



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



RESILIENCE



in UNCERTAIN

TIMES:



Advancing HIV Planning Together

2025-26 Annual Report
March 2026

Submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Prepared by Commission staff in partnership with Commissioners, committees, caucuses, and community stakeholders.



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MESSAGE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ryan White Program Year 35 (RWPY35: March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026) was a year of both continuity and change. The Commission maintained its core Ryan White planning responsibilities: including needs assessment, community engagement, service standards, resource allocation, and preparation for the next Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan —while also completing a major governance restructuring intended to strengthen effectiveness, compliance, and public accountability.

Throughout 2025 and into early 2026, the Commission worked in a complex environment shaped by fiscal uncertainty and disruptions across prevention infrastructure. Even with limited capacity, Commissioners, community members, public health partners, and County stakeholders showed up consistently, asked hard questions, and stayed focused on what matters most: ensuring people living with HIV and communities most impacted by HIV can access high-quality care and support services across Los Angeles County.

VISION

A comprehensive, sustainable, accessible system of prevention and care that empowers 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 Commission on HIV focuses on the local HIV/AIDS epidemic and responds to the changing needs of People Living With HIV/AIDS within the communities of Los Angeles County.

The Commission on HIV 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 is inclusive of all Service Planning Areas (SPAs) and Health Districts (HDs).

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER, GENDER EXPANSIVE, INTERSEX, AND TWO-SPIRIT (TGI2S+) COMMUNITIES

(APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIV 4/10/25)

The Transgender Caucus of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV condemns all forms of hate and violence and remains steadfast in solidarity with our Transgender, Gender Expansive, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (TGI2S+) community. The HIV/AIDS movement knows too well that the proliferation of disinformation created with the aim of restricting access to healthcare has real-life consequences. The harmful rhetoric of the current administration against the TGI2S+ community is rooted in the same forms of racism, discrimination, sexism, and misogyny that continue to hinder our progress in ending HIV/AIDS.

We recognize the contributions and leadership of TGI2S+ people who continue to enrich the LGBTQ+ civil rights and the HIV/AIDS movements. We acknowledge the achievements of TGI2S+ people in the United States and across the world and recognize their bravery and resilience in their hard-fought work for equality, inclusion, and the full recognition of their human rights. We are determined to advocate fiercely, and unapologetically, for the safety, health, and well-being of our TGI2S+ community. This is not just our responsibility; it is our moral imperative. In the face of societal and political challenges that attempt to divide us, we affirm our unwavering stance:

- Every person—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, background, disabilities, immigration status, race, faith, culture, or housing situation—deserves to be seen, feel safe, and supported.
- We reject any attempt to undermine dignity, create division, or deny the right to gender-affirming care, HIV prevention and care service delivery, and to be safe in the workplace.
- We call on our allies to speak out against the demonization of the TGI2S+ community and remain diligent and committed to actively engaging in policy action that promotes health equity, eliminates barriers, and addresses social determinants of health.
- We stand in memoriam of our TGI2S+ community members, siblings, and loved ones who have been lost to hateful acts of violence, police brutality, and HIV/AIDS. We celebrate the strength, joy, and courage of our TGI siblings who remind us that visibility is both a powerful act of resistance and ray of hope.

In solidarity,

Transgender Caucus of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV

If you are interested in joining us in developing a progressive and inclusive agenda to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/STDs within our TGI2S+ communities in Los Angeles County, please contact us at hivcomm@lachiv.org.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF RWPY35

RWPY35 is best understood through a few defining moments, each connected by one throughline: community voice shaped the work.

1. Commission Restructure: Modernizing Governance to Strengthen Accountability

The Commission advanced its Comprehensive Effectiveness Review & Restructuring Project to modernize governance, strengthen compliance, reduce administrative burden, and build a planning body that is more nimble and more reflective of communities most impacted by HIV.

2. February 13 Consumer Resource Fair: Theme “Love Begins with Me”

The Commission’s caucuses hosted a whole-person resource fair led by the Consumer Caucus, bringing community members and providers together for access, connection, and care—housing, benefits enrollment, legal resources, wellness, and more.

3. November 13 Annual Conference: Theme “Resilience in Uncertain Times”

The Commission convened community, providers, researchers, and policymakers for a conference grounded in honesty and shared purpose—reinforcing that progress requires aligned messaging, coordinated outreach, and relationship-based partnership across sectors.

4. Planning, Priorities, and Allocations (PP&A) Committee Contingency Planning: Funding Stewardship Amid Prevention and Care Uncertainty

Across the year, the PP&A Committee and the full Commission engaged in allocation scenario review and contingency planning in response to uncertainty affecting prevention infrastructure and the broader HIV care continuum. The Commission approved three contingent funding scenarios to support continuity of services and responsible planning under shifting conditions.



5. Preparing for the 2027-2031 Integrated HIV Plan

During RWPY35, the Commission also remained engaged in preparation for the next Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan for 2027-2031, which will be led by the California Department of Public Health

6. World AIDS Day: Standing with Community (Dec 1)

The Commission issued a [World AIDS Day message](#) honoring remembrance, resilience, and shared responsibility, and the Black Caucus hosted a community townhall focused on Black sexual health and the fight for funding—centered in community voice, clinical insight, research, and a shared call to action.

1. COMMISSION OVERVIEW & MANDATE

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV serves as the County's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A planning body. The Ryan White Program, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), supports comprehensive HIV care and support services for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured people living with HIV.

In Los Angeles County, the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) serve as the Part A grant recipient, and the Commission fulfills the planning body responsibilities required under federal law and County ordinance. These responsibilities include conducting needs assessments, setting service priorities, allocating resources, developing service standards, and ensuring planning decisions are informed by community voice and data.

Core planning responsibilities:

- Needs assessment and identification of HIV service gaps and barriers
- Priority setting and resource allocation within the Ryan White Part A portfolio
- Service standards development and approval to support consistent service quality
- Community engagement and meaningful involvement of people with lived experience
- Integrated HIV planning, including review and concurrence on the federally required Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan in partnership with state and local public health entities
- Governance practices that uphold public accountability and conflict-of-interest safeguards

2. RWPY35 SYSTEM CONTEXT

RWPY35 occurred during a period of fiscal volatility and programmatic uncertainty. Meeting discussions reflected shifting funding conditions and acute strain within prevention infrastructure. The Commission's planning work, particularly allocation contingency planning, was shaped by the need to protect continuity of services and respond to real-time impacts reported by providers and public health partners.



3. MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

3.1 Comprehensive Effectiveness Review & Restructuring Project

RWPY35 marks the culmination of the Commission’s Comprehensive Effectiveness Review & Restructuring Project. The restructure was designed to modernize governance, strengthen compliance, reduce administrative burden, and build a membership structure that is both more nimble and more reflective of the communities most impacted by HIV.

Why the Commission restructured

The restructuring aligned with the County’s Measure G to modernize commissions for sustainability, efficiency, and accountability. It also responded to HRSA technical assistance findings emphasizing stronger conflict-of-interest safeguards, clearer term limits, improved committee structure, and consistent planning procedures. Additional drivers included quorum challenges associated with the previous 51-seat structure, budget constraints, and the evolving HIV landscape requiring more specialized planning capacity.

Community input and transparency

The restructuring incorporated extensive community and stakeholder engagement, including workgroups, structured feedback opportunities, and multiple public comment periods. Public input addressed issues such as stipend supports, conflict-of-interest rules, committee and caucus structure, quorum and attendance challenges, Brown Act requirements, and meeting frequency. County Counsel, DHSP partners, and other stakeholders also contributed to review and refinement.

Approved governance changes

- Membership was reduced from 51 to 32 full voting members.
- Committee structure streamlined and aligned to core planning functions.
- Operations Committee evolved into the Membership & Community Engagement (MCE) Committee under the new structure.
- Public Policy Committee sunset, elevating applicable policy and legislative activities to the Executive Committee
- Meeting schedule adjusted to reduce administrative burden while supporting required public engagement.
- Conflict-of-interest provisions strengthened, and Code of Conduct updated.
- Term limits clarified: up to three consecutive two-year terms, followed by a required break period.
- Expanded committee-only participation to support stakeholder involvement and expertise

Countywide Membership Recruitment Effort

As part of the restructuring process, the Commission launched a robust countywide membership drive to recruit a diverse, reflective, and engaged body of stakeholders from across Los Angeles County. Outreach was broad and intentional, with efforts focused on reaching consumers and clients, service providers, academia, community partners, and others connected to HIV prevention, care, treatment, housing, and support services. This outreach reflected the Commission’s commitment to ensuring that the next membership cohort would be grounded in community voice and informed by the lived and professional experiences of those most connected to the work.

The membership drive resulted in more than 93 applications, including 53 for full membership and the remaining for committee-only membership. The strong response reflected broad interest in the Commission’s work and affirmed the importance of creating multiple pathways for participation. It also demonstrated meaningful engagement from stakeholders across sectors who are invested in helping shape the future of HIV planning in Los Angeles County.

This recruitment effort was an important part of the Commission’s broader transition to a smaller, more agile structure while maintaining broad opportunities for engagement. It helped lay the groundwork for a membership body that is better positioned to reflect the communities most impacted by HIV and to carry the Commission’s work forward with accountability, inclusiveness, and care.

This work followed two major Commission milestones. First, the Commission approved its revised Bylaws on December 11, 2025, a historic moment that strengthened the foundation for how the Commission governs, plans, and remains accountable to the communities it serves. Then, at the Commission’s February 12, 2026, meeting, a new membership slate was approved, ushering in a new cohort of diverse stakeholders prepared to carry the work forward.

“We stand on the shoulders of giants”, stated former Commissioner Kevin Donnelly, “... and this new membership will stand on the shoulders of those serving now, because they are the giants.” This transition reflects a warm handoff, honoring those who have served and helped sustain the Commission through years of planning, advocacy, and community leadership.



3.2 February 13 Consumer Resource Fair: “Love Begins with Me”[\[a\]](#)

On February 13, 2025, over 200 community members braved the rain to attend the Consumer Resource Fair at The California Endowment. Hosted by the caucuses of the Commission and led by the Consumer Caucus, the event reflected the theme “Love Begins with Me,” emphasizing self-care, empowerment, and access to resources that support whole-person care for people living with and impacted by HIV.

More than 60 County vendors and service providers participated, offering housing assistance, legal aid, financial literacy, mental health services, employment opportunities, technology access, food assistance, and on-site enrollment support. Attendees were given a “passport” and encouraged to visit multiple vendor and resource tables, speak with representatives, and collect stamps or signatures along the way. The passport activity served as an interactive strategy to promote meaningful engagement between participants and providers throughout the event.

The activity helped create a more intentional flow of interaction, encouraged participants to explore a broader range of services and supports, and increased exposure to resources they may not have otherwise accessed. More than 57 completed passports were submitted, and five participants were selected to receive \$100 Visa gift cards as an added incentive for participation.

Workshops included a housing rights and legal advocacy session led by the Inner-City Law Center. Wellness was also part of the day through movement opportunities, including Zumba sessions led by Commission staff, Jose Rangel-Garibay, and Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) staff, Paulina Zamudio.

Vendor feedback praised the structure and turnout and lifted challenges providers continue to face in meeting community needs, including difficulty reaching those who need help most and ongoing barriers to accessible housing resources. Attendees shared that the fair stood out because they left with tangible resources—not just brochures—reinforcing that people are more than a diagnosis.

The event was supported by volunteers and students from Charles Drew University and USC, with sponsorship from the City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator’s Office, Gilead Sciences, Charles Drew University, and The California Endowment ... with appreciation extended to Commission staff for coordination and planning.



3.3 November 13 Annual Conference: “Resilience in Uncertain Times: Advancing HIV Science, Policy, and Community Together”

On November 13, 2025, the Commission held its Annual Conference at St. Anne’s Event & Conference Center, bringing together community members, partners, Commissioners, service providers, researchers, and policymakers for a day rooted in honesty, connection, and collective purpose. The conference opened with a welcome, moment of silence, and land acknowledgment led by Commission Co-Chairs Dr. Danielle Campbell and Joseph Green.

The day included opening remarks from Dr. Marisa Ramos, Chief, California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS, and a [written message from Congresswoman Maxine Waters](#) reaffirming commitment to protecting HIV prevention, care, housing, and research programs. The conference also included a segment on “Reimagining the Commission,” led by Commissioner Green and consultant AJ King, walking attendees through the restructure and the vision behind strengthening the Commission’s ability to respond to community needs with clarity and purpose. DHSP Director Mario J. Pérez, MPH, delivered a State of HIV & STIs in Los Angeles County overview to ground the conversation in current conditions and persistent gaps.

The day included several panel discussions focusing on research, policy, and community engagement. The research panel emphasized that scientific breakthroughs only matter when communities can access them and when research is guided by lived experience. The policy panel centered the reality that policy choices determine who is protected and who is left behind, with an emphasis on coalition-building and strategic advocacy to safeguard essential programs. The keynote address (Robert Gamboa, Los Angeles LGBT Center) focused on the PrEP and PEP Are Prevention Act (H.R. 5127) and reinforced that systems of care are built with communities, not for communities.

In the closing session, the conference participants identified shared priorities. The final calls to action were:

- Strengthen authentic relationship-building across community, Commissioners, partners, and policymakers.
- Develop a universal sexual health marketing campaign that agencies can adapt and use countywide.
- Create a coordinated, all-agency social media campaign to expand awareness of HIV prevention services throughout Los Angeles County.



3.4 World AIDS Day (December 1)

On December 1, 2025, the Commission issued a World AIDS Day message honoring remembrance, reflection, and renewed commitment. The message recognized major milestones reached during the year including structural reforms, strengthened standards and policies, expanded community engagement through listening sessions, and continued uplifting the voices of those most impacted, made possible through partnership with community members, providers, advocates, County partners, and Commissioners.



The message also acknowledged that the work remains unfinished, naming funding shifts and persistent disparities that continue to harm Black, Latine/s/x, Transgender, same gender loving and sexual minority men, women, youth, older adults, and people experiencing housing instability and reaffirmed the need to stay connected, aligned, and committed to doing this work together.

In addition, in commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Black Caucus hosted a community townhall on December 5, 2025: "The State of Black Sexual Health and the Fight for Funding," held at Jesse Owens Community Regional Park Gymnasium. The program included opening remarks from DHSP Director Mario J. Pérez, MPH; clinical and research insights from Dr. Leo Moore and Dr. Nina Harawa; a community data spotlight led by Black Caucus Co-Chair and member, Dr. Leon Maultsby and Roxanne Lewis; and an open community dialogue facilitated by Dr. Dontá Morrison. The townhall also featured a [Charles R. Drew University DREW Cares Women & PrEP promotional video](#) presented by Shellye Jones and offered community resources, free HIV testing courtesy of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), and engagement activities.



4. STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1 Executive Committee (Co-Chairs: Dr. Danielle Campbell & Joseph Green)

The Executive Committee played a critical role in shepherding the Commission's restructure during periods when full Commission meetings were not held. The Committee helped maintain continuity and momentum throughout a significant period of transition. The Executive Committee also served as a steward of the Commission's planning activities amid uncertainty, helping to advance key matters and support the stability and continuity of the Commission's work.

4.2 Operations Committee (Co-Chairs: Miguel Alvarez & Vilma Mendoza)

The Operations Committee advanced governance and planning support that strengthened Commissioner readiness, improved compliance alignment, and reinforced the membership infrastructure needed to carry the Commission's work through transition. Documented accomplishments include development and approval of a comprehensive 2025 Work Plan; coordinated commissioner trainings (Ryan White Care Act overview and membership responsibilities, bylaws review); a comprehensive bylaws review aligned with HRSA requirements and 2023 technical assistance findings; quarterly Parity, Inclusion, and Representation (PIR) review; improvements to recruitment and engagement strategies; and review and enhancement of the Mentorship Program including a one-page FAQ sheet.

4.3 Standards & Best Practices Committee (Co-Chairs: Erika Davies & Arlene Frames)

The Standards & Best Practices (SBP) Committee supported service quality and consistency through training and service standard development. SBP held a mini training on January 7, 2025, covering the service standard development process and SBP's role. In 2025, SBP revised advanced revisions for several service standards including Temporary Housing Services (RCFCI, TRCF, TH), Permanent Supportive Housing Services, Transitional Case Management (Justice-Involved Individuals, Youth, Older Adults 50+), Non-Medical Case Management (Patient Support Services), and Mental Health Services. SBP also highlighted collaboration between Transitional Case Management staff and Benefits Specialty Services staff in a challenging budget environment.

4.4 Public Policy Committee (Co-Chairs: Lee Kochems & Katja Nelson)

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) developed policy priorities and a 2025 legislative docket to provide community perspectives on HIV, STDs, reproductive rights, access to care, and social justice inequities. The committee received training from CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations on legislative processes and advocacy mechanisms available to commissions. The Commission continues to serve as a resource partner and community sounding board on policy issues that affect HIV prevention and care and the social conditions shaping health outcomes.

4.5 Planning, Priorities & Allocations Committee (Co-Chairs: Kevin Donnelly & Daryl Russell)

Throughout 2025, the Planning, Priorities & Allocations (PP&A) Committee operated amid persistent uncertainty regarding the stability of federal HIV funding and potential funding cuts. The committee

conducted detailed reviews of funding trends, HRSA guidance, and local service utilization and expenditure data, and engaged in scenario planning over several months to prepare for funding fluctuations and protect continuity of care. The committee emphasized protecting core HIV medical services while also reinforcing that support services—food, housing-related services, transportation—are essential to retention in care and viral suppression. The committee also elevated prevention as integral to the continuum, particularly amid strain affecting prevention providers and infrastructure.

At the May 8, 2025, Commission meeting, the full body reviewed allocation scenarios developed through the PP&A committee and approved three contingent funding scenarios through RWP35.

5. CAUCUSES AND TASKFORCE

Staying Grounded ... How We Convene with Purpose

As part of the Commission's broader efficiency review and in response to real capacity constraints, there were ongoing discussions about how to strengthen the effectiveness of caucuses, task forces, and other subordinate working units while keeping their work clearly tied to the Commission's core planning charge.

One clear step forward was the development of the PURGE tool, created by staff as a simple, consistent way to decide when a working unit should be convened:

- **Purpose** - Is there a clear purpose or deliverable?
- **Urgency** - Is the matter time-sensitive?
- **Readiness** - Are materials and leadership readiness confirmed?
- **Goal Alignment** - Does the topic align with Commission goals or an approved motion?
- **Engagement** - Will there be sufficient participation to justify convening a meeting

5.1 Aging Caucus

(Co-Chairs: Kevin Donnelly and Dr. Paul Nash)

The Aging Caucus elevated the needs and resilience of older adults living with HIV and emphasized partnership, consumer leadership, and education. The year culminated in [The Power of Aging](#) event on September 19 in honor of National HIV and Aging Awareness Day, including consumer and provider panels and sessions focused on Medicare and lifelong learning.





5.2 Black Caucus

(Co-Chairs: Dr. Leon Maultsby, Dr. Danielle Campbell, and Dechelle Richardson)

Throughout 2025, the Black Caucus focused on creating intentional space for honest dialogue, connection, and community-informed engagement around the disproportionate impact of HIV on Black/African American communities across Los Angeles County. The year centered on listening, storytelling, and convening, ensuring Black voices were not only present, but meaningfully reflected in conversations about sexual health, HIV prevention, care, and systems-level challenges.

The year included National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day activities, including a **community game night** designed to foster connection, reduce stigma, and create accessible entry points for conversation about sexual health and wellness, including shared meals, resources, and onsite HIV testing. The Caucus also shared an **infographic** highlighting key insights from Black community listening sessions to amplify community voice and inform ongoing dialogue and action.

Building on that engagement, the Caucus facilitated and uplifted insights from listening sessions centered on **non-traditional HIV providers, members of the transgender community in partnership with the Transgender Caucus, and Black-led service organizations**, focused on gaps in access, challenges navigating systems, workforce and capacity constraints, and the importance of culturally grounded, community-led approaches.

In parallel, the Caucus launched the **Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness campaign**, a community-led storytelling effort inviting Black people living with HIV, working in the

AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

Join Us

BLACK VOICES FOR HIV HEALTH & WELLNESS

Join the movement by sharing and using #LACOHBlackCaucus and #BlackVoices4HIVHealthWellness

Black Voices for HIV Health & Wellness is a community-led storytelling campaign led by the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Black Caucus that honors the real-life experiences of Black people living with, working in the field of, and caring for those impacted by HIV in Los Angeles County. Whether you're a consumer, provider, advocate, or ally—*your story matters.*

At a time when HIV funding and services are being threatened across the country, our Black communities are at greater risk of being left behind. That's why now, more than ever, *we must speak up.*

By *sharing our truths* through **short videos, written reflections, and creative expressions**, we shine a light on the continued need for **accessible, affirming, and culturally responsive HIV services.** Together, we'll raise awareness, inspire action, and remind the world that behind every number is a name, a face, and a story that deserves to be heard—and protected.

- Short videos (up to 2 minutes)
- Written testimonials (250 words or less)
- Artwork or creative content that reflects your experience

All submissions will be reviewed and may be featured on our social media and advocacy platforms as part of our campaign to center Black voices and push for the resources we deserve. Let's raise our voices—together. Send your submissions along with your social media handle(s) or any questions to hivcomm@lachiv.org.

field, and caring for those impacted to share experiences through short videos, written reflections, and creative expression.

For the third year in a row, the Caucus participated in **Taste of Soul**, connecting with more than 300 community members through outreach, education, resource sharing, and a brief survey to expand awareness of prevention, care, and supportive services.

The year culminated with the [World AIDS Day 2025 Community Townhall](#) on December 5, held at Jesse Owens Community Regional Park Gymnasium, featuring clinical, research, community, and systems-level perspectives, facilitated dialogue, and onsite HIV testing through AHF's mobile testing van. The Caucus expressed gratitude to the office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell for support and sponsorship.

In early 2026, the Black Caucus continued its commitment to community engagement through activities aligned with [Black History Month](#) and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD).

The Black Caucus participated in a Black History Month event hosted by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, where members tabled, shared educational resources, and delivered a brief presentation encouraging community members to know their HIV status as an act of self-care and community responsibility. Attendees were invited to access free, confidential HIV testing provided onsite by AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), with gift card incentives provided to those who participated.

The Black Caucus also convened a [Youth Listening Session](#) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Youth Commission and First Star Bruin Guardian Scholars, bringing together 25 youth and young adults to share their experiences navigating healthcare and accessing sexual health information.

Participants emphasized the importance of clear communication from providers, holistic approaches to care that include mental health, and healthcare environments that respect youth autonomy and lived experiences. These insights reinforced the need for youth-centered, culturally responsive approaches to HIV prevention and care moving forward.

Together, these activities reflect the Black Caucus' continued commitment to uplifting Black voices, supporting youth engagement, and strengthening HIV prevention and care through community-centered dialogue and outreach.

5.3 Consumer Caucus

(Co-Chairs: Alasdair Burton, Vilma Mendoza & Ish Herrera)

In 2025, the Consumer Caucus advanced meaningful involvement by people living with HIV/AIDS (MIPA) by keeping lived experience at the center of Commission planning and decision-making. The Caucus elevated consumer voice throughout the restructuring process so that community realities informed membership changes, committee alignment, and stipend planning, while also supporting leadership transitions and reaffirming the Caucus' role in the Commission's planning work.



The Caucus strengthened community engagement through two listening sessions designed to surface barriers and translate feedback into actionable recommendations. This included a [Dental Services listening session](#) focused on access challenges and service gaps, with a written summary and plans for follow-up provider and consumer input, and a Ryan White Program and Medi-Cal listening session where over 30 participants contributed recommendations related to eligibility, transitions, and continuity of care.

The Caucus also brought lived experience directly into service standards work, providing early input on Housing Services standards prior to Commission approval, offering feedback on Dental Services standards and priorities for additional data collection, and reviewing Patient Support Services standards, including eligibility questions and outreach encouraging broad consumer participation during public comment.

A major focus of the year was strengthening and clarifying stipend policy. The Caucus completed a multi-month review of stipend requirements, expectations, and accountability, pending Commission and Board action.

The Caucus also reinforced consumer participation and advocacy during a period of funding uncertainty. It elevated concerns about HIV funding cuts, encouraged deeper community advocacy and public comment, and supported outreach strategies to boost participation, including meeting-location flexibility and resource support.

The Caucus updated and aligned its 2025 workplan with evolving Commission priorities, prepared fall and winter sessions focused on standards review, website and forms training, and updated CQM presentations, and adapted to new Brown Act guidance through PURGE-driven scheduling tool and strengthened compliance practices.

In partnership with the Commission's caucuses, the Consumer Caucus also helped lead and coordinate the February 13 Consumer Resource Fair, which drew over 200 attendees and more than 60 vendors and service providers, expanding access to housing assistance, legal aid, food assistance, mental health services, benefits enrollment supports, and other whole-person resources.

Finally, the Caucus kept community wellness visible throughout the year by reinforcing routine check-ins that grounded the work in what people are experiencing right now, including the simple practice of asking, "How are you doing ... what do you need right now?"



5.4 Transgender Caucus

(Co-Chairs: Chi-Chi Navarro, Diamond Paulk & Rita Garcia)

In 2025, the Transgender Caucus continued to affirm safety, dignity, and access to care for Transgender, Gender Expansive, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (TGI2S+) communities through its [statement of solidarity](#). In response to harmful rhetoric and ongoing threats to gender-affirming care, the Caucus reaffirmed that every person deserves to be seen, feel safe, and supported, and rejected efforts to create division or deny access to HIV prevention and care services and safe workplace protections.

The Caucus also partnered with the Black Caucus and AMAAD Institute to conduct a [listening session](#) on AMAAD in South Los Angeles, centered on the voices and experiences of the Black transgender community. Facilitated by Transgender Caucus co-chair, Diamond Paulk, the session focused on stigma, safety, and structural barriers impacting access to culturally responsive, affirming care. Participants emphasized the need for providers who deliver care with dignity and respect, stronger cultural humility in clinical settings, and wraparound “one-stop” models that reduce barriers and support overall wellness.

5.5 Women’s Caucus

(Co-Chairs: Shary Alonzo & Dr. Mikhaela Cielo)

In 2025, the Women’s Caucus conducted [listening sessions](#) across Los Angeles County to better understand the needs of women living with HIV and those impacted by HIV, with attention to [monolingual Spanish-speaking women](#), women of color, and transgender women. Themes included mental health gaps, healthcare inconsistencies, stigma and discrimination, the need for women-centered and trans-affirming spaces, structural barriers, and gaps in inclusive sexual health education. Across all sessions, women demonstrated resilience, advocacy, and a strong desire to be partners in shaping services that affect their lives. Recommendations included expanding trauma-informed, culturally competent mental health services and developing women-centered clinics and programs, including women-only support groups inclusive of cisgender and transgender women.

THE BLACK CAUCUS PRESENTS
CENTERING THE VOICES OF THE BLACK TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN LA COUNTY

The **Black Caucus of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV**, in partnership with the **Transgender Caucus**, and **AMAAD Institute**, invite **Black transgender individuals** to join a dedicated **in-person** community listening session focused on your lived experiences, insights, and needs related to **sexual health, wellness, and healthcare access**. This is a space to speak freely, be heard, and help shape systems of care that reflect and respect your identity, truth, and brilliance.

We want to hear from you about:

- Barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services
- Experiences of stigma, discrimination, and resilience in care settings
- What culturally responsive and affirming care looks like
- What support, resources, and advocacy are needed

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 @ 5-7PM
**South Los Angeles - exact location will be shared upon confirmed registration*

Participants will receive:
✓ \$50 Visa Gift Card (while supplies last) ✓ Light Refreshments
✓ Community Resources

Spaces are limited to ensure an intimate, respectful space. Capacity is capped at 25 participants. Registration is required.

REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/45emdskb>

**SESION DE ESCUCHA ESTE DE LOS ANGELES:
ATENDIENDO LAS NECESIDADES DE
SALUD SEXUAL DE LAS MUJERES**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV

VALORAMOS SU VOZ. SUS EXPERIENCIAS IMPORTAN

Esta sesión de escucha tiene como objetivo recopilar ideas de mujeres que viven con o están afectadas por el VIH, para comprender mejor sus necesidades de salud sexual y atención del VIH. Toda la información personal compartida durante la sesión permanecerá confidencial. Su privacidad y comodidad son nuestra máxima prioridad.

QUÉ ESPERAR:

- Comparta sus experiencias en un ambiente seguro y de apoyo
- Conéctese con otras mujeres que entienden su trayectoria.
- **El espacio es limitado; Favor de registrarse para confirmar su participación**
- Recibirá una tarjeta de regalo de \$25

Oficinas Administrativas de MCA (Keck Medicine of USC)
1640 Marengo St. Suite #300
Los Angeles, CA 90033

18, Junio 2025
10am a 12pm

REGÍSTRASE AHORA

<https://tinyurl.com/258kmyec>

¿POR QUÉ ASISTIR?

Sus comentarios ayudarán a informar el desarrollo de servicios de atención médica electivos y adaptados a las experiencias de las mujeres.

****Esta sesión de escucha será solo en persona y se llevará a cabo en español ****

5.6 Housing Focus: Housing Task Force (HTF)

(Co-Chairs: Katja Nelson & Dr. David Hardy)

Housing stability remains central to health outcomes for PLWH and those at risk. The HTF convened deeper conversations with Ryan White housing and legal service providers and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) to better understand housing needs and service gaps. To ensure consumer voice directly informed planning, the HTF administered a [Housing Needs Survey](#) (SurveyMonkey; July–August; N=50) as a needs assessment activity intended to help inform planning efforts, service standards development, priority setting and resource allocations, and policy strategies.

The survey reflected both stability and vulnerability: the most common current housing situation was renting (41%), followed by subsidized housing/housing assistance programs (24%) and staying with a friend/relative (16%). Nearly half of respondents reported no unstable housing experiences in the last two years (48%), while others reported instability including temporarily staying with family/friends without contributing to rent (29%) and living outside or in places not meant for shelter (27%). The most common barriers to obtaining housing in the past 12 months were not having enough money for a deposit (47%) and not being able to find affordable housing (33%); challenges maintaining housing included difficulty paying rent, mortgage, or utilities (47%). Respondents also described how housing and basic needs pressures can interfere with health, including not having money to pay rent (33%), not having enough food (20%), and not feeling safe (20%). If respondents lost their current housing, the most common expectations were living with friends/family (42%) or living on the streets (40%).

In addition to survey work, the HTF monitored housing access issues affecting clients and service systems, including federal housing budget updates and Section 8 updates through the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), including notices to applicants/participants, changes effective August 1, 2025, and a pause in processing housing applications and voucher issuance affecting applicants/participants, as documented in HTF materials.

6. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Funding volatility required ongoing contingency planning and disciplined stewardship.
- Prevention infrastructure strain created downstream impacts and reinforced the need to keep prevention centered in planning.
- Staff capacity constraints increased the urgency of streamlining governance, meeting cadence, and administrative processes.
- Structural change requires transparency and care; the Commission relied on clear communication and equitable safeguards to maintain integrity during transition.

7. LOOKING AHEAD TO RWPY36

In the early months of 2026, many Commission meetings, standing committee meetings, and caucus meetings were placed on a brief hiatus to allow for a thoughtful and intentional transition. We are grateful to everyone who supported this process along the way ... Commissioners, committee and caucus leaders, community members, providers, County partners, and Commission staff.

We also recognize that this brief reprieve matters. In times of uncertainty, our communities need room to breathe. Our hope is that this pause offers a measure of respite, and that we return with renewed focus, clarity, and energy to do what this Commission exists to do: improve the lives of people living with and impacted by HIV in Los Angeles County.

With the governance structure modernized and the membership transition near completion, the Commission enters RWPY36 positioned to operate as a smaller, more nimble planning body while maintaining broad participation through committee-only membership pathways. The Commission will continue to center community voice, strengthen prevention planning, and support service quality through continued standards review and data-informed prioritization. RWPY36 will also bring forward the Commission's role in review and concurrence of the 2027-2031 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, led by the California Department of Public Health Office of AIDS in partnership with local jurisdictions, including Los Angeles County, with community review, concurrence, submission, and implementation planning advancing through 2026.

COMMISSION STAFF: SUSTAINING THE WORK IN UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC TIMES

RWPY35 unfolded amid economic uncertainty across the County. As departments navigated curtailment exercises and workforce pressures, Commission staffing capacity remained under strain. At the same time, the Commission prepared for a major leadership transition with the anticipated retirement of Executive Director Cheryl Barrit, creating a dual challenge: sustaining the day-to-day requirements of a federally mandated planning body while carrying the intensive workload of a full governance restructure and membership transition.

Prior to approval of the Commission's smaller, less frequent meeting structure, staff supported more than 145 public meetings annually, reflecting the scale of public-facing operations, Brown Act requirements, and community access maintained throughout the year.

Even under these constraints, staff kept the Commission moving with consistency, care, and creativity. Staff held the line on compliance and transparency, protected the integrity of the public process, and ensured community voice remained accessible through meeting operations, committee and caucus support, and ongoing communication with Commissioners, applicants, County partners, and community stakeholders. Staff also managed complex restructuring deliverables and membership transition logistics while balancing competing deadlines and evolving requirements.

In a year where capacity was tight, staff leaned on creative problem-solving and steady collaboration to streamline processes, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, and keep planning work on track. Despite economic pressure and staffing constraints, staff's commitment and service mindset helped ensure the Commission met its required planning functions and strengthened its foundation for the year ahead.

We express our appreciation and gratitude to Cheryl Barrit for her leadership and service as Executive Director for nearly ten years. Her steady guidance and commitment to the work helped the Commission through important years of planning, partnership, and community engagement.

- Cheryl Barrit, MPIA ... former Executive Director (retired August 31, 2025)
- Dawn McClendon ... Interim Executive Director/Assistant Director
- Jose Rangel-Garibay, MPH ... Health Program Analyst II
- Lizette Martinez, MPH ... Health Program Analyst I
- Sonja Wright, DACM ... Senior Board Specialist



CLOSING IN GRATITUDE

With gratitude, we recognize every person who contributed to this work ... Commissioners, committee and caucus members, consumers, service providers, the Division of HIV and STD Programs, County partners, and members of the public. RWPY35 required perseverance, honesty, and careful stewardship, and this body met the moment with steady care for community. Thank you for the time you gave, the questions you asked, and the communities you lifted. Your voice strengthened planning conversations, reinforced accountability, and kept real needs visible during a time of uncertainty. The foundation built through this service will continue to guide the Commission as it moves forward under its new structure and new membership.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Please note: the following list reflects the Commissioners who have served throughout RWPY 35.*

Danielle Campbell, PhD, MPH, Co-Chair

Joseph Green, Co-Chair

Aaron Raines

Al Ballesteros, MBA

Alasdair Burton

Andre Molette

Arburtha Franklin

Arlene Frames

Bridget Gordon

Byron Patel, RN

Carlos Vega-Matos

Dahlia Ale-Ferlito

Daryl Russell, MEd

David Hardy, MD

Dechelle Richardson

Dee Saunders

Erica Robinson

Erika Davies

Felipe Gonzalez

Gerald Green

Harold Glenn San Agustin, MD

Ish Herrera

Ismael Salamanca

Jayda Arrington

Jeremy Mitchell

Joaquin Gutierrez

Jonathan Weedman

Justin Valero, MA

Karl Halfman, MA

Katja Nelson, MPP

Kerry Ferguson

Kevin Donnelly

Kevin Stalter

Lambert Talley

LaShonda Spencer, MD

Lee Kochems, MA

Leon Maultsby, DBH, MHA

Leonardo Martinez-Real

LeRoy Blea

Lilieth Conolly

Mario Pérez, MPH

Martin Sattah, MD

Mary Cummings

Miguel Alvarez

Mikhaela Cielo, MD

Paul Nash, CPsychol AFBPsS FHEA

Rita Garcia

Russell Ybarra

Sabel Samone-Loreca

Sandra Cuevas

Terrance Jones

Vilma Mendoza

William D. King, MD, JD, AAHIVS

In Memoriam: Commissioner Russell Ybarra & Former Commissioner Dean Page

During RWPY35, the Commission mourned the loss of Commissioner Russell Ybarra, who had served on the Commission since 2023. Russell was a committed advocate for people living with HIV, particularly those navigating housing and other essential needs, and helped ensure that consumer voice remained centered in the Commission's work. During this same period, the Commission also mourned the loss of former Commissioner Dean Page, who served on the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV from 2006 to 2011 and was a dedicated advocate for people living with HIV and Hepatitis C. Dean was remembered for his passion, his leadership in Cold City Blues, which raised funds to support addiction and recovery efforts, and his longstanding commitment to leading support groups and educating communities. The Commission honors both Russell and Dean for their service, advocacy, and lasting impact on the communities they served.