



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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

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

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<https://tinyurl.com/y83ynuzt>

# Consumer Caucus Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024  
1:30PM-3:00PM (PST)

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

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

*If you are a person living with or at risk of HIV, we invite you to be a part of a unified effort to help improve HIV prevention & care service delivery in Los Angeles County*

## **TO ATTEND IN PERSON**

**"St. Anne's Conference Center"**

**155 N. Occidental Blvd., LA 90026**

On-Site Complimentary Valet Parking Available

*\*Please let valet attendant know you are attending a Commission on HIV meeting*

**\*\*LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED \*\***

## **TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY**

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=ma19d215fd-dff36cb4829049f64e3249d>

**MEETING PASSWORD: CONSUMER**

**TO JOIN BY PHONE: +1-213-306-3065 MEETING #/ACCESS CODE: 2534 420 0349**

## **LIKE WHAT WE DO?**

Apply to become a Commission Member at:

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

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



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## CONSUMER CAUCUS (CC)

### **\*\*HYBRID\*\* MEETING AGENDA**

Thursday, January 11, 2024 @ 1:30PM-3:00PM

“St. Anne’s Conference Center”

155 N. Occidental Blvd., LA 90026

*On-Site Complimentary Valet Parking Available*

*\*\*Lunch Provided for In-Person Attendees\*\**

#### TO JOIN VIRTUALLY BY COMPUTER:

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=ma19d215fddff36cb4829049f64e3249d>

TO JOIN BY PHONE: +1-213-306-3065

MEETING #/ACCESS CODE: 2534 420 0349 MEETING PASSWORD: CONSUMER

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. CO-CHAIR WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS  | 1:30PM – 1:35PM |
| 2. COH MEETING DEBRIEF ( <i>Opportunity to address specific items from the Commission meeting that directly impact consumers</i> ) | 1:35PM – 1:45PM |
| 3. ED/STAFF REPORT   | 1:45PM – 1:50PM |
| • County/Commission Updates  |                 |
| 4. CO-CHAIRS REPORT  |                 |
| • December 14, 2023 Retreat Summary Review   |                 |
| 5. DECEMBER 14, 2023 CONSUMER CAUCUS RETREAT AGENDA CONT'D   | 1:50PM – 2:30PM |
| • 2024 Workplan Development  |                 |
| • Creating Safe Spaces   |                 |
| 6. “OVERFLOW” ( <i>Opportunity to continue discussion from previous agenda items, if applicable and time allows</i> )              | 2:30PM – 2:40PM |
| 7. ACTION ITEMS, CALLS TO ACTION & NEXT STEPS  | 2:40PM – 2:50PM |
| 8. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING   | 2:50PM – 2:55PM |
| 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS   | 2:55PM – 3:00PM |
| 10. ADJOURNMENT  | 3:00PM          |



## 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.)

## Housing and HIV | MULTIPLE SILOED FUNDING SOURCES



LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (LAHSA)

Coordinated Entry System | Funding and Administration | Homeless Management Information System  
Homeless Count | Homeless Outreach

### City of LA \$1.3B

- Measure HHH
- State and Federal Grants
- Interim housing
- Acquiring hotels
- Support services (case management, food, residential staff)
- Permanent housing
- Staff and administration, outreach teams, housing navigation
- SUD treatment beds (residential care)
- Street medicine teams

### HOMELESS INITIATIVE (HI) \$609.7M

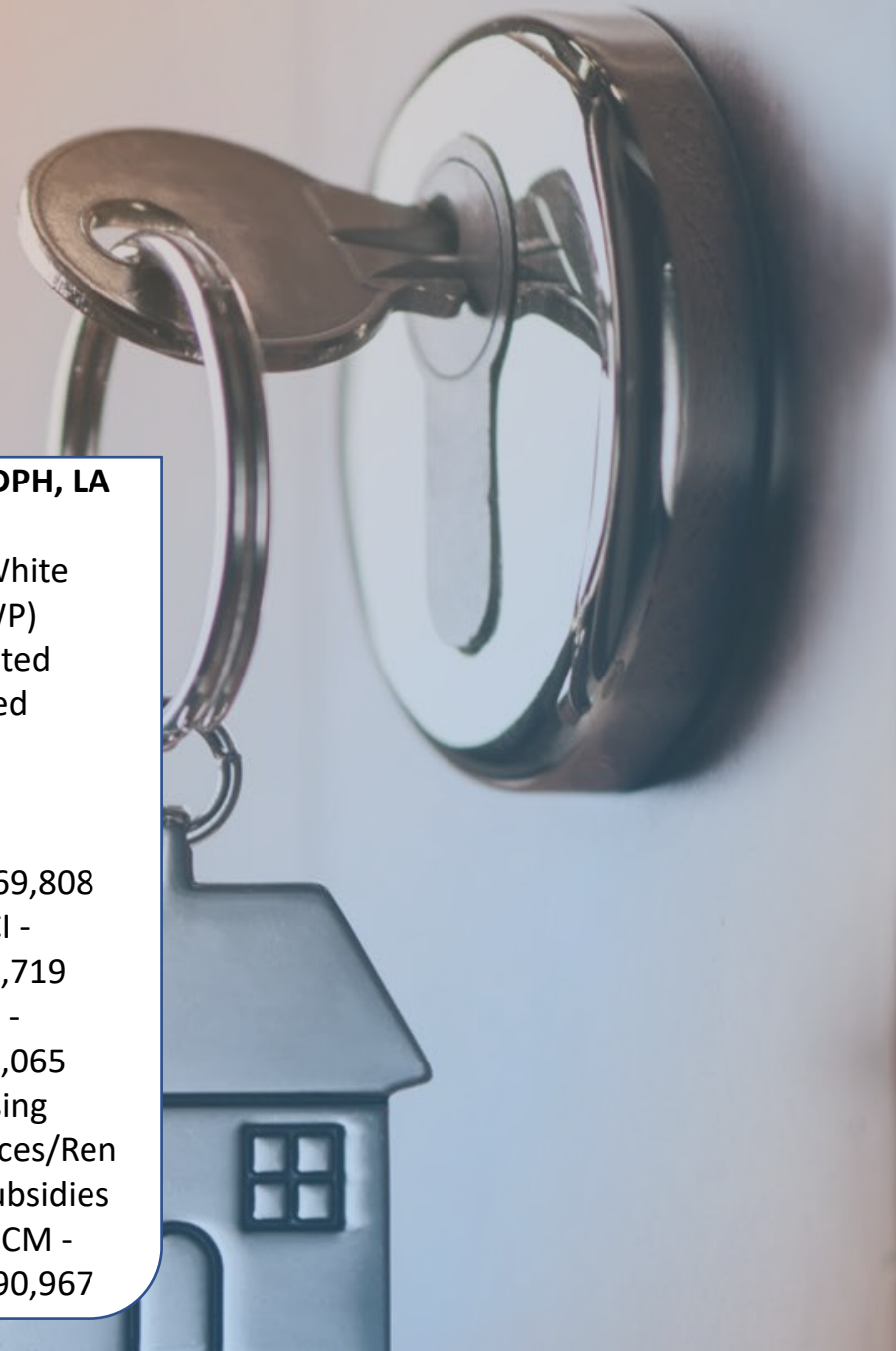
- Under CEO –lead for LAC Homeless Emergency Response
- Measure H, State Grants, County funds
- Multiple County Departments
- DHS, DMH, DPH-SAPC, LAHSA
- Recuperative care
- Stabilization housing
- Mental health interim housing
- Enriched residential care (aka Board and Care)
- Enhanced emergency shelter program for TAY
- Recovery bridge housing
- Crisis housing
- Transitional housing for DV/IPV victims
- Winter shelter
- Safe parking
- Street medicine, outreach teams

### HOPWA (under City of LA) \$21.7M

- Short-term Rent, Mortgage and Utility (STRMU)
- Permanent Housing Placement Grant
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA)
- Project-based rental assistance (PBRA)
- Scattered site master leasing
- Housing specialists
- Residential service coordinators
- Benefits counseling
- Legal services
- Animal support and advocacy
- Housing information and referral

### DHSP (part of DPH, LA County)

- FY 23 Ryan White Program (RWP)
- Housing Related COH Approved Allocations
- \$4,627,919
  - EFA - \$1,569,808
  - RCFCI - \$220,719
  - TRCF - \$145,065
  - Housing services/Rental subsidies with CM - \$2,890,967





# 2024 TRAINING SCHEDULE

## SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- “\*” Asterisk denotes mandatory training for all commissioners.
- All trainings are open to the public.
- Click on the training topic to register.
- Certifications of Completion will be provided.
- All trainings are virtual.

<a href="#"><u>Co-Chair Roles and Responsibilities</u></a>	February 13, 2024 4:00-5:00PM
<a href="#"><u>General Orientation and Commission on HIV Overview</u></a> *	March 26, 2024 3:00-4:30PM
<a href="#"><u>Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Process &amp; Service Standards Development</u></a> *	April 23, 2024 3:00-4:30PM
<a href="#"><u>Ryan White Care Act Legislative Overview Membership Structure and Responsibilities</u></a> *	July 17, 2024 3:00-4:30PM
<a href="#"><u>Policy Priorities and Legislative Docket Development Process</u></a>	October 2, 2024 3:00-4:30PM



## DECEMBER 14, 2023 CONSUMER CAUCUS (CC) RETREAT

### Meeting Summary

Meeting packet available [HERE](#)

#### Welcome & Introductions

Caucus Co-Chairs, Damone Thomas & Alasdair Burton opened the retreat with a round of introductions and set the tone through a brief icebreaker [YouTube](#) clip.

#### Retreat Purpose & Objective

Co-Chairs briefly reviewed the meeting purpose, objectives & ground rules document located in the packet and incorporated the ELMO principle — an acronym for "Enough, Let's Move On." This principle is applied when a topic has been thoroughly discussed, signaling the need to transition to the next agenda.

#### Consumer Caucus Mission, Purpose & Scope

Co-Chairs directed the Caucus to the HRSA Consumer Caucus Guidance and COH policy materials in the packet which describes the mission, purpose and scope of the Caucus.

#### 2023 Reflections: What positive changes or advantages do you hope to experience through your engagement in the Consumer Caucus, and what specific benefits would you like to see resulting from your participation?

- Telehealth implementation has improved treatment plan adherence due to its convenience, but persistent barriers exist, emphasizing the ongoing need to address the "digital divide" for those without access.
- The HIV community is experiencing disconnection, particularly evident in the challenges faced by those aging with HIV. Services are diminishing, accompanied by increasing stigma. Telehealth adoption is not universally comfortable for this demographic.
- A safe space for open discussions on HIV-related services is acknowledged and appreciated. It serves as a valuable platform for both sharing and receiving support.
- The Caucus should prioritize action, solutions, and tangible results. There's a call for follow-through on recommendations, recognizing the importance of overcoming barriers and addressing the decline in participation due to discouragement within the system.
- Increased participation in the Caucus is encouraged, emphasizing the significance of sharing opinions and feedback. Individual experiences can make a meaningful impact on others attending, fostering a sense of community support.
- Participants are urged to leverage their learnings from Caucus meetings in self-advocacy efforts within the broader community. Recognizing the difficulties many face in advocating for themselves,

it's crucial to combat shame associated with seeking help and address hurdles in navigating the HIV healthcare system.

- Advocacy for more HIV education within the Caucus, specifically regarding available services and programs, is highlighted. Attendees have gained valuable insights, such as discovering Medical Care Coordination (MCC) and Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA), underscoring the importance of knowledge-sharing within the Caucus.
- Commission meetings have proven to be a valuable learning experience, providing attendees with substantial knowledge and information that contributes to a more informed and empowered community.

Action Items:

- Include actionable items for every Caucus meeting.
- All discussions should be focused on solutions and results.
- Encourage participation by sharing experiences.

### **Vermont Corridor (VC) Building Management Security Updates**

The Vermont Corridor Capital Projects/Security Services team presented an overview of the building and its security measures. The discussion facilitated a productive exchange, allowing attendees to share their experiences and concerns. Attendees unanimously agreed on the need for improved customer service and diversity training for building, parking. It was shared that all security personnel undergo these essential training programs. However, to further reinforce their commitment, the team extended a proactive open-door policy, welcoming any feedback on customer service experiences that fall short of expectations. Additionally, there was agreement to strategically place signage for Commission-sponsored meetings in visible locations, ensuring attendees are well-informed about the event. Ongoing collaboration between COH staff and the VC team will focus on enhancing community relations, with periodic updates provided to the Caucus.

Action Items:

- Place signage for Commission-sponsored meetings in visible locations, ensuring attendees are well-informed about the event

### **2024 Planning Discussion**

- **Meeting Management & Logistics (Standing time/days & location)**
  - The Caucus agreed to maintain the current schedule, convening on the second Thursday of each month immediately after the Commission meeting, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, unless agreed otherwise.
  - The Caucus agreed to continue with the hybrid format until further notice.
  - Emphasis was placed on fostering inclusivity, safety, and respect in all Caucus settings, underscoring the commitment to creating an environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and ensures a sense of belonging.
  - The decision was made to continue holding Caucus meetings at the COH offices/VC to ensure confidentiality, access to essential resources, and the availability of support.
  - Request community stakeholders to donate giveaways at Caucus meeting for incentives.



- **Creating Safe Spaces (Non COH/DHSP/Provider Participants)**

- *Postponed to next Caucus meeting in January.*

- **Capacity Building & Training Opportunities**

- Speaker Series
- Social Media Advocacy
- Access to DHSP provider training program
- *See list below under “Consumer Education & Empowerment”*

- **Consumer Education & Empowerment**

The Caucus discussed topics they would like to address for the 2024 workplan, with priority on issues that consumers who attend meetings recommended.

- Housing Plan for People Living with HIV 50+
  - ✓ Explore current resources and data related to housing challenges faced by aging individuals with HIV.
- HIV Stigma
  - ✓ Develop strategies for reducing HIV-related stigma in broader society.
- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)
  - ✓ Streamline the process of accessing the EFA program.
  - ✓ Analyze current data on the utilization of EFA.
- Life Insurance, Living Wills & Trust, Estate Planning for PLWH
  - ✓ Investigate options and considerations for obtaining life insurance for PLWH
  - ✓ Guide the legal aspects of end-of-life planning, including drafting wills and trusts.
- General HIV Education
  - ✓ Advocating “Higher Up”: Strategies for advocacy at higher levels, involving entities like the Board of Supervisors, DHSP, and HRSA.
  - ✓ Develop educational intergenerational programs targeted at youth to raise awareness about HIV and aging.
- Support Groups & Buddy Programs
  - ✓ Develop innovative approaches to support groups, involving peer advocates and support systems.
- Peer Advocates in Clinics
- Advocacy
  - ✓ *Better Awareness of Health.* Encourage better awareness of overall health among PLWH.
  - ✓ *Reading Labs (Blood Work).* Equip individuals with the skills to interpret and understand their lab results.
  - ✓ *Self-Medicine.* Explore responsible self-medicating practices.
  - ✓ *Coping Mechanisms.* Provide resources and strategies for coping with the challenges of living with HIV.
- HIV & Exercise
  - ✓ Research the role of exercise in managing HIV and aging-related health issues.
- Supportive Animals
  - ✓ Explore the benefits and processes of incorporating supportive animals into the lives of PLWH.
- Mental Health

- SUD & HIV
  - ✓ Address substance usage issues within the context of HIV and aging.
- Coordination
  - ✓ Develop an efficient triage system within the Department of Health Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health and DHSP.
- **2024 Consumer Caucus Open Nominations & Elections**
  - Alasdair Burton, Damone Thomas, Lilieth Conolly & Ish Herrera were nominated for three (3) 2024 Consumer Caucus Co-Chair seats. A vote was performed for each of the three seats, resulting in the election of Damone Thomas, Lilith Conolly & Ish Herrera as the 2024 Consumer Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **Recap, Call to Action & Adjournment**
  - *Recap & Call to Action postponed to January Consumer meeting.*

DRAFT

## Consumer Caucus Workplan 2023

**\*Adopted 1/12/23\***

**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:** To identify activities and priorities the Consumer Caucus will lead and advance throughout 2023.

**CRITERIA:** Select activities that 1) represent the core functions of the COH and Caucus, 2) advance the goals of the 2023 Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP), and 3) align with COH staff and member capacities and time commitment.

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

#	GOAL/ACTIVITY	ACTION STEPS/TASKS	TIMELINE/ DUE DATE	STATUS/COMMENTS
1	<b>Create a safe environment for consumers</b> ( <i>people in need of HIV care and prevention services</i> )	Motivate members to challenge their environment Increase awareness of the caucus in the community	Ongoing	Develop a meeting schedule for 2023 inclusive of community engagement activities, evaluating HIV-related programs and services, educational presentations, and capacity building activities; refer to Co-Chairs for recommendations.
2	<b>Advocacy:</b> <i>Work with the Public Policy Committee to identify opportunities for consumer involvement to support HIV-related legislation</i>	Advocate for items the Caucus prioritizes	Ongoing	<u>Suggestion:</u> In response to DHSP's request to reassess COH activities to be more responsive and action oriented in meeting the needs of the community, coordinate a series of listening sessions as part of the CC meetings to evaluate and provide feedback on RWP services. Invite topical SMEs to present.  Draft letter to HRSA based on closed listening session outcome.
3	<b>Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP):</b> <i>Participate in advancing the goals of the CHP to ensure the consumer voice is prioritized</i>	Participation in CHP implementation	Ongoing	
4	<b>Leadership and Capacity Building Training:</b> <i>Identify training opportunities that foster and nurture (PLWH &amp; HIV-neg) consumer leadership and empowerment in COH and community.</i>	Continue soliciting ideas from consumers for training topics	Ongoing	CC was invited to participate in the January 23 OPS Committee meeting discussion re: the development of the 2023 training plan. The plan will be finalized for presentation at the February 23 OPS meeting and will be made available to the CC and entire membership.  The 2023 Training Schedule has been finalized and is now available on the COH's website; click <a href="#">here</a> to access.

5	<p><b>Consumer Recruitment &amp; Participation in COH:</b> <i>Identify activities to increase consumer participation at Consumer Caucus/COH meetings, especially individuals from the Black/African American, Latinx, youth, and indigenous communities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify mechanism for retaining Caucus members</li> <li>-Recruit members that are not part of Ryan White contracted agencies or consumers of Ryan White services</li> <li>-Recruit members that need HIV care and prevention services</li> <li>-Develop an award ceremony to recognize individuals that volunteer their time to serve/participate in the Caucus</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p><b>Question:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Why would anyone come to Caucus meetings?</li> <li>-Why won't providers recruit?</li> <li>-How can we get providers to encourage their clients/patients to attend?</li> <li>-What is the incentive for unaffiliated consumers to attend meetings?</li> </ul>
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# We're Listening

*share your concerns with us.*

**HIV + STD Services  
Customer Support Line**

**(800) 260-8787**

## **Why should I call?**

The Customer Support Line can assist you with accessing HIV or STD services and addressing concerns about the quality of services you have received.

## **Will I be denied services for reporting a problem?**

No. You will not be denied services. Your name and personal information can be kept confidential.

## **Can I call anonymously?**

Yes.

## **Can I contact you through other ways?**

Yes.

By Email:

[dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov)

On the web:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/QuestionServices.htm>





# Estamos Escuchando

*Comparta sus inquietudes con nosotros.*

**Servicios de VIH + ETS  
Línea de Atención al Cliente**

**(800) 260-8787**

## ¿Por qué debería llamar?

La Línea de Atención al Cliente puede ayudarlo a acceder a los servicios de VIH o ETS y abordar las inquietudes sobre la calidad de los servicios que ha recibido.

## ¿Se me negarán los servicios por informar de un problema?

No. No se le negarán los servicios. Su nombre e información personal pueden mantenerse confidenciales.

## ¿Puedo llamar de forma anónima?

Si.

## ¿Puedo ponerme en contacto con usted a través de otras formas?

Si.

Por correo electrónico:  
[dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:dhspsupport@ph.lacounty.gov)

En el sitio web:  
[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/  
dhsp/QuestionServices.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/QuestionServices.htm)

