



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

March 03, 2026

Purpose

To enhance outreach and promotion efforts throughout the County by fostering collaboration with community-based partners and trusted messengers.

Public Health Officer Update

Speaker: Dr. Sharon Wang, EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

HIV/AIDS in Women & Girls

- March 10th is recognized as National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day, highlighting the importance of HIV and AIDS awareness among women and girls.
- Data (2023-2024): Black women accounted for nearly half of all new HIV diagnoses among women despite representing only 13% of women in the U.S.
 - The new diagnosis rate for women living in the South was nearly twice as high compared to other regions.
 - Between 2023-2024, there was a 34% increase in cases of HIV/AIDS among women in San Bernardino County.
 - Females ages 30 to 49 made up 63% of those newly diagnosed.
- A pregnant individual that has uncontrolled HIV can pass it on to the unborn child.
- There are many effective resources that can help women protect themselves against HIV/AIDS however they are underutilized.
 - In 2024, women made up only 9% of PrEP users. Women are less likely to perceive themselves as at risk for HIV.
- When PrEP is taken correctly, one pill a day is 99% effective in preventing someone from getting HIV through sex, even if your partner does not use condoms. PrEP also prevents from getting HIV through sharing of drugs using shared needles.
- The HIV care continuum focuses on diagnosis, linkage to care, staying engaged in care, and achieving viral suppression.
- The national HIV goals are the 95-95-95 targets:
 - 95% of people living with HIV know their diagnosis
 - 95% are engaged in care
 - 95% achieve viral suppression
- Among women, the goals are not currently being met:
 - About 80% of women living with HIV are linked to care
 - About 75% remain in care
 - Only 64–66% are virally suppressed. When someone is virally suppressed, they are unable to transmit HIV to others.

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- Symptoms of how HIV may present in women should prompt consideration for testing:
 - Women may present with recurrent yeast infections (frequently needing medication or vaginal creams).
 - Infertility
 - Ectopic pregnancy
 - Pelvic inflammatory disease and chronic pain
 - Abnormal periods
 - Ulcers
 - Premature menopause
- Key Facts
 - An estimated 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV, including about 37,000 women (2018).
 - Heterosexual women are twice as likely as men to get HIV from a single act of sex, with transmission from men to women being higher than from women to men.
 - Women with HIV have a greater risk of progressing to AIDS than men.
 - Having other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) increases the risk of acquiring HIV because it damages the vaginal mucosa, which is the body's first defense.
- Highlighted HIV Support Groups
 - AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is open to all AHF Spanish-speaking patients regardless of gender or sexual orientation. This is an in-person support group happening on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5pm at 8263 Grove Ave, Suite 201, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730.
 - Foothill AIDS Project offers virtual and in person AIDS support groups for women. Contact: (909)884-2722.
 - DPH Easy Access Clinic offers free STI testing/treatment, PrEP navigation, linkage to care, and health education. These services are available on Tuesdays from 1-5pm at 590 N. D. St. San Bernardino, CA 92401. Appointments can be made by calling (800)722-4794.
 - DPH Wellness on Wheels (WOW Van) accepts walk-ins only. Find their schedule here: [WOW Van Testing Services- Easy Access Clinic – Department of Public Health](#)

San Bernardino Countywide Vision: Community Vital Signs

Community Vital Signs, Nicolette-Ashley Carlos, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov

- **Vision Statement:** We envision a county where a commitment to optimizing health and wellness is embedded in all decisions by residents, organizations, and government.
- Full San Bernardino Countywide Vision Statement available at: [CAO Vision – San Bernardino CountyWide Vision](#)
- The Vital Signs Initiative is responsible for supporting the Countywide Vision, which focuses on fostering collaboration across sectors to build a vibrant, healthy, and resilient county for all residents.
- Its goal is to bring together partners to coordinate efforts, share resources, and develop strategies that advance the goals of the San Bernardino County Community Transformation Plan.
- The community health priorities are:
 - **Behavioral Health:** Improve mental health and reduce substance misuse in San Bernardino County
 - **Injury and Violence Prevention:** Decrease incidences of violence in San Bernardino County
 - **Chronic Disease:** Decrease morbidity and mortality rates for chronic diseases in San Bernardino County

- Organizations are invited to participate in and support the Community Vital Signs initiative if they are interested in contributing to system-level change. Please contact Nicolette Carlos for more information: Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov

Rural Health Outreach

Morongo Basin Healthcare District, Dianna Anderson, Danderson2@mbhdistrict.org

- The Healthcare District serves the entire Morongo Basin area, covering 1,800 square miles from Pioneertown to Amboy, the National Park to Johnson Valley.
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with locations in Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley.
- Wellness Wheels: Free non-emergency transport to medical and dental appointments. Over 2,000 community members use this free service.
- Partnerships:
 - Town of Yucca Valley - Annual Health Spring Fair
 - City of Twentynine Palms – Annual Health Fall Fair
 - Morongo Unified School District – Mobile Dental Program
 - Morongo Basin Reach Out – Collaborate on transportation grant funding
 - Flying Doctors – Free dental and vision care in partnership with national organizations
 - Joshua Tree National Park – Take A Hike Program
- Please reach out to EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov if you would like time reserved to share any updates during our Rural Health section and share the great work you're doing!

Monthly Learning Topic: Black Maternal Health

Disparity Reduction Work: The Black Infant Health (BIH) Program and Other Agents of Change, Jasmyn Bowers, Jasmyn.Bowers@dph.sbcounty.gov

- Data from 2021 for California and San Bernardino County show that Black individuals had the highest rates of infant mortality, low birthweight, and pregnancy-related mortality when compared to other racial and ethnic groups.
- African American women are 3-4x more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than other groups.
- African American infants are 2-3x more likely to die before their first birthday than other groups.
- Factors of disparities infant/maternal mortality:
 - Underlying social and economic inequities that are rooted in systemic racism and discrimination.
 - Differences in health insurance coverage and access to care.
 - Lack of education about prenatal care and maternal health can create higher risks among Black women.
 - Constant exposure to inequities and racism-related stress results in higher levels of cortisol.
- Poor birth outcomes persist even when Black women have a pregnancy at an optimal age, have high income, or are well educated. Health disparities appear to be less dependent on age, economic status, or education.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is higher among Black Women with higher education.
- Levels of racism:
 - Personally mediated racism: Insults and acts of discrimination.
 - Institutionalized racism: Race-based policies and practices that discriminate.
 - Internalized racism: Accepting negative messages about our abilities and our worth.
- The BIH program addresses the problem of poor birth outcomes and health inequities affected women and their infants by using group intervention plus enhanced case management.

- Their program model is designed to help women identify their strengths and address their health and social needs and concerns. It's also designed to provide health education, peer support, refer women to appropriate medical, social, economic, and mental health services, and more.
- Program eligibility: Self identify as African American, pregnant or up to 6 months postpartum, 16 years or older.
- Contact information:
 - <https://blackinfanthealth.org/enroll/>
 - <https://Blackinfanthealth.org/>
 - Call - (909)387-6470
 - Address - 650 E Brier Dr., Ste 100, San Bernardino, CA 92408

CBO Business

Speaker: Karen Rodriguez, EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

Observance Learning Topic:

- For the month of April, the Department of Behavioral Health will present an overview of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Draft Integrated Plan for FY 2026–2029.
- We value our partners' input and perspective, as it plays an important role in informing implementation and future planning efforts.
- During the presentation, DBH will provide an overview and facilitate discussion on:
 - BHSA transformation requirements
 - Key priorities and funding considerations within the draft Integrated Plan

We encourage you to fill out our survey — All feedback will help us to better support our community. [CBO Collaborative Feedback](#)

Community Partner Roundtable

- **Reach Out** hosts a monthly coalition meeting in Fontana and the next 3 meeting topics will consist of having conversations with youth, navigating tough conversations with students regarding drug and substance use, and how to prevent youth from turning to substances. This meeting will take place on March 18th from 9:30 AM – 11 AM at the Fontana Unified School District – office building 19.
- **Brightlife Kids** offers virtual behavioral health coaching for parents and caregivers with young children. The webinars are also translated live in Spanish. Their next webinar will be on March 24th. The topic will be “Fueling Healthy Families and Integrated Approach to Family Wellness”, where they'll have a behavioral health coach, sharing evidence and system-based framework for supporting family wellness across sleep, nutrition, behavior and caregiver stress. If you're interested in attending, reach out to cestrada@hellobrightline.com
- **Community Hospital of San Bernardino** offers no cost health education classes. They have their monthly calendar on their website and offer Strong Heart health classes and Diabetes classes. For more information, contact michelle.marquez@commonspirit.org

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Via Microsoft Teams