






Presentation Summary and Recommendations for Community Practice and Action

<p>Date and Title</p>	<p>February 14, 2019: Panel Discussion on the Disproportionate Impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American Community</p>
 <p>SUMMARY</p>	<p>In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH) convened a panel of Commissioners and community stakeholders to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American community. The discussion centered around Black perspectives on how racism, historical trauma and discrimination hinder our collective efforts to end HIV.</p>
 <p>KEY TAKEAWAYS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there have been great scientific advancements in HIV prevention science and medicine, African Americans continue to lag behind in achieving similar health outcomes when compared to other populations. • Siloed funding, stigma, poverty, racism, and other social determinants of health contribute to the fragmentation of services and support for Black communities and leaders. • Policies and programs aimed at addressing affordable housing, access to care, and prison reform have not fully penetrated or benefited the Black community. • The unique needs of Black individuals across multiple and intersecting identities must be addressed in a holistic manner in order to create safe spaces for care, treatment and broad community support. • Trans men and women are misidentified in data collection practices or not represented in research which leads to the lack of competent health care for transgender individuals. • Mistrust is real and must be discussed from an Afro-centric approach.
 <p>IDEAS FOR ACTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and understand the profound and ongoing unresolved impact of historical and modern day racism on the African American community. Historical trauma has shaped how the African American community views their environments and experiences. • Assist service providers who cater to the African American community in gaining access to funds and build their organizational capacities. • Recognize that there is great diversity in perspectives and experiences and that the “one size fits all” thinking will not work in the Black community. • While churches may be an avenue for education and outreach, not all churches welcome Blacks who are HIV-positive or identify as LGBTQ. Some churches may also have gender norms that impede the voices and representation of Black women.
 <p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussions on identifying concrete strategies to eliminate or reduce HIV stigma by using culturally appropriate interventions and policy change initiatives. • Be open to learning and understand the diverse experiences that African Americans face. • Follow-through on commitments and policy and programmatic recommendations. • Convene a Black Caucus to address the broad range of HIV/STD prevention, care, treatment, and social and health equity issues affecting the community.
 <p>VIDEO LINK</p>	<p>To view the video of the presentation, visit: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEB64iMMVDIizWWzfZ0cLxt8-Dp0cT-mj Special thanks to: Tim Vincent; Jeffrey King, Founder and Chief Executive Director of In the Meantime Men’s Group (ITMT); JavonTae Wilson, Lead HIV Tester, ITMT; Alexander Luckie Fuller, Commissioner; Dr. William King, Commissioner; Traci Bivens-Davis, Commissioner</p>