



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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# WOMEN'S CAUCUS

## Virtual Meeting Agenda

Tues, February 23, 2021 @ 2:00PM – 4:00PM

To Register + Join by Computer:

<https://tinyurl.com/nywdvpx2>

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: 145 810 5548

For a brief tutorial on how to use WebEx, please check out this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQSSJYcrglk>

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| 1. Welcome + Introductions + Check-In  | 2:00PM – 2:05PM |
| 2. Executive Director Report   | 2:05PM – 2:45PM |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee, Caucus and Task Force Updates</li><li>• Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Updates</li><li>• Child Care Services Updates</li><li>• Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Services Updates</li></ul> |                 |
| 3. Co-Chair Report   | 2:45PM – 3:00PM |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2021 Work Plan + Caucus Activities</li></ul>   |                 |
| 4. DISCUSSION: 3.15.2021 Special Women's Caucus Meeting  | 3:00PM – 3:30PM |
| 5. DISCUSSION: Addressing Tech Challenges in Accessing Virtual Meetings  | 3:30PM – 3:45PM |
| 6. Meeting Recap + Agenda  | 3:45PM – 3:50PM |
| 7. Public Comments + Announcements   | 3:50PM – 4:00PM |
| 8. Adjournment   | 4:00PM          |



## Women’s Caucus January 26, 2021 Virtual Meeting Summary

**In attendance:**

<b>Shary Alonzo (Co-Chair)</b>	<b>Dr. LaShonda Spencer (Co-Chair)</b>	Blanca Alarcon
Jayda Arrington	Guadalupe Morales Avendano	Shonté Daniels
Kiana Dobson	Thelma Garcia	Shellye Jones
Zulibeth Indo	Mariela Magana	Katja Nelson
Jose Ortiz	Maritza Ramirez	Natalie Sanchez
Maria Scott	Elia Silveyra	Sonja D. Wright (COH Staff)
Carolyn Echols Watson (COH Staff)	Dawn Mc Clendon (COH Staff)	Cheryl Barrit (COH Staff)

**1. Welcome + Introductions**

Dr. LaShonda Spencer and Shary Alonzo, Co-Chairs, welcomed all attendees and provided opportunities for introductions.

**2. WeCanStopSTDsLA/Project Fierce Update**

Kiana Dobson provided a brief update on the progress of Project Fierce. Ms. Dobson shared that Project Fierce is collaborating with CHLA to develop its training schedule and that it is nearing completion of establishing its CAB. Additionally, Ms. Dobson reported that those who applied to the CAB and did not fit within the scope of eligibility will be utilized as trainers and mentors. Currently, 6 CAB members have been brought on; looking to have 6-10 members. Lastly, Ms. Dobson shared that the Project Manager has been out ill but upon her return will share additional updates.

**3. Executive Director Report:**

Commission, Committee and Caucus/Task Force Updates:

Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, provided updates on the Commission and its committees as follows:

- The Commission and Committees have developed their 2021 work plans identifying planning priorities for 2021. Staff are currently reviewing for synergy and alignment and will suggestion collaboration among working groups for items that intersect.
- Operations Committee will meet Thursday, January 28 and will consider four new applicants for approval and are partnering with HealthHIV to assess planning council effectiveness.

- Executive Committee meets Thursday, January 28 and will welcome a brief intro presentation by the LAC Human Relations Commission who will partner with the Commission to build capacity and training on conflict resolution and mediation to help support the Commission in racial justice and other equity-related conversations.
- Public Policy (PP) Committee will meet February 2 to determine its policy priorities for 2021 as well as its legislative docket.
- Planning, Priorities & Allocations (PP&A) Committee recently formed a Prevention Planning Workgroup; an email was sent out to all causes and task forces. A meeting will be held to set the agenda. The Caucus is encouraged to participate as prevention is critical to addressing the needs of women at risk of HIV. The first half of 2021 will focus on prevention planning.
- Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee will meet February 2 and will hear from DHSP on its Quality Improvement (QI) program and finalize updates to the Universal Standards of Care. The Committee is still waiting for the provider survey summary from DHSP on the Child Care Services standard of care

#### Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Activities + Updates

The final EHE plan was released by DHSP and is available via website at <https://www.lacounty.hiv/>. Ms. Barrit reminded the Caucus that the EHE allows expansion of the Take Me Home HIV test kits and noted the feedback received during the Annual Meeting. Ms. Barrit shared that the Caucus has an opportunity to share additional concerns and she will forward to DHSP.

#### Child Care Services Updates

Ms. Barrit reported that DHSP received feedback from County Counsel on best practices in operationalizing the childcare service and indicated that only licensed childcare would be supported. Staff will continue to research and identify alternate remedies for non-licensed childcare providers.

Dr. Spencer commented that this is still an issue of priority and that continued conversations need to be held to reach a solution. COVID highlighted the need for childcare services for women. Dr. Spencer indicated that TMH must also be prioritized and be inclusive of women.

The Caucus discussed the Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) service. It was reported that 300 provider staff were trained on the EFA and 21 applications had been accepted to date. Concerns were expressed regarding the continued challenges consumers are experiencing in accessing the EFA, to include:

- Clients are being told by providers that they must already be enrolled into Medical Care Coordination (MCC) to receive the EFA service.
- MCC teams do not get paid to enroll clients for EFA services
- Many clients are being denied

- MCC teams are less likely to help those who are not enrolled in their MCC program
- Failure of the system in the way contracts are written
- Process too elaborate
- Repeat trauma inflicted to clients having to access these programs
- Many consumers either cannot access these services or choose not to because there are too many barriers

Recommendations provided by the Caucus included:

- Draft a letter to DHSP outlining all the challenges being reported by providers and clients and suggest:
  - Eliminate/minimize duplicative questions for information that is already provided in CaseWatch
  - Reduce paperwork
  - Be transparent and allow clients to be aware of the full process
  - Provide Spanish-translated forms

#### **4. Co-Chair Report:**

##### 2021 Work Plan

The Co-Chairs led the Caucus through the draft workplan and agreed to address the following topics via a Virtual Lunch and Learn or special activity:

- Advocacy 101 (March)
- U=U, STDs, Reproductive Justice (April)
- Coping w/Stress, Mental Health (May)
- Women + Data from a demographical and geographical lens to identify gaps/needs
- Women + Aging
- Trauma + IPV
- Women and babies born w/ and w/out HIV

Katja Nelson solicited information from the Caucus on how the Public Policy Committee can better address the needs of women; the following suggestions were provided:

- Support/champion funding to support women-centered care in Los Angeles County. There are very few agencies that cater to women from a holistic approach. MCA was provided as a model of care.
- Support more access points for women-centered care
- Advocate for optometry/ophthalmology services for women that accept Medi-Cal

##### Address technology challenges for consumers/monolingual Spanish speakers

Caucus members shared that community members had challenges in accessing the translation app for the Virtual Lunch & Learns, i.e. instructions were intimidating, not savvy with apps and digital platform, etc., and inquired if there were better alternatives in providing simultaneous translation. Staff indicated that there were no other alternatives they were aware of but will continue to seek solutions. The Caucus suggested a “step by step” demo and to eliminate the registration step in the signing up process. Staff reminded

the Caucus that a step by step tutorial via YouTube is provided on all its meeting notices and that staff is always available to provide a 1:1 training, if requested. Additionally, staff indicated they would investigate the registration suggestion but noted it was necessary for internal auditing purposes.

**5. Meeting Recap + Agenda for Next Meeting:**

- Finalize advocacy 101 presentation for March in Commemoration of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Discuss planning step by step demo of accessing WebEx ahead of the March special presentation
- Address EFA forms in Spanish



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV 2021 WOMEN'S CAUCUS WORKPLAN

<b>Caucus Name: Women's Caucus</b>	<b>Co-Chairs: Shary Alonzo &amp; Dr. LaShonda Spencer</b>
<b>Caucus Adoption Date: 1.26.21</b>	<b>Revision(s) Date:</b>

**Purpose of Work Plan:** To focus and prioritize key activities for COH Committees and subgroups for 2021.

**Prioritization Criteria:** Select activities that 1) represent the core functions of the COH and Committee; 2) advance the goals of the Comprehensive HIV Plan and Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Plan; and 3) align with COH staff and member capacities and time commitment.

#	TASK/ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TARGET COMPLETION DATE	STATUS/NOTES/OTHER COMMITTEES INVOLVED
1	Child Care Services Standards of Care: FOLLOW UP	Follow up to ensure the service meets the needs of parents; follow up on how to include non-licensed childcare providers.	Ongoing	Waiting for provider survey updates. Identify strategies in supporting non-licensed child care providers.
2	Take Me Home (TMH) HIV Tests: FOLLOW UP	Follow up to ensure service is inclusive of women, to include how and to whom TMH is marketed.	Ongoing	
3	Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Service: FOLLOW UP	Follow up on concerns with how EFA has been rolled out, access to and the number of individuals who have submitted applications vs accepted.	Ongoing	Draft a letter to DHSP to recommend strategies in streamlining the EFA to create a more community/consumer friendly process; create Spanish translated forms.
4	Plan topical discussions via Virtual Lunch & Learns, special Caucus meetings and in collaboration with other working groups. Topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy 101 (March)</li> <li>• U=U + STDs + Reproductive Justice (April)</li> <li>• Coping w/ Stress + Social Support (May)</li> <li>• Trauma + IPV</li> <li>• Women + Aging</li> <li>• Women Giving Birth to Babies w/ &amp; w/out HIV</li> <li>• Demo/Geo Epi Data</li> </ul>	Follow up to 2020 VLL series in addressing barriers and social determinants of health of women living with and impacted by HIV through community engagement activities.	2021	A special Women's Caucus will be held on March 15 to address Advocacy 101. Venita Rey from PWN has been invited as a guest speaker.  An all-Caucus meeting is currently being coordinated.
5	Address technical challenges among consumers especially monolingual Spanish speakers	Identify solutions to mitigate challenges in accessing virtual meetings.		Suggestions expressed include eliminate registration, research potential translation feature on WebEx, develop a "cheat sheet" or tutorial.
6	Coordinate w/ D2 to partner on policy priorities involving women living with HIV.	Partners with D2 on matters involving women living with HIV.		Per D2, Supervisor H Mitchell still in transition, reach back in mid-February to coordinate. Staff will follow up.