

The City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office

Addressing the **Intersection** of

Racism & HIV

December 12, 2016 | 8:30am to 3:30pm

California Endowment | Los Angeles, CA

Photo by Leland Kim

Welcome

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office is proud to host today's event, "Addressing the Intersection of Racism and HIV."

When this idea was in its infancy in 2015, in many cities across the country, including Los Angeles, there was a rise in awareness, dialogue, and mainstream media attention focusing on the impact of police brutality on Black people, and other people of color. Politicians and political pundits began to weigh in heavily on the burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement, and regardless of what Americans thought of this movement, there was a palatable shift in America. As such, we began to see a change in national discourse, where the often taboo topics of race and racism could no longer be ignored by mainstream society.

We applaud this long overdue grassroots effort to confront our legacy of racism in America, and this is our attempt to extend the conversation further. Not only by sharing stories on the impact of racism and mass incarceration in communities of color, but also by receiving tangible skills to address interpersonal and institutional racism in the workplace. The HIV service planning community is tasked with addressing social determinants of health. When examining epidemiological data, it is clear that HIV impacts people of color the greatest. Thus, we cannot overlook the relationship between race, racism, and HIV.

The AIDS Coordinator's Office recognizes that there are many underserved and marginalized communities who are severely impacted by racism, and other "isms" that cannot be minimized. Meanwhile, these communities are at high risk for contracting HIV, transmitting HIV, and having poor HIV care outcomes. These communities need staff with core competencies to no longer reproduce harm from unconscious or conscious bias that impacts the clients we serve.

We hope that today will encourage dialogue, connection, and build skills of participants to better serve clients in community based and clinical settings. We hope you enjoy the conference!

Yours truly,

The Conference Planning Committee

Agenda

- 8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 Welcome and Introduction
Ricky Rosales, City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator
- 9:15 Morning Keynote: Fighting at the Intersections: HIV, Criminalization, and Racism
Lisa Marie Alatorre, MA, Human Rights Organizer
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 HIV Criminalization and Mass Incarceration Panel
Monica James, Prison Reform Activist
Hussain Turk, LA HIV Law & Policy Project
Lisa Marie Alatorre, Anti-Oppression, Prison Abolition, Transformative Justice, Restorative Justice, and Racial Justice
Chris Freeman, Center for Health Justice
Tarah Johnson & Marc Dones, Center for Social Innovation (Moderators)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Addressing Implicit Bias within the Workplace
Tarah Johnson and Marc Dones, Center for Social Innovation
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Afternoon Keynote: The Resilience of Racism: HIV/AIDS, White Privilege and the Non Profit Industrial Complex
Yolo Akili Robinson
- 3:15 Closing Remarks and Evaluation
Cheryl Barrit, Los Angeles County Commission on HIV
- 3:30 Adjourn

Bios

Listed in alphabetical order by last names.

Lisa Marie Alatorre, MA is an anti-prison industrial complex (PIC) and anti-oppression community organizer and educator. Born and raised in Peoria, Arizona, she is currently based out of the Bay Area. Her past work experience as a social worker, organizer, policy advocate, and educator have based her in Seattle, Chicago, New Orleans, and the Bay Area. She is co-editor of Everyday Abolition | Abolition Everyday, a blog collecting stories, art, and interviews highlighting the ways PIC abolitionists practice, and live PIC abolition in work, organizing, and personal lives. Additionally, Lisa Marie is a co-founder of Rhizome Consulting Project and the Chicago-based Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois and has worked as the Human Rights Director for the SF Coalition On Homelessness and as the National Campaign Director for Critical Resistance.

Cheryl Barrit is the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV - a 51 member federally mandated planning body for Los Angeles County responsible for the planning, priority and resource allocation of federal funds to reduce the burden of HIV and STDs in Los Angeles County. She was the Policy, Planning and Prevention Bureau Manager for the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services where she oversaw a variety of programs such as Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Senior Services, Medi-Cal/Covered California, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Epidemiology and Communicable Disease Control, and Public Health Accreditation. She had several years of experience managing HIV and STD education, prevention, and clinical programs, and teen pregnancy prevention initiatives. She was a Public Health Advisor a Presidential Management Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Marc Dones, BA, Associate, Equity Initiatives & Diversity – Center for Social Innovation. Marc specializes in practice improvements for behavioral health providers, with an emphasis on providers supporting young people. Prior to C4, they worked at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, focusing on youth violence prevention and reduction as well as systemic responses to youth homelessness. Marc was also the Director of Project Management for Child and Adolescent Services at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. They served on the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth and co-chaired the Administration Committee.

Bios

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Christopher Freeman started working for the Center for Health Justice in February 2008 as a Harm Reduction Specialist in the Men's Central Jail downtown and also at CRDF Women's Facility. He has been an advocate in the field of HIV/AIDS education since 2000. He has observed through the years the various stigmas that still surround persons infected with HIV and has taken a stand to help educate as many as he can about the virus. He also has the ability to further educate those that are already positive on ways to enhance and maintain a healthy lifestyle. He is passionate about the importance of regular HIV testing within all communities. He is also a certified Substance Abuse Counselor and believes that substance abuse and HIV sometimes go hand in hand. Christopher has also worked in the prison system as a Substance Abuse Counselor.

Monica James is a transwoman of color, born and raised in Chicago IL. Where she's currently studying law at Wilbur Wright community College and maintains a living as a contractual consultant. Monica started her advocacy from behind the walls of the system during a time she remembers as living in the belly of the beast. She spent the time educating herself with the support of a closely knitted community that she found through Transformative Justice Law Project (TJLP) of Illinois. Monica gives credit to this family as being the reason she's been able to fight against mass criminalization of vulnerable groups of people. Taking her advocacy to Geneva, Switzerland in 2014, where she testified against the targeting and profiling of trans women of color and how this marginalization violates their basic human rights. Since then she has been employed with Howard Brown Health Center as a medical case manager for LGBTQ youth and adults and Chicago House as a peer lead instructor. Monica has been an international and national contractual consultant facilitating training's and workshops on gender, race, class, and labor disparities. Like so many awesome leaders before her time, Monica has dedicated her life to achieving transformative and restorative justice for all. Because she doesn't hold a degree in any particular field, she's definitely underpaid and often overlooked by society and even the LGBTQ community. Relying on her strong spiritual guidance to see her through, this woman is the epitome of a true fighter.

Bios

Listed in alphabetical order by last names.

Tarah Johnson is a Senior Analyst with the Center for Social Innovation (C4), a Boston based small business with a deep commitment to social justice and equality. Much of her career has been focused on building supports for vulnerable populations, especially those who are navigating recovery from both substance abuse and mental health issues. Through her work with projects funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) she has sought input from providers and clients to help create client-centered recovery support tools and services locally and nationally. She currently works on C4's *Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC)* Initiative; collaborating with community, city, and county level partners across the United States to address issues of structural and institutional racism in housing and homelessness services. She is a proud graduate of both Howard University in Washington, D.C. and the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Yolo Akili Robinson is a writer, organizer and yoga teacher who has written extensively on emotional health and issues of gender, sexuality and race. He is the author of the social justice themed affirmation book *Dear Universe: Letters of Affirmation & Empowerment For All Of Us* and has written for the Huffington Post, Ebony, The Good Men Project, TheBody.com, The Atlanta Journal Constitution and Everyday Feminisms. Yolo works with numerous agencies to cultivate strength based strategies that support social justice informed mental and emotional health in Black communities.

Ricky Rosales was appointed the sixth AIDS Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles on July 1, 2012. He is currently serving as co-chair of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV and represents Los Angeles on various local, state and national bodies. He has previously chaired both the Los Angeles County HIV Prevention Planning Committee and the California HIV Planning Group.

Bios

Listed in alphabetical order by last names.

Hussain Turk, JD, is a graduate of the UCLA School of Law, where he completed a specialization in Critical Race Studies and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Islamic & Near Eastern Law. Hussain currently works at the LA HIV Law & Policy Project advocating on behalf of HIV+ Angelenos seeking access to citizenship, housing, employment, and public benefits. He also serves on the board of RAHMA, a Washington, DC-based community organization dedicated to serving the needs of HIV+ Muslims and working towards sexual and reproductive health in the Muslim American community. He previously worked at the Williams Institute where he assisted in researching the impact and history of HIV-specific criminal statutes and in the collection of data for the largest legal needs assessment of the HIV+ population in Los Angeles. He also previously taught an intro-level course on disability rights and justice at UCLA. He has spoken and written widely on HIV, sex work, race, sexuality, and Islam. His leadership and activism as an HIV+ gay Muslim man of color have been recognized by Queerty, the Advocate, and HIV Plus magazine.

Continuing Education Credits

Five continuing education credits and five HIV training hours are being offered for this event. HIV Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DATF) is approved by the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP, provider #2N-10-141-0418). UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (UCLA ISAP) is approved by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to sponsor continuing education credits for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs (Provider #64812). UCLA ISAP maintains responsibility for this program/course and its content. UCLA ISAP is also an approved provider of continuing education for RADTs I/II, CADCs-CASs, CADCs I/II, CADCs-CSs, and LAADCs (CCAPP, #2N-00-445-1117), CATCs (ACCBC/CAADE, #CP 20 872 C 0819), and CAODCs (CADTP, #151).

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following planning members for their dedication and unwavering commitment to reducing the impact of racism among all communities impacted by HIV/AIDS.

- Traci Biven-Davis, REACHLA
- Michelle Enfield, APLA Health and Wellness
- Dahlia Ferlito, MPH, AIDS Coordinator's Office
- Susan Forrest, Los Angeles County HIV Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Thelma Garcia, East Los Angeles Women's Center
- Grissel Granados, MSW, Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Christopher Hucks-Ortiz, MPH, JWCH Institute
- Uyen Kao, MPH, CHIPTS and Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine
- Amy Ragsdale, MA, UCLA
- Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator's Office
- John Thompson, MSW, Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Monique Tula, AIDS United

Thank you to our sponsors and partners that made this event possible.

