





## Presentation Summary and Recommendations for Community Practice and Action

Date and Title	April 11, 2019: Panel Discussion on the Impact of HIV/AIDS among Young People and their Efforts in Response to the Epidemic
 <b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>In recognition of the National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH) convened a panel of youth leaders who are working in HIV research and HIV/STD prevention and treatment programs. The discussion centered around youth leadership, empowerment, and what the community and service providers can do to support and promote programs that put young individuals at the forefront of decision-making and community engagement.</p>
 <b>KEY TAKEAWAYS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misperception about HIV/STD acquisition and transmission still persists among youth because health education efforts are not reaching the youth. Many educational approaches are not targeted to youth or sensitive to their needs and strengths. HIV service providers are still not fully reaching the youth with messages about PrEP, PEP, and Undetectable=Untransmittable.</li> <li>• The community and service providers must address medical mistrust and HIV stigma in families, communities, and service providers themselves.</li> <li>• Meet youth where they are at and employ individuals that look like them.</li> <li>• Youth are invested in their community and the health of their peers. They want to see other youth be healthy and be empowered to lead.</li> <li>• Talk about sex and recognize youth as sexual beings with the ability to make healthy decisions. Share knowledge on how to enjoy sex in a safe and healthy way.</li> <li>• With regards to youth participation at the Commission or other advisory boards, be mindful that adults tend to put undue pressure on youth. They are expected to be the spokespersons for the entire youth community. The panel noted that youth are frequently asked for feedback on how to improve programs and services, however, there is no follow-through on their ideas.</li> <li>• The community must address social and racial justice in order to be fully responsive to needs of the youth.</li> <li>• Adults need to be mindful of their language and how they talk to youth. One panelist noted, “Stop calling us kids or subjects. We are leaders.” Respect the autonomy of young people.</li> </ul>
 <b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a youth advisory board of lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender (LGBT), and gender non-conforming (GNC) young people living with HIV to provide insight and information to the Commission. Serving on the Commission and the time demands are not realistic for many youth nor does it interest many of them.</li> <li>• Put more focus on funding social support, community building, and unconventional approaches to creating safe spaces for young people living with HIV to come together.</li> <li>• Develop a specific plan to help young people living with HIV experiencing homelessness and create safe and accessible temporary emergency housing.</li> <li>• Risk reduction and treatment for young people that use substances and are engaged in recovery must be at the forefront of the HIV community response.</li> <li>• Deliver a broad range of social support and mental health services and ensure that these services are easily accessible and user-friendly.</li> <li>• Demonstrate intentional efforts to educate communities and families around HIV and LGBT and GNC health related issues through social media engagement and community outreach.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate intentional and noticeable effort to combat stigmatizing language and behaviors in those implementing research with young people living with HIV. This can be done by engaging and supporting young people living with HIV in developing trainings for researchers around cultural competency.</li><li>• Offer cultural competency trainings for institutes conducting research with young people living with HIV in Los Angeles County in exchange for offering resources and assistance with linkage to health, medical, social, educational, and employment services.</li></ul>
 <p><b>VIDEO LINK</b></p>	<p><b>To view the video of the presentation, visit:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEB64iMMVDIizWWzfZ0cLxt8-Dp0cT-mj">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEB64iMMVDIizWWzfZ0cLxt8-Dp0cT-mj</a></p> <p><b>Special thanks to:</b> <b>Thomas Davis</b>, The Catharsis Project; <b>Antwon Champlin</b>, HIV Trials Network (ATN Cares) UCLA; <b>Omar Nieto</b>, <i>LA PrEP Stories Project</i> and the <i>SPNS Social Media Initiative</i> UCLA; <b>Vincent Pancucci</b>, mSTUDY Los Angeles LGBT Center; <b>Miranda Ramirez</b>, “Text Me, Girl!” study Friends Community Center.</p>