



**Public Town Hall Conversation:  
HIV Medication Access Workgroup  
October 12, 2021  
5:30 – 7:00pm**

**Purpose of this Meeting:** This Public Town Hall Conversation will inform the report of the Washington State LGBTQ Commission to the Washington State Legislature concerning access to HIV medications for persons receiving Medicaid benefits in Washington State. A series of meetings of the HIV Medication Access Workgroup have been conducted to explore contributing factors and examine strategies to increase access, reduce the spread and burden of HIV, and enhance the quality of life for all persons living with this disease. Significant issues have been identified and a number of options have emerged for addressing these matters, which will serve to guide this conversation including

1. Exploring implications of shifting to an “open access” system through independent qualitative research focused on challenges to adherence such as cultural differences and other social determinants of health;
2. Engaging investigative methods to better understand the impact of the “fail-first” system on the individual, health care providers, and public health; and
3. Recognizing groups of persons living with HIV who are not being adequately served and identifying ways of increasing access to medication and making care more inclusive.

**Process of Meeting:** This Town Hall Conversation will be facilitated by Manny Santiago, Executive Director of the Washington State LGBTQ Commission with assistance from consultants engaged to support this process.

**Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
5:20 pm	Log in
5:30 pm	Welcome and Housekeeping: <i>Manny Santiago and Tracey Carlos</i>
5:40 pm	Overview of previous meetings: <i>Manny Santiago</i>



5:45 pm	<p>Invitation for public commentary and key questions to guide this conversation: <i>Manny Santiago and Renee McCoy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>“Open access”</b> means that processes and procedures for receiving medications are consistent for all persons living with HIV regardless of whether drugs are funded through private or governmental sources. Currently, persons receiving Medicaid are required to complete prior-authorization processes to receive certain ARV medications.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does this system impact on persons living with HIV? How does it affect care providers?</li></ul></li><li>2. The <b>“fail first”</b> system means that patients must first be prescribed drugs on the prior-authorization list and can only receive different medications after previously prescribed drugs have proven to be ineffective. The only option to access different drugs requires patients and providers to complete a process of petitioning the public health system.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does the “fail first” system and petition process impact on the quality of life for persons living with HIV? How does this affect their relationship between patients and health care providers? What is the impact of this process on providers?</li></ul></li><li>3. What groups of persons living with HIV are not receiving the level of access to medications necessary for them to sustain a healthy quality of life? What challenges do they face? What needs to happen for those challenges to be remedied?</li></ol>
6:45 pm	Review of key points from conversation: <i>Renee McCoy</i>
6:50 pm	Moving Forward: <i>Manny Santiago</i>