



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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Get in touch: 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

**Thursday, December 19, 2024
4:00PM-5:00PM (PST)**

Agenda and meeting materials will be posted on <http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Meetings> *Other Meetings

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED + SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION IN SPANISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES NOW AVAILABLE VIA CLOSED CAPTION FEATURE WHEN JOINING VIA WEBEX. CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO.

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

TO JOIN BY COMPUTER:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=mf64e2581986d5fce9cf2d597a975ddb5>

TO JOIN BY PHONE:

1-213-306-3065 Access Code/Event #: 2536 536 0106

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.

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



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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

Virtual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 19, 2024 @ 4:00PM-5:00PM

To Join by Computer:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=mf64e2581986d5fce9cf2d597a975ddb5>

Join by phone: 1-213-306-3065

Password: BLACK Access code: 2536 536 0106

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES 4:00PM-4:05PM
2. COH STAFF REPORT/UPDATES 4:05PM-4:10PM
 - Operational/County Updates
3. CO-CHAIR REPORT 4:10PM-4:20PM
 - December 6, 2024 World AIDS Day Community Event| DEBRIEF & FEEDBACK
 - [Black Caucus Journey in Addressing HIV and Sexual Health Disparities in LA County PPT Presentation](#)
 - [LA Sentinel Article](#)
4. PLANNING DISCUSSIONS 4:20PM-4:50PM
 - 2024 At-A-Glance & Reflections
 - 2024 Workplan Review
 - ✓ Black Led+Servicing Organizational Needs Assessment
 - ✓ Community Listening Sessions | [Summary Reports](#)
 - 2025 Planning
 - 2025 Co-Chairs Open Nominations | Elections @ January 16, 2025
 - Workplan Development
 - ✓ National Black/African American AIDS/HIV Awareness Day (NBHAAD)
 - ✓ Organizational Needs Assessment
 - ✓ Community Listening Sessions
5. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS 4:50PM-4:55PM
6. PUBLIC COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS 4:55PM-5:00PM
7. ADJOURNMENT 5:00PM

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



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.)



The Black Caucus Journey in Addressing HIV and Sexual Health Disparities in LA County"

December 6, 2024

"Our Voices, Our Strength: Elevating Black Lives" in Commemoration of World AIDS Day

WHO WE ARE

The Black Caucus is a collaborative community initiative focused on addressing sexual health and HIV disparities affecting Black communities in Los Angeles County.

Established after a pivotal National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day panel on February 14, 2019, the Caucus emerged from the Commission on HIV's (COH) directive to tackle the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on Black communities.

Formerly known as the Black/African American Community Task Force (BAAC), the Caucus has since been dedicated to developing inclusive action plans, advocating for change, and advancing equality in healthcare through community-wide mobilization.



WHY WE ACT

Disproportionate Impact: Black people represent 21.3% of new HIV diagnoses in LA County, despite only comprising 8% of the population.

National Crisis: Black Americans make up 42% of new HIV diagnoses nationally, though they represent just 14% of the population.

Local Urgency: Nearly 1,500 new HIV diagnoses in Los Angeles in the past year highlight an urgent need for culturally responsive healthcare solutions.

Health Equity: We believe everyone deserves equitable access to healthcare, and addressing these disparities is key to empowering our community and ending HIV once and for all.

WHAT WE DO

Advocate for Policy Change: Push for policies that support health equity and ensure better health outcomes for Black communities.

Collaborate with Partners: Work with local organizations, community groups, and public health agencies to align efforts in addressing sexual health disparities.

Empower Black-Led Organizations: Support and strengthen Black-led agencies through capacity building and technical assistance to enhance their impact.

Promote Sexual Health Education: Create and share culturally relevant educational materials to raise awareness and dispel myths about sexual health and HIV prevention.

Mobilize the Community: Participate in local events like Taste of Soul to engage, educate, and connect with our community members on health topics that matter most to them.

The Black Caucus engages in community-driven efforts to address sexual health disparities, including facilitating listening sessions, issuing statements of solidarity, collaborating on strategic health campaigns, and actively participating in community events like Taste of Soul to promote sexual health education and HIV awareness.

to advocate

Recommendations: Developed comprehensive recommendations to the COH and DHSP to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS and STIs in all subsets of the Black/AA community utilizing a community-wide mobilization effort.

to express injustice

Statements of Solidarity: Issued bold statements in response to the murder of George Floyd (2020) and the 2024 presidential elections.

to educate & raise awareness

Mandatory Cultural Sensitivity Training: In partnership with DHSP, developed and implemented a mandatory training module for all DHSP-contracted agencies, focusing on cultural sensitivity, implicit bias, stigma, and medical mistrust which are key drivers of health disparities among Black communities.

PrEP Campaign for Black communities: Provided key feedback on a County-wide promotional PrEP campaign, launched by DHSP, focusing on Black communities in Los Angeles County.

Community Engagement: Hosted a booth at the Taste of Soul event for two consecutive years, delivering sexual health and HIV education to the community.

to listen to our communities

Community Listening Sessions: Conducted listening sessions with key populations, including our Black faith leaders, Black & Latino SGL men, Black women, and our Black immigrant communities on the challenges they face related to sexual health and HIV and compile data from these sessions to shape healthcare systems to ensure they are culturally responsive and equitable for Black communities.



recommendations

Cultural Competency: Implement mandatory cultural sensitivity and continuing education for healthcare providers, focusing on implicit bias, stigma, and medical mistrust.

Inclusive Messaging: Develop universal marketing strategies for HIV prevention that reduce stigma and appeal to all subpopulations of the Black/African American community.

Community Support: Increase funding and create demonstration projects targeting women, families, transgender individuals, and MSM, emphasizing cultural competency, accountability, and holistic care.

Holistic Services: Advocate for integrated care models addressing mental, physical, and sexual health needs to improve access and quality of services.

Targeted Prevention: Develop tailored prevention campaigns, including PrEP and other biomedical interventions, to serve key subpopulations effectively.

organizational needs assessment

Countywide Assessment: In partnership with DHSP, launched an assessment to identify needs and gaps among Black-led and Black-serving organizations in Los Angeles County.

Strengthening Capacity: Designed to understand where support is most needed to enhance the capacity of organizations that serve our community.

Developing Solutions: The insights gained will be used to create technical assistance programs that ensure Black-led organizations thrive and effectively address community needs.

community listening sessions



Faith-based

Date & Location: April 26, 6–8 PM at Saint Marks LA

Facilitators: Dr. Donta Morrison & Lilieth Conolly

Participants: 16 members from Black interfaith communities in LA County

Key Insights:

- **Stigma & Silence:** Discussed the culture of silence and stigma around sexuality in churches.
- **Inclusivity & Youth Engagement:** Emphasized the importance of safe spaces, youth involvement, and inclusivity in church leadership.
- **Action Steps:** Need for sexual health education, healthcare professionals in church leadership, creative marketing for awareness, and county support tailored for faith communities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV
BLACK CAUCUS PRESENTS

BRIDGING FAITH AND SEXUAL HEALTH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV: EMPOWERING OUR BLACK COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION*

Join us for a candid conversation addressing sexual health and HIV within the Black interfaith communities of Los Angeles County.

Discussion Topics Include:

- Explore root causes of stigma and shame
- Historical relationship between the church and the LGBTQ+ and gender diverse communities
- Role of the church in promoting sexual health

Invitation open to faith leaders of Los Angeles County

Friday, April 26, 2024

6:00PM–8:00PM

Los Angeles, CA

- Location will be shared upon RSVP
- RSVP via QR Code or <https://LACCOHBlackCaucus.eventbrite.com>
- Honorarium, refreshments & resource materials provided



*The listening sessions are a part of a multi-series community conversation among key populations of the Black community within Los Angeles County to address HIV and sexual health.



Immigrant

Date & Location: August 11, 2024, at Airport Royal Cuisine, Los Angeles

Facilitators: Damone Thomas & Kofi Peprah

Participants: Members of the Black immigrant community, including the African diaspora

Key Insights:

- Cultural Barriers: Stigma around mental health and cultural beliefs hinder open discussions about sexual health.
- Access Challenges: Language barriers and healthcare costs create significant obstacles to accessing care.
- Action Steps: Emphasized the need for culturally sensitive health resources, building trust with healthcare providers, and community-centric approaches to improve access.

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



COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

Are you a member of the Black Immigrant community?
Your voice matters!

We invite you to join us for a candid conversation addressing sexual health and HIV within the Black Immigrant communities of Los Angeles County.

Discussion topics include: *Addressing the stigma surrounding sexual health and HIV testing within the Black Immigrant community *Exploring obstacles and challenges in accessing sexual health services and HIV testing *Discussing cultural factors that may hinder access to healthcare and testing services within the community *Identifying opportunities for capacity building initiatives to enhance awareness and knowledge about sexual health and HIV.

RESOURCES FOOD GIFT CARDS

Sunday, August 11, 2024
5:00PM-7:00PM

REGISTER HERE
<https://tinyurl.com/3n22k6js>

*LOCATION TO BE SHARED UPON CONFIRMED REGISTRATION



*These sessions are supported by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus with generous funding support by UCLA-CDU Center for AIDS Research [Grant AI15250; PI Campbell].



Same Gender Loving Men (SGLM)

Date & Location: September 26, 2024, at APLA Health, Out Here Sexual Health Center, Baldwin Hills

Facilitators: Leon Maultsby, MHA & Dr. Donta Morrison

Participants: Black and Latino gay and bisexual men, ages 18 to 50+

Key Insights:

- **Barriers to Access:** Stigma, lack of awareness about resources, and challenges navigating healthcare services hinder access.
- **Generational Differences:** Younger generations are more informed about sexual health, highlighting the need for inclusive education across all age groups.
- **Action Steps:** Emphasized the need for culturally competent healthcare providers, comprehensive awareness campaigns, and safe spaces to address stigma and foster open conversations.

****UPDATED****

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV BLACK CAUCUS INVITES
BLACK & LATINX SAME-GENDER LOVING MEN

Empower, Engage, Evolve: Sexual Health & HIV Dialogue for Black & Latinx SGL Men

Join us for a transformative dialogue where Black & Latinx same gender loving (SGL) men can address stigma, explore sexual health, and discuss HIV.

Your experiences and insights will help shape culturally responsive HIV prevention and care systems in LA County.

Don't miss this opportunity to make a lasting impact on our community's health and well-being!

Join Us

WHEN & WHERE

Thursday, September 26, 2024
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
South Los Angeles
**Venue info will be provided upon confirmed registration*

RSVP REQUIRED

Space is Limited
<https://tinyurl.com/c6appxma>



****Participants Will Receive a \$50 Visa Giftcard, Food & Resources****

These sessions are supported by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus with generous funding support by UCLA-CDU Center for AIDS Research [Grant AI15250, PI Campbell]

APLA Health 

Women

Date & Location: October 22, 2024, at Dollarhide Community Center, Compton

Facilitators: Danielle Campbell, MPH, PhDc & Dr. Erica Holmes

Participants: 19 Black women from Los Angeles County

Key Insights:

- **Barriers to Care:** Black women face dismissive treatment, microaggressions, and fragmented healthcare services, which impact care quality and accessibility.
- **Cultural Stigma:** Fear of judgment and stereotypes deter many Black women from seeking sexual health services.
- **Action Steps:** Called for integrated care models, culturally competent provider training, and community engagement to reduce stigma and improve access.



VOICES OF STRENGTH: A LISTENING SESSION FOR BLACK WOMEN



Join us for a **powerful and safe space** dedicated to **Black women**, where your voice matters. This listening session is an opportunity to speak candidly about your **sexual health, HIV, and the unique health challenges faced by Black women**. Together, we will explore our experiences, share insights, and contribute to building a healthcare system that truly understands and meets our needs.



TUESDAY
22ND OCTOBER 2024



START AT
6:00PM - 8:00PM
*IN-PERSON; LOCATION WILL BE DISCLOSED
UPON CONFIRMED REGISTRATION

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Open, respectful, and confidential dialogue
- \$50 Visa gift cards, food, and resources provided
- Child watch services available
- Space is limited; RSVP required

REGISTER NOW



EventBrite
<https://tinyurl.com/3hvv3w97>

These sessions are supported by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus with generous funding support by UCLA-CDU Center for AIDS Research [Grant AI15250; PI Campbell]



community engagement



taste of soul

Community Outreach: Engaged over 500 attendees each year, distributing over 200 wellness bags and offering HIV and Hepatitis C testing in partnership with AMAAD, Inc., and W. King Health Care Group.

Educational Impact: Conducted HIV and sexual health trivia, sparking meaningful conversations and dispelling common misconceptions.

Youth Engagement: Focused on youth outreach, with the youngest individual tested being 18 years old.

Team Collaboration: Success attributed to the dedication of Caucus members and partners who worked tirelessly to educate, assemble wellness bags, and represent the community.



BLACK CAUCUS AT THE 19TH ANNUAL TASTE OF SOUL LA | OCTOBER 19, 2024

On Saturday, October 19th, the Commission on HIV's Black Caucus proudly joined the 19th Annual Taste of Soul in Los Angeles for a second year in a row. With over 500,000 attendees last year and an even larger crowd anticipated this year, the Black Caucus made a significant impact, promoting its goals and the overarching mission of the Commission.

Expanding Outreach Through Partnerships

Partnering with AMAAD, Inc., and W. King Health Care Group, the Caucus expanded its outreach by offering free HIV and Hepatitis C testing to the community. Thanks to Caucus members Lilieth Conolly and Arlene Frames, attendees were connected to Dr. King's medical tent for testing, with HIV tests incentivized by \$10 Vons gift cards. Seven HIV tests and five Hep C tests were administered, with all results returning negative. The youngest individual tested was just 18, highlighting the importance of youth outreach.

Community Engagement and Education

The Black Caucus engaged well over 500 attendees, distributing more than 200 sexual health wellness bags in exchange for participating in HIV and sexual health trivia. The trivia sparked meaningful discussions and helped dispel common misconceptions about HIV.

Recognizing the Team's Hard Work

We owe the success of this event to the dedication of our Black Caucus team. Special thanks to Leon Maultsby, Danielle Campbell, Bridget and Nina Gordon, Roxanne Lewis, Dee Saunders, Dr. William King, and DonDei Dean, along with the AMAAD team, who held it down and represented! We thank Commission Co-Chair Joseph Green and Consumer Caucus Co-Chair Damone Thomas for coming out and showing their support. A huge thank you to Leon, Sonja Wright, Dee, and Roxanne for assembling over 200 sexual health wellness bags, with special recognition to Dee and Roxanne for their donations on behalf of the City of West Hollywood and JWCH Institute.

Looking Ahead

This year's Taste of Soul was a tremendous success. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue our mission to improve health equity and empower our communities.

If you missed us, check us out here!

[LA County Commission on HIV](#) | [Live at Taste of soul](#) | [Instagram](#)

[Video Clips](#)



What's Next?



Add'l Listening Sessions

Conduct additional sessions with Non-Traditional HIV Providers, Youth, Justice-Involved individuals, and Men who do not identify as MSM.

Organizational Needs Assessment

Engage agencies that did not participate initially through focus groups, ensuring inclusive input, and pursue the development of a tailored technical assistance program.

Update Recommendations

Revise and refine existing recommendations based on new insights and ongoing community engagement.

Community Engagement

Participate in more community events to enhance sexual health awareness and education throughout LA County.

how can you get involved?

1. **Join the Movement:** Get involved with the Black Caucus to eliminate health disparities and promote equality in our community.
2. **Be a Changemaker:** Advocate for policies that support health equity and stand up for culturally responsive healthcare.
3. **Support Our Mission:** Participate in community listening sessions, share resources, and connect with others to amplify community voices.
4. **Lead with Solidarity:** Take part in events and support our responses to key moments—help build a community that listens, cares, and acts.



the

end





LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



The **Black Caucus** of the **Los Angeles Commission on HIV** is a **community-based collective** with the unique and specific focus of addressing **HIV needs of Black and African-American individuals and communities across Los Angeles County.**

The **Black Caucus** is always excited to welcome those committed to the fight to stop the spread of HIV and increase HIV access and education for the **Black communities of LA.**



**Images reflect actual members of the Black Caucus*

For more information or to get involved

WEB: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov> EML: hivcomm@lachiv.org TEL: 213.738.2816





SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, October 18, 2025
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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L.A. County Commission on HIV's Black Caucus Hosts World AIDS Day at CDU



Carrell Howard, right, and MIA volunteers prepare bags to distribute to people in need. (E. Mesiyah McGinnis/L.A.

Sentinel)

Coming Dec. 6, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV's (LACHIV) Black Caucus is joining forces with local leaders and organizations to host a community-focused World AIDS Day event, emphasizing the sexual health needs of Black communities.

Scheduled to take place at Charles Drew University, the free event aims to educate, support, and empower attendees while addressing the ongoing impact of HIV in Black communities.




Supervisor Holly Mitchell has partnered with and endorsed LACHIV Black Caucus' World AIDS Day event. (Courtesy photo)

With the theme of “Our Stories, Our Strength: Elevating Black Lives on World AIDS Day,” the event will include HIV testing with a \$25 gift card incentive, free lunch, giveaways, and access to numerous community resources. Entertainment and live performance art will add a celebratory touch to a day designed to bring people together in the spirit of inclusivity and awareness.

The event’s organizers, in partnership with Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell’s District 2 Office and Charles Drew University, have expressed their dedication to creating a safe space for open dialogue.

LACHIV Black Caucus Co-Chair Danielle Campbell, MPH highlighted the challenges of addressing stigma within Black


communities, stating, “Black people are overrepresented in new HIV diagnoses and disproportionately affected by STIs. The stigma is a barrier to having these necessary conversations.”



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**Images reflect actual members of the Black Caucus*

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The event flier has a QR code for more information. (Courtesy photo)

Attendees can expect more than education; the event will include a resource fair. While many are focused on HIV care, others, such as food banks, will address broader needs, ensuring comprehensive community support.

“It’s important to involve everyone,” said LACHIV Black Caucus Co-Chair Leon Maulsby. “This isn’t just about people living with HIV. It’s about everyone coming together to share stories, hear each other, and engage in solutions.”

The collaboration between organizations like Charles Drew University and the backing of Supervisor Mitchell has been key to the event’s success. Last year’s gathering left a lasting impression on attendees, with participants describing the joy of seeing healthcare providers and people living with HIV connecting and sharing their journeys.

Leon noted, “These events feel like reunions. For providers, it’s a reminder of the progress made, and for patients, it’s about being recognized as more than a diagnosis.”

Despite medical advancements in HIV prevention and treatment, the virus continues to disproportionately affect Black communities. Events like this seek to counteract not only the medical challenges but also the deep-seated misconceptions surrounding HIV.

“Many people still believe myths, like thinking HIV can be spread through casual contact,” Campbell explained.

“Through events like this, we can educate, break down stigma, and foster understanding.”

This year’s theme emphasizes storytelling as a source of strength. Organizers hope the event will highlight the

resilience of Black communities while encouraging an ongoing commitment to health and awareness.

Campbell commented, “What has sustained us in this country for more than 400 years is us—our ability to come together and gather in ways that only we can do.”

World AIDS Day serves as a reminder of the work still needed to combat HIV. For Los Angeles County, this event marks an important step in addressing health disparities and creating an inclusive space for advocacy. Join on Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Charles Drew University.

For more information about the event, visit <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>.

Share this post





Black Caucus Workplan 2024

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

CRITERIA: Select activities that 1) represent the core functions of the COH and Caucus, 2) advance the goals of the 2022-2026 Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP), 3) identify strategies to address the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations, and 4) align with COH staff and member capacities and time commitment.

CAUCUS RESPONSIBILITIES: 1) Facilitate dialogue among caucus members, 2) develop caucus voice at the Commission and in the community, 3) provide the caucus perspective on various Commission issues, and 4) cultivate leadership within the caucus membership and consumer community.

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
1	Organizational Capacity Needs Assessment for Black-led Organizations	Administer a qualitative and quantitative needs assessment to the nine selected, Black-led organizations to help inform and implement a TA program so that Black-led organizations can better compete for County contracts.	2024	Final Report presented by EIS @ March 21, 2024 Caucus meeting. DHSP reported on July 18 Caucus meeting they will reach out to organizations who did not participate in the survey & KII to assess interest in participating in a focus group; timeline pending.
2	Community listening sessions to address the state of HIV in the Black community	Hold candid community conversations by Black folx, for Black folx, addressing stigma and its relation to the faith-based community	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith based session completed (4/26) ● Non-US Born Immigrant/Caribbean session completed (8/11) ● Same Gender Loving Men=September ● Women = October ● Non-Traditional HIV Providers = November

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	ACTION ITEMS+NEXTSTEPS+FOLLOWUP
3	National Black/AA HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)	Plan activity(ies) promoting health/wellness, lifting the Black community, and addressing stigma and the disproportionate impact of HIV within the Black community	February 2024	Highlight Community Listening Sessions, with focus on faith-based session as a kick-off.
4	Next steps & future of the Black/AA Community Task Force Recommendations	Review recommendations for revisions/updates and determine next steps.	2024	Add a demographic section for those who are incarcerated, ultimately addressing the industrial prison complex.
5	Community Engagement and Communications	<p>Efforts around active recruitment, social media engagement, amplifying other Black HIV-centered communications (ex. A Black women’s focus during NGWHAAD, Black men’s focus during National Gay Men’s Awareness Day (NGMHAAD, etc.), and World AIDS Day (WAD).</p> <p>Communications to serve recruitment and retention. Ex. What does recruitment look like? Do we want at least one representative from Black-led, Black-serving orgs? What are the members’ responsibilities?</p>		<p>Better amplify the Caucus’s work through strategic communications. This would also look at effective delegation and engagement, getting more folks active in the room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Listening Sessions (in process) • Taste of Soul Participation (in process) • World AIDS Day community event (in process)



BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

INTRODUCTION

The “Bridging Faith and Sexual Health in the Fight Against HIV” listening session took place on Friday, April 26, from 6-8 PM at Saint Mark LA United Methodist Church. Facilitated by Dr. Donta Morrison and Lilieth Conolly, the session brought together 16 participants from LA County's Black interfaith communities. It fostered engaging dialogue, resulting in actionable insights addressing the root causes of stigma and shame within the Black interfaith communities, addressing the disproportionate impact of STIs and HIV. Participants were provided with a \$50 gift card, a nourishing meal, and community resources.

OBJECTIVE

Through community listening sessions focusing on seven key populations identified in the Black Caucus (formerly the Black/African American Community Taskforce [BAAC]) recommendations, we aim to quantify the sexual health needs of Black communities in Los Angeles County. These discussions will guide improvements in HIV prevention and care service delivery, ensuring cultural responsiveness and a comprehensive understanding of the diverse sexual health care needs of our Black communities in Los Angeles County.



KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTACT INFO

EML: hivcomm@lachiv.org

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

TEL: 213.738.2816



FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Involvement of Healthcare Professionals in Church Leadership:

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

Need for Sexual Health Education and Resources:

- Half of participants feel ill-equipped to discuss sexual health, highlighting a crucial gap in knowledge and resources within faith communities.
- The majority lack awareness of where to refer individuals for sexual health resources, emphasizing the need for accessible and culturally responsive referral systems.
- There is a consensus on the importance of vetting resources to ensure their cultural relevance and effectiveness in supporting sexual health initiatives.

Marketing and Education Strategies:

- Creative marketing strategies, mirroring approaches used on platforms like TikTok, are suggested to promote faith-based sexual health education.
- Normalizing sexual health discussions and incorporating educational materials into various church settings and community events can help destigmatize the topic.

Youth Involvement and Advocacy:

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

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

County Support and Funding:

- Establish a county ambassador program within faith networks to disseminate information and resources effectively.
- Participants express dissatisfaction with current county services and emphasize the need for specific funding and technical assistance tailored for faith communities.
- Technical assistance is needed to build infrastructure, address barriers in grant applications, and provide grant writing training to enhance skills and collaboration among faith leaders.
- Create an incubation academy specific to faith communities to provide technical assistance and support to churches in implementing sexual health programs.
- Propose the creation of a Los Angeles County Coalition of Black Churches, funded via a Request for Proposal (RFP), aimed at combating STIs and HIV, providing comprehensive support and resources, and advocating for the sexual health needs of the community.
- Provide basic HIV, STI, and sexual health training and education to equip faith leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- Offer guidance on how to communicate with individuals living with or at risk of HIV, and how to bridge the gap between faith teachings and scientific knowledge.



FINAL THOUGHTS

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

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

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

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





BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUGUST 11, 2024

“EMPOWERING HEALTH: CONVERSATIONS ON SEXUAL
HEALTH & HIV IN BLACK IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES”

INTRODUCTION

On August 11, 2024, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus and the U.S. Africa Institute hosted a community listening session at Airport Royal Cuisine in Los Angeles. Facilitated by Damone Thomas and Kofi Peprah, this event convened members of the Black immigrant community, including the African diaspora, to discuss the stigma surrounding sexual health and HIV, challenges in accessing healthcare, and the impact of cultural factors on healthcare engagement. Attendees received a \$50 gift card, a meal, and access to community resources.

OBJECTIVE

Through community listening sessions focusing on seven key populations identified in the Black Caucus (formerly the Black/African American Community Taskforce [BAAC]) recommendations, we aim to quantify the sexual health needs of Black communities in Los Angeles County. These discussions will guide improvements in HIV prevention and care service delivery, ensuring cultural responsiveness and a comprehensive understanding of the diverse sexual health care needs of our Black communities in Los Angeles County.



KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

Mental Health Stigma: Participants voiced a pronounced reluctance within the Black immigrant community to address mental health concerns, attributing this to deep-rooted cultural beliefs and a lack of support systems. The stigma associated with mental health prevents many individuals from seeking or even discussing necessary mental health services, highlighting a critical area for community education and intervention.

Access to Information: A recurring theme was the community's struggle with accessing reliable and relevant health information. Participants noted that information about healthcare services is often not available in accessible languages or formats, which hampers the community's ability to navigate the healthcare system effectively. There is a clear need for targeted information campaigns that are linguistically and culturally appropriate.

Cultural Factors Impacting Healthcare Access: Cultural beliefs and practices were identified as significant factors that hinder access to healthcare services. Participants noted that traditional views on sexuality and health can discourage open conversations about these topics and prevent individuals from seeking care.

Cost of Healthcare: Financial constraints were identified as a major obstacle to accessing healthcare services. Many community members, especially those with uncertain immigration status, find the cost of healthcare prohibitive. This issue is compounded by a lack of insurance coverage and knowledge about available financial assistance programs, underscoring the need for cost-effective healthcare solutions and enhanced awareness of available support.

Cultural Barriers: Cultural differences, including language barriers and varying norms around discussing health, particularly sexual health, create significant obstacles. The stigma surrounding HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and other sensitive health topics makes it difficult for community members to seek help. Addressing these cultural barriers through community education and culturally competent healthcare services is vital.

Trust in Healthcare Providers: Trust emerged as a crucial factor affecting healthcare access. Concerns about confidentiality and fears that healthcare providers might share their health information within the community deter many from seeking care. Building trust through ensuring confidentiality and improving the cultural competence of healthcare providers is essential.

Religious Beliefs: Strong religious beliefs in the community often conflict with certain healthcare practices, particularly those related to sexual health and reproductive services. These beliefs can prevent individuals from seeking information and treatment for STDs and other health issues. Culturally sensitive approaches that respect religious values while providing accurate health information are needed to navigate this complex landscape.

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FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop Anonymous Online Resources: Implement online platforms that provide health information discreetly to help overcome stigma and language barriers.

Create Culturally Sensitive Safe Spaces: Establish environments where community members feel safe to discuss health issues openly, which will help in building trust and encouraging the use of healthcare services.

Promote Regular Health Checkups: Advocate for the importance of regular health screenings to foster early detection and intervention, which can also help in normalizing healthcare discussions.

Enhance Cultural Competency of Healthcare Providers: Provide training for healthcare workers to better understand and interact with diverse cultural backgrounds, improving the trust and effectiveness of the healthcare they provide.

Intensify Community Outreach: Increase efforts to educate and engage the African communities about the available healthcare resources, aiming to reduce stigma and inform about preventive measures.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This listening session was a significant step towards understanding and addressing the healthcare needs of Black immigrants in Los Angeles. By implementing the recommended strategies, there is a strong potential to improve healthcare access and outcomes for this community. Continued dialogue and partnership between community leaders, healthcare providers, and policymakers will be essential to the success of these initiatives. Emphasizing cultural sensitivity, confidentiality, and inclusivity will be key in overcoming the longstanding barriers to healthcare access faced by Black immigrants in Los Angeles County.







BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

“EMPOWER, ENGAGE & EVOLVE: SEXUAL HEALTH & HIV
DIALOGUE FOR SAME GENDER LOVING MEN ”

INTRODUCTION

On September 26, 2024, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus hosted a community listening session for same-gender-loving (SGL) Black men at APLA Health, Out Here Sexual Health Center, Baldwin Hills.

The session, facilitated by Leon Maultsby, MHA, and Dr. Donta Morrison, brought together Black and Latino gay and bisexual men aged 18 to 50+ to discuss stigma, healthcare access barriers, and cultural influences on healthcare engagement. Participants received a \$50 gift card, a meal, and sexual health resources.

OBJECTIVE

Through community listening sessions focusing on seven key populations identified in the Black Caucus (formerly the Black/African American Community Taskforce [BAAC]) recommendations, we aim to quantify the sexual health needs of Black communities in Los Angeles County. These discussions will guide improvements in HIV prevention and care service delivery, ensuring cultural responsiveness and a comprehensive understanding of the diverse sexual health care needs of our Black communities in Los Angeles County.



KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

Generational Differences in Sexual Health Awareness & Education: Participants noted generational differences in knowledge and attitudes towards sexual health, with younger generations being more open and informed. Participants emphasized the need for comprehensive, inclusive, and age-appropriate sexual health education in schools, especially for high school students. Participants spoke about how the absence of LGBTQ-focused groups within the LAUSD adds to lack of knowledge around sexual health for MSMs of color.

Barriers to Accessing Sexual Health Services: Stigma, lack of knowledge about available resources, and complex referral processes were identified as key barriers to accessing sexual health services. Participants highlighted the importance of culturally competent providers and representation in healthcare settings to address the specific needs of diverse communities.

Awareness and Utilization of Biomedical Interventions: Participants discussed the importance of awareness and access to biomedical interventions like PrEP and Doxy PEP, but noted gaps in knowledge and utilization, especially among heterosexual communities. Participants shared concerns around medical mistrust and how that contributes to why some are resistant to biomedical interventions.

Intergenerational Stigma and Shame: Participants acknowledged the intergenerational stigma and shame associated with discussing sexual health, which contributes to the lack of open conversations and disclosure. Strategies to normalize these discussions and create safe spaces for dialogue were identified as crucial.

Community Engagement and Funding Priorities: Participants stressed the importance of community engagement and targeted funding to support sexual health services that addresses the unique needs of diverse populations. The need for more community based events and testing opportunities was highlighted to increase awareness and access.

Responsibility and Disclosure in Sexual Relationships: Participants discussed the shared responsibility of both partners to be aware of their sexual health status and disclose relevant information, rather than placing the burden solely on one individual. The conversation highlighted the complexities around disclosure, especially in the context of undetectable viral load and PrEP use.

Challenges with Medical Access and Navigation: Participants shared experiences of navigating healthcare systems to access medications like PrEP and doxy PEP, emphasizing the need for referrals and the lack of provider knowledge. The importance of having a provider who is knowledgeable and can guide individuals through the process was emphasized. Participants who are HIV-found themselves having to educate their primary care physician about biomedical interventions; which created concerns about clinic/hospital inclusivity.

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FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Across Age Groups: There is a significant generational difference in knowledge, attitudes and comfort levels when discussing sexual health. Develop tailored outreach and campaigns to address generational sexual health needs.

Targeted Outreach & Awareness Campaigns: Barriers in accessing sexual health services include the lack of knowledge about available resources. Create targeted outreach and awareness campaigns.

Intergenerational Stigma and Shame: Intergenerational stigma and shame associated with discussing sexual health contributes to the lack of open conversations and disclosure. Normalize discussions and create safe spaces for dialogue through community-based programs and collaboration with trusted messengers, e.g., influencers, ambassadors, to destigmatize discussions.

Cultural Competency of Healthcare Providers: The need for culturally competent providers and representation in healthcare settings was emphasized. Invest in culturally competent healthcare providers to effectively address the needs of diverse communities and medical mistrust.

Awareness and Utilization of Biomedical Interventions: Gaps in knowledge and utilization of PrEP and Doxy PEP require comprehensive educational campaigns for providers and community along with ongoing training and support for healthcare providers.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The insights and recommendations gathered through this listening session underscore the unique challenges and opportunities in addressing sexual health within the Same Gender Loving Men community. Participants highlighted the generational differences in knowledge, attitudes and comfort levels when discussing sexual health, particularly around biomedical interventions like PrEP and Doxy PEP. Bridging this gap through comprehensive inclusive and age-appropriate education will be crucial in empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual well-being. Equally important is the need to address the persistent stigma and shame that continue to hinder open dialogues and access to essential services. By creating safe spaces for peer to peer discussions and collaborating with trusted community leaders, we can work towards normalizing these conversations and fostering a more supportive environment for same gender loving men to prioritize their sexual health.





BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OCTOBER 22, 2024

“VOICES OF STRENGTH: A LISTENING SESSION
FOR BLACK WOMEN ”

INTRODUCTION

On October 22, 2024, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus hosted a community listening session for Black women at the Dollarhide Community Center in Compton.

The session, facilitated by Danielle Campbell, MPH, PhDc, and Dr. Erica Holmes, brought together 19 Black women to share personal experiences, challenge stereotypes, and discuss systemic and cultural barriers to accessing sexual health services. Participants received a \$50 gift card, catered dinner, and access to women-centered sexual health resources.

OBJECTIVE

Through community listening sessions focusing on seven key populations identified in the Black Caucus (formerly the Black/African American Community Taskforce [BAAC]) recommendations, we aim to quantify the sexual health needs of Black communities in Los Angeles County. These discussions will guide improvements in HIV prevention and care service delivery, ensuring cultural responsiveness and a comprehensive understanding of the diverse sexual health care needs of our Black communities in Los Angeles County.



KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

Barriers to Quality Care: Participants expressed that they often feel dismissed by healthcare providers, with symptoms minimized or ignored. Participants shared stories of delayed diagnoses and the frustration of navigating fragmented systems, where they are forced to repeat medical histories over and over. This lack of continuity creates distrust and leaves them feeling that stereotypes about Black women matter more to providers than actual needs. These experiences make accessing quality care an uphill battle.

Role of Stigma and Silence: Participants shared that stigma around sexual health is a constant barrier. Fear of judgment—both from providers and within their own communities—often makes them hesitant to seek care or speak openly about their concerns. Shame and silence are deeply ingrained, and this culture prevents many of them from advocating for themselves in healthcare settings. These stigmas are not just personal struggles; they're systemic issues that need to be addressed to create safer spaces for us.

Need for Culturally Competent Care: Participants discussed desiring providers who truly understand and respect their unique experiences. Too often, Black women encounter professionals who lack cultural awareness, leaving them feeling unheard and undervalued. Building trust is crucial. Participants expressed the need for healthcare environments where they can have open, judgment-free conversations. When providers listen, validate their concerns, and genuinely care, it makes all the difference.

Holistic Healthcare is Essential: Participants called for integrated, “one-stop-shop” care models that address sexual, mental, and physical health needs in a single location. This approach would reduce barriers, streamline care, and improve communication among providers. A holistic view of health, which recognizes the interconnectedness of these aspects, is critical to ensuring equitable and comprehensive care for Black women.

Importance of Proactive Care: Many participants expressed frustration with having to request sexual health services rather than having them routinely offered by providers. This lack of proactive care often leaves Black women feeling that their needs are deprioritized, particularly when it comes to HIV and STD prevention and testing. “We want providers who take initiative and advocate for our health without us having to demand it.”

Trust in Representation: Participants expressed that having providers who look like them doesn't always guarantee culturally competent care, but it matters when they understand lived experiences. Participants shared that they have encountered providers who share their background yet still perpetuate harmful biases. Trust is built not only through shared identity but through a genuine effort to connect, listen, and treat with dignity and respect..

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FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Address Barriers to Quality Care: Black women continue to face significant barriers to quality care, including dismissive treatment, delayed diagnoses, and fragmented healthcare systems that force them to repeatedly share their medical histories. These experiences, compounded by stereotypes and implicit biases, erode trust and lead to poor health outcomes. To address these challenges, providers must undergo cultural competency training to recognize and eliminate biases, actively listen to patients, and prioritize patient-centered approaches that validate Black women's concerns and build trust.

Combat Stigma and Normalize Sexual Health Conversations: Cultural and societal stigmas around sexual health further exacerbate these issues, often deterring Black women from seeking care or discussing sensitive topics with their providers. Fear of judgment and shame perpetuate a culture of silence, limiting opportunities for self-advocacy and proactive care. Normalizing sexual health discussions in clinical settings and promoting empowering narratives through media and community engagement can help reduce stigma and encourage open dialogue.

Promote Holistic and Integrated Care Models: The interconnected nature of sexual, mental, and physical health highlights the need for holistic and integrated care models. Black women often struggle to access comprehensive services due to fragmented systems. Establishing one-stop-shop care models that co-locate services can streamline access, reduce barriers, and provide a more patient-centered experience. Holistic care approaches that address the whole person, rather than isolated symptoms, are essential.

Empower Black Women Through Education and Community Resources: Participants also emphasized the importance of education and access to resources. Many Black women lack awareness of available services and how to navigate the healthcare system effectively. Non-clinical factors, such as housing, transportation, and mental health support, also play a significant role in overall health. Expanding culturally relevant education, outreach efforts, and partnerships with community organizations can empower Black women to advocate for their health and address these broader needs.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Women’s Listening Session highlighted critical gaps in healthcare for Black women in Los Angeles County and underscored the urgent need for systemic change. The insights shared by participants highlighted the profound impact of cultural stigmas, provider biases, and fragmented care systems on their health outcomes.

The session emphasized that addressing these barriers requires a collaborative effort among providers, policymakers, and community stakeholders to ensure that healthcare systems are equitable, accessible, and culturally competent.

As one participant shared, “There’s so much that plays a role in why we speak up, what we say when we speak up, and how we say it.” By prioritizing the voices of Black women and taking actionable steps to address their concerns, we can create a healthcare system that truly meets the needs of all its patients.





Get Ready for Co-Chair Open Nominations & Elections: Your Questions Answered!

Greetings! It's that time of year again—election season is upon us, not just for general elections, but also for our Commission, Committee and Caucus Co-Chairs. The nomination and election process for COH, Committee, and Caucus Co-Chairs is underway. Below is a quick FAQ to help you prepare and make an informed decision about becoming a Co-Chair.

Am I Eligible?

**Per COH Bylaws, Policies #08.1102 and #08.1104*

Commission Co-Chairs (Nominations remain open until the January 9, 2025, COH meeting)

(2) Commission Co-Chairs have two-year staggered terms – one co-chair seat is up for election which will serve the Jan 2025-Dec 2026 term.

- Only voting Commissioners can serve as Commission Co-Chairs.
- Candidates must have at least one year of service on the Commission to ensure leadership diversity and representation.
- At least one Co-Chair must be HIV-positive, and at least one must be a person of color. It is also preferred that at least one Co-Chair is female.

Committee Co-Chairs (Nominations will open by December, with elections in January 2025)

(2) Committee Co-Chairs serve one-year terms – all co-chair seats are up for election which will serve the Jan-Dec 2025 term.

- The Commission does not impose specific requirements, though one year of experience on the Committee is strongly encouraged.
- Nominees must be primary members of the Committee, not serving in alternate or secondary roles.
- Only Commissioners can serve as Co-Chairs.

Caucus Co-Chairs (Nominations will open by December, with elections in January 2025)

Caucuses typically have two Co-Chairs serving one-year terms, except the Consumer Caucus, which has three seats, including a prevention representative. All co-chair seats are up for election which will serve the Jan-Dec 2025 term.

- One Co-Chair must be a Commissioner to ensure that the Caucus activities are aligned with the COH's scope, goals and objectives
- Note: Caucuses are not subject to Brown Act requirements but work with COH consent to set their own leadership structure, guidelines, membership, and activities.

****All Co-Chair candidates will be asked to provide a brief statement before the election.***

What Are the Co-Chair Roles & Responsibilities?

- Lead COH/committee/caucus activities and meetings.

- Set agendas for meetings in collaboration with staff.
- Develop work plans with the Executive Director and staff.
- Facilitate meetings, guiding discussion and ensuring effective workflow.
- Summarize discussions and assist in developing work products.
- Act on behalf of the group and communicate with stakeholders.

How Should I Prepare?

- Honestly assess your accessibility, bandwidth, and time to ensure you are able to show up fully and prepared. *Co-Chair roles require at least 10-12 commitment hours per month.*
- Review the [COH Co-Chair training slides](#) to understand the role's expectations
- Familiarize yourself with the:
 - [Ryan White Program Part A Planning Council Primer](#),
 - [COH bylaws](#),
 - [COH Co-Chair Duty Statement](#) (if applicable),
 - [Committee Co-Chair Duty Statement](#) (if applicable)
 - [Required Commissioner trainings](#).

Ready to take on a leadership role? Nominate yourself or a colleague and help guide our collective work toward meaningful community impact! If you have questions, please reach out to your respective staff lead.