

Renewed Opportunities & Collaborations in Times of Urgency to End the HIV Epidemic

On November 14, the Commission on HIV invited key stakeholders to participate in a community dialogue to discuss the federal initiative, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EtHE)*, and what it means locally for the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy. Attendees heard County, State, Federal, and research partners present on new opportunities and resources as a result of the federal initiative and discussed how County residents and organizations can harness our collective efforts to end HIV, once and for all.

This summary reflects key takeaways from the meeting on the leadership and community partnerships necessary to end the HIV epidemic, insights on what it will take to reach the goals of the federal initiative, and the responsibility of the Commission, Department of Public Health, and community-based organizations to support people living with HIV and communities at highest risk. A total of 178 attendees participated in the annual meeting.

60,946
people living with HIV
in LA County



Understanding the Federal Plan

Goal: Reduce the number of new HIV infections in the U.S. by 75% in 5 years & by at least 90% in 10 years

KEY TAKEAWAYS



New funding & resources are coming to LA County

The Division of HIV & STD Programs (DHSP) applied for both HRSA and CDC funding opportunities released to support the federal initiative. Planning grants to support *Ending the HIV Epidemic* research were awarded to both UCLA (3 grants) and UCSD (1 grant).



We have the right data, right tools, and right leadership

Given the focus on HIV at the national level, the advances in treatment and biomedical prevention, and the leadership at local, state and federal levels, acknowledging leadership includes people living with HIV, we have the impetus and energy to move towards a HIV-free generation.



Multi-sector commitment is needed to achieve the federal goal

Presentations from various leaders of key organizations in the County and input from the community emphasized the importance of multi-sector partnerships and collaboration. Los Angeles County plans to collaborate across regions (Orange County, San Diego, etc.).



Innovation is vital for ending the HIV epidemic

DHSP is holding focus groups for input on the development of a Undetectable = Untransmittable marketing campaign & is looking to build workforce capacity on sex positivity, equity, and social justice to support the local LA County HIV/AIDS Strategy, in addition to new efforts from new *Ending the HIV Epidemic* funding and resources.

Guest speakers at the event:

- Division of HIV & STD Programs (DHSP)
- Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE) Program
- California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
- UCLA & UCSD
- Department of Public Health, Executive Leadership
- Community Clinics of Los Angeles County (CCLAC)

DHSP is committed to aligning LA County HIV/AIDS Strategy metrics and timeframe with EtHE and plans to develop a data to action infrastructure to increase programmatic efficiency.

CDPH will act as a pass through for EtHE funding for 6 counties separate from LA and San Francisco. Their efforts will focus on HIV, Hepatitis and STDs.

The PACE Program Team has been deployed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to LA County to support community engagement for EtHE.

CCLAC is committed to EtHE and will support outreach, identifying at-risk people, increasing HIV testing & providing PrEP at federally qualified health centers & partnering with DPH to scale up service delivery at safety net clinics across the County.

TOP INSIGHTS FROM GROUP DISCUSSION



Ongoing & meaningful community engagement is necessary

Participants stressed the importance of financial incentives/reimbursement for people living with HIV providing high level of engagement as unpaid volunteers, prioritize incentives/reimbursement; increase representation from the most impacted communities and people living with HIV; give power back to the community by reassessing systems, recruiting front-line staff & young people, creating term limits for commissioners.



Determine clear roles for the Commission & DHSP

Commission: Include broader input from the community other than Commissioners; lift-up consumer voice for policy advocacy efforts; communicate challenges in real time; track progress towards the goals.

Division of HIV & STD Programs: Share data & include transparent metrics; increase collaboration among regional partners; address policies that limit services; engage other County departments.

Shared: systems integration across County departments; understand how systems may act as barriers to clients & develop solutions; multi-sector partnerships for prevention & treatment; increase consumer education, knowledge & employment.



Partners must be transparent and held accountable

Align new *Ending the HIV Epidemic* plans across neighboring jurisdictions, the State, and the Los Angeles HIV/AIDS Strategy to develop similar metrics for tracking progress towards federal goals; educate elected officials and hold gatekeepers to change accountable; ensure LA County HIV/AIDS Strategy goals are incorporated into planning and service delivery goals across sectors.

For more information on the federal plan visit
<https://www.hrsa.gov/ending-hiv-epidemic> or
<https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>

Interested in staying connected? Email
HIVcomm@lachiv.org to be added to
the Commission on HIV listserv.