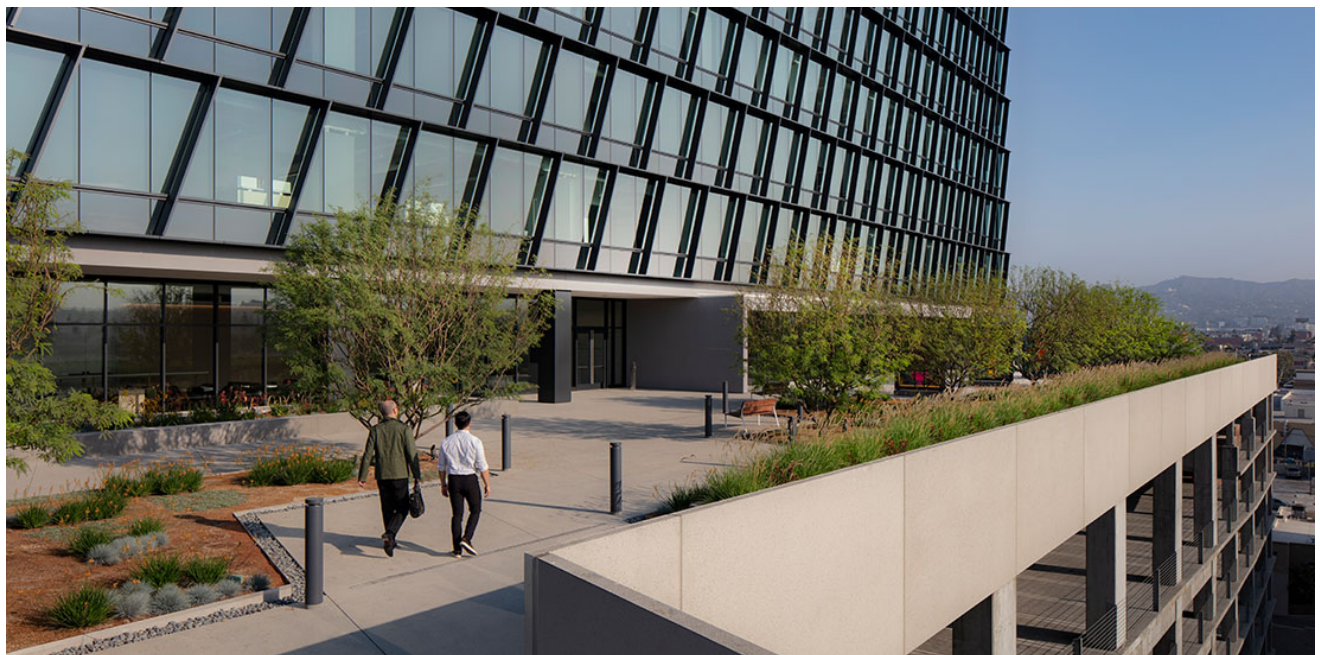
As an integrated planning body for HIV/STI prevention and care services in Los Angeles County, through its five standing committees (Executive, Operations, Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A), Public Policy, and Standards & Best Practices (SBP), the Commission is responsible for:

- Setting care/treatment priorities/allocations
 - Developing a comprehensive prevention and care plan
 - Assessing the administrative mechanism of service delivery
 - Evaluating service system effectiveness
 - Service coordination
 - Conducting needs assessments
 - Setting minimum service standards/outcomes
 - Defining ways to best meet the needs of PLWH and communities at highest risk of infection
 - Resolving service system grievances
 - Promoting the availability of services
 - Evaluating other streams of funding
 - Advising the BOS on all County HIV and STI funding
 - Policy development and advocacy work
 - Advising the Board on other HIV and STI-related matters
-

YEAR IN REVIEW

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 marked the resumption of in-person meetings, re-sparking community and personal connections that sustain and energize HIV movement. While the COVID-19 pandemic and the Mpox outbreak brought challenges that tested the service delivery capacity of the local HIV prevention and care network, the people behind the HIV movement – led by people living with HIV, stakeholders, community-based organizations, and partners- coalesced and mobilized together to respond to the shifting health and social needs of the community. 2023 underscored the continuing need to center the Commission’s planning, outreach, and educational efforts around communities that shoulder the disproportionate impact of HIV, and key intersecting health issues such as STIs, mental health, substance use, housing and poverty, and racism.



The Commission resumed in-person meetings at the Vermont Corridor in March 2023.

YEAR IN REVIEW

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

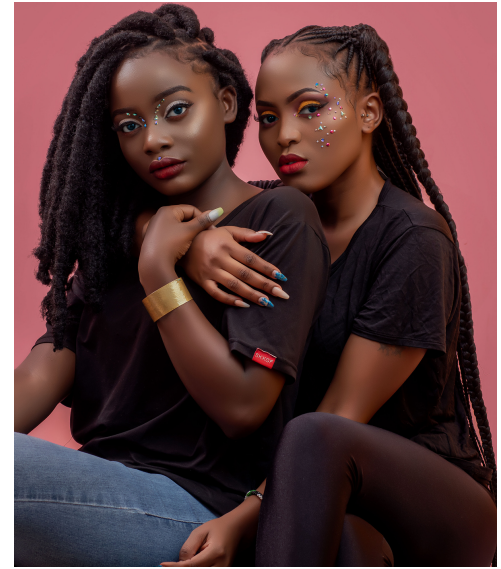
After nearly 3 years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2023 provided an opportunity to re-engage with the community and take stock of the profound challenges that hinder the pace and scale of action required to end HIV. The affordable housing and homelessness crisis and the rising cost of living put in danger the ability of PLWH to engage and remain in care and maintain viral suppression. Economic instability also heightens the risk of acquiring HIV and STIs among marginalized communities. Systemic barriers to accessing care such as insufficient insurance coverage; healthcare and public health staffing shortages; stigma and bias in the medical community; transportation and work-related barriers; and patient language barriers, continue to test the capacity of the Commission as a local HIV planning council to respond effectively to these challenges. Despite the enormity of these systemic barriers, they offer opportunities for improvement and efficiencies for the Commission. As such, the Commission's 2023 Annual Report highlights key accomplishments that demonstrate our commitment to keeping HIV/STI visible in the eyes and minds of the community and decision-makers and elevating the voices of PLWH and consumers as leaders of the HIV movement.



In commemoration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), the Black Caucus led a panel presentation titled, “Mobilizing Momentum: Building and Maintaining Movement of Black Communities Using the Principles of Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)” on February 9, 2023. Danielle Campbell and Gerald Garth, Black Caucus Co-Chairs, facilitated a robust panel discussion centered on mobilizing momentum and building and maintaining movement within Black communities. The panel was convened against the background of public health ills that affect the Black community. The purpose of the conversation was to further discuss how to continue to mobilize and change the negative health outcomes that are a result of historical systems of oppression. Panelists included Leisha McKinley-Beach, MPH, HIV expert, community mobilization trainer, and strategic planner for state HIV prevention programs; Abraham Johnson, MPH, “Urban Intellect;” and DaShawn Usher, an award-winning advocate, published researcher, and celebrated leader within the LGBT and HIV prevention field. The presentation was given in commemoration of NBHAAD and Black History Month.



The Black Caucus continued its commitment to implementing the recommendations the group developed in 2019 to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in the Black/African American communities of Los Angeles County. The Black Caucus collaborated with DHSP to develop a needs assessment aimed at understanding how to increase the number of Black-led agencies funded by the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) to advance efforts to end HIV in LA County. In LA County, Black people represent 21.3% of new HIV diagnoses despite comprising 8% of the total population. The Caucus helped design a needs assessment aimed at understanding the organizational capacity of Black-led and Black-serving agencies. The Black Caucus recommended agencies to interview for the assessment and provided input on the survey questions. The findings from the needs assessment are slated to be released by March 2024 and will outline specific ideas on tailored capacity-building activities to strengthen Black-led agencies in LA County and ways public health funders can improve upon their procurement processes to advance equity among its grantees.





The Black Caucus also collaborated with DHSP to promote PrEP services in the Black community and provided feedback on social marketing messages, collateral material designs, and outreach strategies that appeal to Black communities across diverse perspectives.



Additionally, the Black Caucus has further activated stakeholders in the Black community by planning a series of community listening sessions aimed at harnessing community-rooted and driven ideas on how to improve the prevention and care service delivery system to specifically address the sexual health needs of the Black community. The group has identified the following groups within the Black community as the focus of the listening sessions: interfaith community leaders; same gender loving men; youth; justice involved individuals; non-traditional providers; and non-U.S. born/Caribbean immigrants. The first round of listening session on the interfaith community leaders is anticipated to occur in March/April 2024.



See pages 15 (Taste of Soul) and page 23 (Supervisory District 2 World AIDS Day) for additional community outreach efforts centered around the Black community.

The U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus states that MIPA is about ensuring that the communities affected by HIV are involved in decision-making at every level of response. The Consumer Caucus of the Commission serves as the primary mechanism for consumers of HIV/STI prevention and care services to weigh in on service, policy, funding, and programmatic matters in Los Angeles County. In 2023, members of the Consumer Caucus amplified their voices by attending Health Deputies and Board meetings to provide public comments regarding matters that impact their health and provided feedback to DHSP on how to improve services around DHSP’s customer support program, medical care coordination, emergency financial assistance, housing, and other services. The group also provided important feedback that helped shape the development of “I’M + LA”, a website promoting free or low-cost services funded under the Ryan White Program. The website features program fact sheets, eligibility and paperwork requirements, and contact information for enrollment. To further spur consumer leadership, the Consumer Caucus hosted its first community retreat to reflect on key successes and challenges for 2023 and outline how the group can support consumer education and empowerment for 2024 and beyond.



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the federal agency with oversight of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, conducted an administrative site visit of Los Angeles County's Ryan White program in February 2023. The Consumer Caucus advocated for and successfully secured a closed session meeting with federal officials which provided an opportunity for consumers to share their concerns and ideas for service delivery and planning council improvement directly with HRSA staff. While the meeting with HRSA officials was a listen only format, federal staff were impressed with the level of leadership, knowledge, and engagement of consumers in local HIV planning. The HRSA site visit team provided feedback to the Commission on measures to improve its operations and procedures to ensure compliance with the Ryan White Care Act. To that end, the Commission reviewed and updated its bylaws in response to HRSA's review. A public comment period and the full body's approval of the bylaws is slated for the first half of 2024.

The Commission is committed to supporting MIPA through leadership development and sponsorship of consumers to attend and represent the Commission at local, regional, state and national conferences. In 2023, consumer members of the Commission attended the virtual portion of the International AIDS Conference, Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit, US Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA), and the California Collaboration in Care Conference on Improving HIV and Aging Services. The theme of the 2023 USCHA Conference was "A Love Letter to Black Women" and celebrated the contributions of Black women to the fight against HIV. Commissioner Lilieth Conolly received a full scholarship to attend the USCHA conference and was part of the 50+ scholars for 2023.



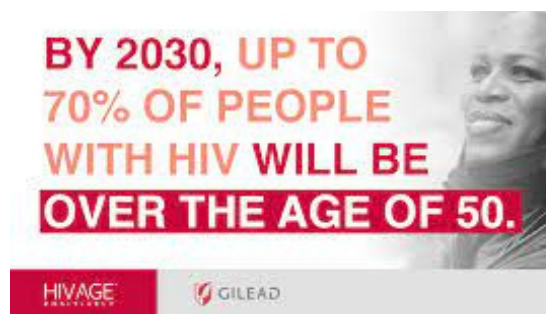
Recognizing the importance of providing quality supportive services for women to remain engaged in care and achieve viral suppression, the Women's Caucus provided critical feedback to DHSP to help shape psychosocial support programs that are responsive to the health needs of women. The Caucus appealed for peer-based support groups with content that address mental health, coping with family and caretaking responsibilities, and HIV-related stigma. After many years of advocating for childcare services to be included in the menu of services funded under the Ryan White Program, the Women's Caucus provided input that helped shape the release of a request for proposals for childcare services. While the Caucus shares DHSP's disappointment that no proposals were received, the group remains hopeful that qualified agencies will apply and that more creative mechanisms for funding and operationalizing childcare services might emerge in the future.



Members of the Women's Caucus attending a special lecture at UCLA on harnessing Black girls' strength.

In keeping with the Aging Caucus' commitment to understanding and addressing the evolving experiences of long-term survivors, the group developed an additional set of recommendations that recognized the spectrum and onset of HIV-related health issues that occur at different ages. The Aging Caucus' additional recommendations aim to be inclusive of long-term survivors (LTS) under 50 years old and those who acquired HIV perinatally (also referred to as vertical transmission). These recommendations were derived from speaker presentations, scientific articles, and feedback from Commissioners and the community-at-large.

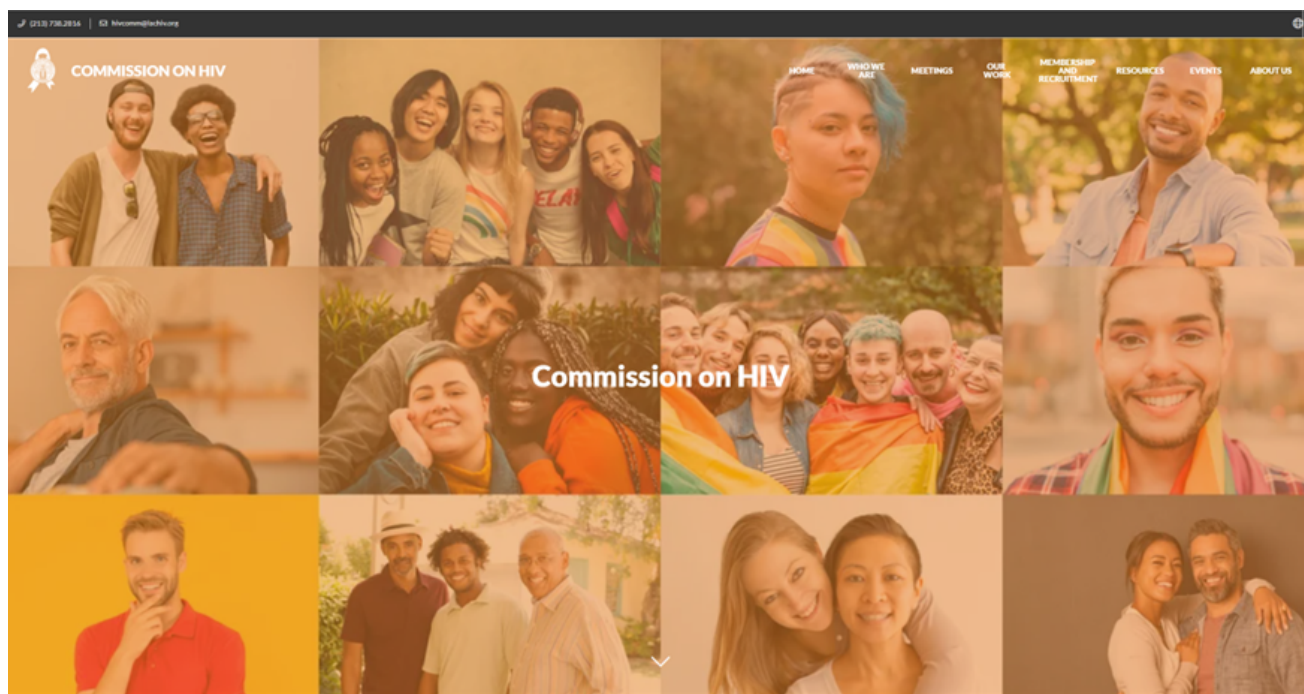
The Aging Caucus' leadership in convening the Sexual Health in Older Adults Educational event held on September 22, 2023, demonstrated the Commission's commitment to ensuring that providers receive training on recognizing the health needs of older adults, including sexual health, mental health, and developing age-friendly, gender-inclusive and affirming care.



The Commission onboarded 15 new members, including alternates in 2023, making the demographic composition of the planning council more reflective of the diversity and the epidemiology of HIV in the County. To support members in fulfilling their duties, trainings were provided on the core functions of the Commission as the local HIV planning council for the County; health literacy and advocacy; sexual health and wellness; Public Health 101; oral and written public comments; Brown Act; and parliamentary procedures.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

In collaboration with the Executive Office's Information Resource Management Team, the Commission launched its updated website with a more appealing look and greater content functionality. Staff continue to refine and improve the Commission's website functionality, organization, and ease of use as the primary source and repository of information about the Commission.



Commission on HIV website

The Commission continued to engage the community in harnessing broad support and attention to the STI crisis. During the Board's 2023-2024 budget hearings, the Commission Co-Chairs, Bridget Gordon and Luckie Alexander Fuller wrote a letter to the Board which called for sustained investments in STI-related public health infrastructure and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. The Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Commission, expressed strong support for DPH's appeal for \$19.25 million to close the gap in unmet funding needed to respond to the County's STI crisis. Some members of the Commission provided ongoing written and oral public comments at Health Deputies' and Board meetings to keep the STI crisis conversation at the forefront of policy-making efforts.

SERVICE PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A) Committee leads the multi-year priority and allocation setting process for the Commission. The PP&A Committee moved to a multi-year (3 years) service rankings and funds allocations by percentages in 2019 which facilitated a smooth preparation for HRSA's multi-year Part A application and non-competing continuing progress report process and cycles.

For FY 2023, the Commission ranked the following as the top ten Ryan White Part A service categories: 1) housing; 2) non-medical case management; 3) ambulatory outpatient medical services; 4) emergency financial assistance; 5) psychosocial support; 6) medical care coordination; 7) mental health; 8) outreach; 9) substance abuse outpatient; and 10) early intervention. The FY 2023 service rankings were determined under the following key realities: 1) lack of affordable housing and increased risk for homelessness will remain a significant crisis for PLWH; 2) financial instability will persist due to inflation and unlivable wages; and 3) ongoing demand for culturally competent medical and mental health services. Furthermore, the ongoing methamphetamine crisis in Los Angeles will likely compound substance use conditions.

Under the leadership of the Black Caucus, the Commission made its inaugural participation in the 2023 Taste of Soul LA Family Festival, where Commissioners hosted a booth featuring HIV/STI prevention education, resources, testing, and opportunities to serve on the Commission, and become part of the movement to end HIV. The Black Caucus' strong presence at the Taste of Soul and community engagement activities, sought to normalize conversations about HIV and STIs, educate the community about the importance of testing and getting linked to care, and promote health wellness in the Black community.





**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV**

**JOIN THE BLACK CAUCUS AT THE
17TH ANNUAL TASTE OF SOUL!**

<https://www.tasteofsoulla.com/>

DATE: October 21 **TIME:** 10 AM - 7 PM

BOOTH: P20 (Locate us with the QR code at the event)

LOCATION: Historic Crenshaw Blvd, between Barack Obama Blvd & Stocker Ave

THE BLACK CAUCUS IS EXCITED TO BE PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY EVENT. COME MEET US AT BOOTH P20 TO **WIN COOL RAFFLE PRIZES** **GRAB SOME AWESOME SWAG** **GET YOUR PASSPORT STAMPED AS YOU EMBARK ON A MISSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US** **TEST YOUR LUCK WITH THE SPIN-THE-WHEEL GAME** **CHALLENGE YOUR WITS WITH OUR SUPER FUN TRIVIA GAME SHOW ALL WHILE LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION & THE WORK WE DO.**

#COH_2023TOS #2023TOS_COH #2023TOS












**Images reflect actual members of the Black Caucus*

THE BLACK CAUCUS FOCUSES ON ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE HIV NEEDS OF BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS LA COUNTY. WE WELCOME ANYONE COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV, WORKING TO STOP ITS SPREAD, AND INCREASING ACCESS AND EDUCATION FOR LA'S BLACK COMMUNITIES.

The Commission held its successful annual conference on November 9, 2023 with over 110 individuals attending in-person and virtually. The conference featured presentations and community conversations on the County's response to the intersection of HIV and substance use, harm-reduction and related services; strategies for increasing access and utilization of PrEP, PEP, DoxyPEP among priority populations; HIV and housing; and enhancing access to mental health services for people living with HIV. The Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) provided an update on progress and activities completed under the Ending the HIV (EHE) epidemic and shared the latest information on HIV and STI surveillance. A key feature of the annual conference was a facilitated community discussion on intergenerational perspectives on community building and resilience. Participants provided call to action ideas for each of the topics which will be used by the Commission to shape their 2024 workplans, drive the continued implementation of the Comprehensive HIV Plan, and inform their decision-making around service funding allocations.



@hivcommmla Annual Conference.
Thank you for a great informative program. Let's
end this epidemic.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX | AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROMOTE SEXUAL HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS

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Under the leadership of the Aging Caucus, the Commission, and in collaboration with the Aging and Disabilities Department, APLA Health, and the Los Angeles LGBT Center, hosted a successful educational event focusing on sexual health and older adults. The event received high marks from attendees and featured expert speakers on STI and HIV prevention and a panel on initiating and navigating conversations about sexual health with doctors and older patients. Panelists and speakers shared inspirational messages about sex positivity and local policy efforts to bring attention to the issues of HIV and aging. A key component of the event featured a sex doula who led an engaging, fun, and honest discussion about confronting anxieties about aging and sexual health. The event underscored the demand and need for focused conversations about sex in older adults to mitigate risks and exposure to diseases, abuse, and isolation.



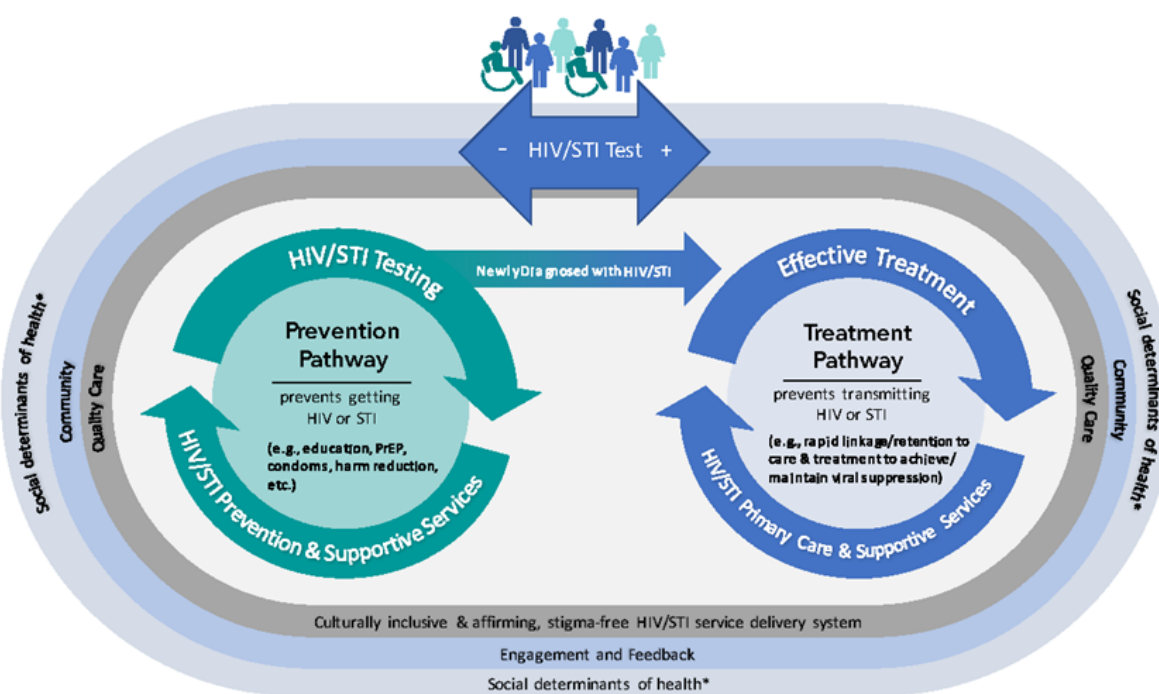
Under the leadership of the Transgender Caucus, the Commission, REACH LA, LA LGBT Center, and USC Keck School of Medicine, hosted the TGI Health Summit on November 2, 2023 where over 150 individuals participated in workshops on community and self-empowerment, health, and wellness, media representation and activism, transgender history, and advocacy. The summit also featured a panel on trans youth where speakers spoke of their journeys and the importance of supporting trans youth with leadership and employment opportunities.



LOSS, GRIEF AND HEALING | A WOMAN-CENTERED EDUCATIONAL FORUM

The Women's Caucus convened a 2-part virtual workshop on Loss, Grief and Healing on June 21 and 28, 2023. Part I featured a panel discussion of women with lived experience who shared their personal stories of overcoming loss and their healing journey. The panelists spoke about different manifestations of loss due to life events, including but not limited to HIV, death, and coping strategies to navigate grief and healing. Part II was led by Gabrielle Elise Jimenez, Founder and Owner of The Hospice Heart, who provided tips and tools preparing for end-of-life conversations, remembering and honoring loved ones, self-care and extending grace to oneself, and seeking support from others to embark on a path to healing. Over 60 individuals attended the session and many expressed deep appreciation for holding space for such an important and often ignored topic for women living with HIV.

Under the leadership of the Prevention Planning Workgroup (PPW), the *Status Neutral HIV and STI Service Delivery System Framework* was developed in 2023 which will serve as a guiding tool for the Commission in informing its planning process and formulating recommendations for improved services across prevention and care.



This framework functions to provide an overview of the comprehensive support and care critical to addressing the social determinants of health that create disparities, especially as they relate to HIV and STIs. The status neutral framework reaches beyond established HIV and STI prevention & care systems and works to create pathways to vital medical and supportive services that meet the needs of individuals regardless of their HIV or STI status and is not centered solely around meeting disease specific needs. The benefits of a status neutral approach include: a reduction in institutionalized stigma for PLWH, a reduction in stigma associated with STIs, increased efficiencies that improves resource utilization, and gained knowledge/insight from various service deliveries.

As part of its ongoing commitment to ensure that HIV care services are responsive to clients' needs, the Commission engaged consumers, providers, and public health partners in revising the following service standards: oral healthcare, nutrition support, medical care coordination, and universal service standards. The Prevention Planning Workgroup led the revisions to the Prevention Services standards, which were modernized to reflect the most up-to-date scientific evidence and clinical practices for rapid treatment, harm reduction, PrEP, PEP, and DoxyPEP, and comprehensive assessments and intake procedures that mirror the pathways described in the Status Neutral HIV and STI Service Delivery Framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATED PREVENTION AND CARE PLANNING

In addition to developing the Status Neutral Framework to help strengthen the Commission's integrated prevention and care planning infrastructure and capacity, the PPW developed additional operational measures to fully integrate prevention in the Commission's planning, priority setting, and resource allocation process, namely:

- Focus on the service delivery system, rather than individual or siloed services.
- Expand service allocation discussions beyond HIV to include STIs, such as HIV and STI testing, treatment and prevention services and biomedical and non-biomedical strategies.
- Put greater emphasis on a person-first, not a disease-first approach to planning discussions and analysis; this effort entails making intentional steps towards shifting away from disease-specific needs and towards a whole-person wellness and well-being approach.

- Ensure that supportive services are provided regardless of HIV status. These services include resources such as housing, mental health, and substance use/harm reduction to name a few, to support individuals at elevated risk for HIV/STIs. Furthermore, supportive services should address the social determinants of health such as economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community contexts.
- Focus on priority populations identified in the Comprehensive HIV Plan: 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 30, and people living with HIV who are 50 years of age or older.
- Strive to fully realize a culturally affirming, stigma-free HIV and STI delivery system – one that goes beyond training around cultural competency and biases, but embraces and operates from an organizational culture and value of diversity, inclusion, and authentic acceptance of people not despite of, but because of their differences.
- Engage in creative planning and thinking by using and braiding multiple funding streams to develop and fund a seamless menu of services that do not have disease-specific eligibility requirements.
- Recruit the active participation and contributions of diverse partners, including partners outside of the traditional HIV/STI spheres.
- Restructure the Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A) Committee meetings to:
 - Intentionally include prevention service reviews and discussions
 - Use the Status Neutral Framework in all Commission discussions
 - Assess prevention funding and services within the County to help inform priority-setting and resource-allocation decisions
 - Update the prevention service standards to incorporate the Status Neutral Framework (completed)
 - Identify opportunities to increase prevention efforts within existing programs in the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP)
 - Identify opportunities to increase prevention efforts within substance use disorder strategies and interventions

In collaboration with Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the Commission hosted a community breakfast at The Arboretum on December 1, 2023 to honor those we have lost to AIDS and encourage community members to commit to working together to end HIV. The event featured special remarks from Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Mr. Paul Edmonds, who is one of only five people in the world to achieve full remission of HIV, and a panel of experts and people with lived experiences who shared their inspirational stories to raise awareness about HIV prevention and treatment, reduce HIV-related stigma, and enlist new partners to end HIV. Close to 100 community members attended and joined together to remember those we have lost to AIDS, celebrate the resilience of survivors, and to re-affirm our commitment to ending HIV. The event was a collaborative effort involving Via Care, City of Pasadena, APLA Health, AMAAD Institute, and other organizations dedicated to building a committed coalition of partners to accelerate our collective efforts to end HIV.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SECOND DISTRICT
WORLD AIDS DAY 35 | REMEMBERING THE
JOURNEY TO HERE – CELEBRATING THE
EXPERIENCE OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THE HIV
MOVEMENT**

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In collaboration with Second District Supervisor Holly Mitchell and Charles Drew University, the Commission, under the leadership of the Black Caucus, hosted a special World AIDS Day that celebrated the contributions of Black leaders in the HIV movement, lifted the voices of PLWH, and featured community resources to prevent and treat HIV. The program featured a special message from Supervisor Holly Mitchell, artistic performances from local Black artists, and speeches from PLWH, faith leaders, and medical providers. Special Champions of Change Awards were given to Dr. William King and Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan (in memoriam) in recognition of their significant contributions to the HIV movement, both locally and nationally. The keynote speaker was local living legend, Phil Wilson, who challenged the community to be relentless and tireless in the fight to end HIV and to focus on the disproportionate impact of the HIV burden in the Black community. Over 100 individuals joined forces on December 6, 2023, to bring attention to Black leadership and excellence in the HIV movement.

The Commission staff provided programmatic, administrative, and technical support to the Commission’s monthly meetings for (5) standing committees, (5) caucuses, and the full council. In addition, staff hosted 8 pieces of training sessions for Commissioners and members of the public to nurture the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful HIV planning council member. As the backbone organization for the Commission, the staff team strives for cohesion and teamwork. Commission staff developed “Team Agreements” to guide and reinforce commitments for accountability, open and honest communication, and courageous conversations about implicit biases in the workplace. The Commission staff team is committed to learning by doing and volunteered at Project Angel Food on May 30, 2023 for its annual community service day.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Reflecting on what's on the horizon for 2024 with the national movement to end HIV, there is general concurrence that while progress continues to be made in ending HIV, several factors are affecting our ability to reach the national goals of reducing new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by 2025 and by 90% by 2030:

- The shift in resources to the COVID-19 response slowed the pace of scaling up the wide-scale implementation of prevention and treatment services and innovations across the country. Disruptions in HIV testing and diagnosis from the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing and other disease control measures led to sharp declines in HIV testing and other services between 2019 and 2020. (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7125a2.htm>)
- Stigma, poverty, and racism continue to drive new HIV infections and disparities in access and utilization of biomedical interventions and HIV care continuum outcomes. Key social determinants of health (SDOH) including housing status, poverty, and recent incarceration, increase the risk of HIV acquisition and transmission. To coordinate federal resources toward addressing the social drivers of health inequities, the White House released the “U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health” in November 2023. The Playbook sets the stage for agencies and organizations to re-imagine new policies and actions around SDOH, both inside and outside of government. The Playbook offers a strategizing framework for local communities to leverage, maximize, and braid resources and partnerships to employ an integrated approach to ending HIV.

- Affordable and safe housing remains the greatest unmet need for PLWH and communities most at risk for HIV/STI exposure and acquisition. As one of the strongest predictors of health outcomes, housing stability plays an important role in both HIV prevention and care. According to NASTAD, among individuals who are homeless or marginally housed, the rates of HIV infection are up to 16 times higher than those stably housed. Additionally, the homeless men who have sex with men (MSM) population is 15 times more likely to delay HIV testing than stably housed MSM. At any time, three to ten percent of all homeless persons are HIV-positive. Across the U.S., upwards of 70% of all PLWHA report experiencing homelessness or housing instability. This impacts entrance into care, as homelessness can delay this crucial step for an average of six months.
- The national political landscape continues to be hostile towards the HIV movement, people of color, LGBTQ communities, and women, as evidenced by the continuous onslaught of funding cut threats and legislative bills at all levels of government attacking access to healthcare, reproductive rights, access to HIV PrEP/PEP and other lifesaving medications, to name a few. The never-ending fight for equality adds to the HIV movement's collective trauma, physical and mental health toll, and fatigue – an unfortunate situation when all energies and passion should be directed to implementing the remarkable tools we now have in our arsenal to truly end HIV. Examples of promising and exciting tools to end HIV include newer generation HIV tests; self/at-home test kits; PrEP and PEP; integrated HIV and STI testing approaches; DoxyPEP; long-acting injectables; rapid anti-retroviral treatment; contingency management; harm reduction and safe consumption sites; and street medicine, to name a few. Given that the HIV movement is rooted in activism, stakeholders and leaders will remain vigilant in protecting civil rights and funding for HIV/STD and public health.

COMMISSIONERS (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023)

- ***Bridget Gordon, Co-Chair, Unaffiliated Consumer, Supervisorial District 2***
- ***Alexander Luckie Fuller, Co-Chair, Provider Representative***
- Miguel Alvarez, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Everardo Alvizo, MSW, City of Long Beach Representative (*Resigned October 2023*)
- Jayda Arrington, Unaffiliated Consumer, Service Planning Area 6
- Alvaro Ballesteros, MBA, Supervisorial Board Office 1 Representative
- Alasdair Burton, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Danielle Campbell, MPH, Supervisorial Board Office 2 Representative
- Mikhaela Cielo, MD, Ryan White Part D Representative
- Lilieth Conolly, Unaffiliated Consumer, At-Large
- Sandra Cuevas, Ryan White Part F Representative
- Mary Cummings, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Shontae Daniels, Unaffiliated Consumer, At-Large (*In Memoriam*)
- Erika Davies, City of Pasadena Representative
- Pearl Doan, HIV Stakeholder
- Kevin Donnelly, Unaffiliated Consumer, Service Planning Area 8
- Felipe Findley, PA-C, MPAS, AAHIVS, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Arlene Frames, Unaffiliated Consumer, Supervisorial District 3
- Jerry D. Gates, PhD, Ryan White Part F Representative (*Resigned March 2023*)
- Felipe Gonzalez, Unaffiliated Consumer, Supervisorial District 5
- Joseph Green, Unaffiliated Consumer, At-Large
- Thomas Green, Alternate (*In Memoriam, Resigned January 2023*)
- Karl Halfman, MA, Ryan White Part B Representative
- David Hardy, MD, Alternate

COMMISSIONERS (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023)

- Ismael Herrera, Unaffiliated Consumer, Service Planning Area 3
- William King, MD, JD, AAHIVS, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Lee Kochems, MA, Behavioral/Social Scientist Representative
- Jose Magana, Provider Representative
- Eduardo Martinez, Alternate (*Seat vacated March 2023*)
- Leon Maultsby, Part C Representative
- Andre Molette, Provider Representative
- Anthony Mills, MD, Provider Representative
- Carlos Moreno, Provider Representative (*Resigned February 2023*)
- Derek Murray, City of West Hollywood Representative
- Paul Nash, PhD, HIV Stakeholder Representative
- Katja Nelson, MPP, Supervisorial Board Office 3 Representative
- Byron Patel, RN, Provider Representative
- Ronnie Osorio, Alternate
- Jesus “Chuy” Orozco, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Representative
- Mario Pérez, MPH, Ryan White Part A Representative
- De’chelle Richardson, Alternate
- Erica Robinson, Alternate
- Mallery Robinson, Alternate (*Resigned August 2023*)
- Redeem Robinson, HIV Stakeholder
- Ricky Rosales, City of Los Angeles Representative
- Harold Glenn San Agustin, MD, Provider Representative
- Martin Sattah, MD, Provider Representative
- Juan Solis, Alternate
- LaShonda Spencer, MD, Provider Representative

COMMISSIONERS (JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023)

- Kevin Stalter, Unaffiliated Consumer, Service Planning Area 4
- Lambert Talley, Alternate
- Justin Valero, Supervisorial Board Office 4 Representative
- Jonathan Weedman, Supervisorial Board Office 5 Representative
- Russell Ybarra, Unaffiliated Consumer, Service Planning Area 2

STAFF

- Cheryl A. Barrit, MPIA, Executive Director
- Dawn P. McClendon, Assistant Director
- Lizette Martinez, MPH, Health Program Analyst
- Jose Rangel-Garibay, MPH, Health Program Analyst
- Sonja Wright, DACM, Senior Board Specialist

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV

