

NAESM NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
MAY 28 – MAY 31, 2026

RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

DAY	SESSION WORKSHOP #	START TIME	END TIME	PRESENTER (S) MODERATOR	WORKSHOP TITLE
RIVERVIEW 8 2 nd Floor	Speaker Ready Room	8:00am	4:00pm	Huview Productions	Audio-Visual for Presenters
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	Institute I	9:00am	12:00pm	<p>Jonathan Paul Lucas, PhD, MPH, Director of Research FHI360</p> <p>Caleb Brown, MPH, MHA, CHES Research Associate, Yale School of Nursing - HPTN096 Study</p> <p>Perry Rhodes III, Coalition Manager HPTN 096 Initiatives and PhD Candidate</p>	PHASE: Creating Human-Centered, Community-Responsive HIV Care
RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Institute II	9:00am	12:00pm	<p>Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr., LMSW General Manager The Watkins Group, LLC</p>	Examining How Trauma, Religious Trauma, Stigma, and Shame Impact Spirituality, Health, and HIV Prevention
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Institute III	9:00am	12:00pm	<p>Jammie M. Hopkins, DrPH, MS, MSCR Assistant Professor Department of Community Health & Preventive Medicine Morehouse School of Medicine</p>	The Impulse Engage Support Connect (ESC) Model: Elevating Social Advocacy, Addressing Mental Health, and Advancing the Sexual Health Care Continuum for Gay Men Globally

RIVERVIEW 7 2 nd Floor	Conversation Series	10:00am	12:00pm	<p><i>Moderators:</i></p> <p>Glynnis Young, PSY.M, LPC, NCC Psychotherapist Avondale and Associates Psychological Services</p> <p>Marco Mays Founder The Black Cave</p>	<p>Deep In The Cave</p> <p>This gathering will convene community members, creatives, and thought leaders for guided conversations exploring identity, storytelling, and belonging. Through honest, in-depth dialogue, participants will play an active role in shaping the future programming and initiatives of The Black Cave. The event is designed to foster meaningful connection and community among Same Gender Loving Men of Color, ages 18 and older, within the Montgomery River Region.</p>
ALABAMA AB Lobby Level	General Lunch	12:00pm	2:00pm		
ALABAMA D Lobby level	EXHIBIT EXPO	2:00pm	3:30pm	Official Exhibit Opening By NAESM Prevention	
RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Workshop I	3:30pm	5:00pm	<p>Jordan Braxton Community Empowerment Manager Vivent Health</p>	Black Girl Power: How the Voices of Black Trans Women Can Change Policy
RIVERVIEW 4 2 nd Floor	Workshop II	3:30pm	5:00pm	<p>Gerald Garth, MBA Executive Director AMAAD Institute</p> <p>Diamond Paulk TGI Program Manager AMAAD Institute</p>	My Sister's Keeper
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Workshop III	3:30pm	5:00pm	<p>Gillette Harris Program Coordinator Us Helping Us People Into Living</p>	Strutting for our Healing – Transformative power of Ballroom for Black Queer Folk
RIVERVIEW 6 2 nd Floor	Workshop IV	3:30pm	5:00pm	<p>Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D, M.Phil, LMSW Associate Professor SUNY Albany</p>	Life Span Development of Black Transgender Women

RIVERVIEW 7 2 nd Floor	Workshop V	3:30pm	5:00pm	Ashley N. Browning, MRC, CNP Self-Care Strategist & Community Wellness Educator She Selfish	From Stigma to Strategy Using Community Conversations to Advance Sexual Health and HIV Prevention Black LGBTQ+ Communities
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	CRIBB- Final GATHERING	6:00pm	8:30pm	Dempris Gasque CRIBB Program Manager NAESM, Inc.	
EXHIBIT A 1 st floor Convention Cntr	Co-Sponsored by: Department of African and African Studies at WashU and Bavarian Nordic	6:30pm	8:00pm	Moderator: Dr. Marlon M. Bailey, Ph.D., MFA NAESM Board Chair NAESM, Inc. Professor and Associate Chair Department of African and American Studies Professor, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Affiliate Faculty, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE2) Washington University, St. Louis Panelists: Marco Mays <i>Founder & CEO</i> Live Like An Icon <i>Founder</i> The Black Cave Tavaras Koonce (he/him)	<i>Bridges, Not Barriers: Creating a Path to Equity, Access, and Justice.</i>

				Programming & Development Director Montgomery Pride United Jonathan Joseph Manager, HIV Prevention & Outreach Office of HIV Prevention and Care Alabama Department of Health	
Starlight Foyer 2 nd Floor	NAESM CONFERENCE OPENING RECEPTION	8:00pm	10:00pm		
FRIDAY					
Hotel Reg Booth Lobby level	NAESM Registration	8:00am	5:00pm	Krischele Brown	
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	SESSION I	8:50am	8:59am		
				John D. Patton, Interim Executive Director & CEO NAESM, Inc.	Welcome Remarks
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	BREAKFAST PLENARY I General Session	9:00am	10:30am	NAESM PrEP University Powered by NAESM, Inc. Host: Treasure Aiko Prevention Manger NAESM, Inc. Host: Dempris Gasque Program Manager NAESM, Inc.	This dynamic, high-energy, community-centered event is designed to bring people together in a positive and motivating environment focused on HIV testing and prevention. Blending education with engagement, NAESM PrEP University creates an accessible and affirming space where attendees can learn, connect, and take action toward better health outcomes.

	SESSION II	10:45am	12:15pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	Workshop VI			<p>Chad Zawitz, MD Senior Director US Medical Affairs Gilead Sciences</p> <p>Alsean Bryant, PharmD, AAHIVP Senior Medical Science Liaison Gilead Sciences, Inc.</p>	Carceral Linkage to Care
RIVERVIEW 2 2 nd Floor	Workshop VII			<p>Jordan Cox Peer Navigator Williams & Associates, Inc.</p>	Bridges Not Barriers: Kings of Tomorrow as a Syndemic Model for Health Equity in St. Louis
RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Workshop VIII			<p>Morris Singletary Executive Director The PozItive2positive Initiative</p>	DO they really want to end the Epidemic
RIVERVIEW 4 2 nd Floor	Workshop IX			<p>Justin Smith, MS, MPH Director, Campaign to End AIDS Positive Impact Health Centers</p> <p>Devin English, PhD. Associate Professor Rutgers School of Public Health</p>	Digital Bridges to Equity: Community-Led mHealth as a Pathway to Health for Black Same Gender Loving Men in the South
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Workshop X			<p>Donta Morrison, PhD. Director of Community Outreach and Engagement UCLA Care Center</p> <p>Kyle Gordon, MHA Project Manager External Affairs HIV Vaccines Trials Network Fred Hutchinson Cance Center</p>	When the Date Doesn't Tell the Whole Story: Class, Representation and HIV Research Among Black Gay Men

	SESSION II	12:30pm	2:00pm		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	LUNCH PLENARY II			<i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Alexis Gibson, EdD Educational Leadership for Social Justice <i>Panelists:</i> Kysi Collins, BS Holistic Coach CompasScope Tiiwon Siaway, BS Arts Educator Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Madison Bailey Head of Planning COLORS Jamillah Bell, MA Marketing Administrative Coordinator WVAS 90.7 FM Tony Walker Billups, BS HIV Advocate Author of “Walking in Truth”	Bridging the Intergenerational Divide with Grace and Dignity: A Discussion on the Impacts of Misalignment in Professional Spaces with Generational Clashes

	SESSION IV	2:15pm	3:45pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	Workshop XI			<p>Darren Wright Patient Navigator, Engagement Coordinator Positive Impact Health Centers</p> <p>Sharon Kricun Adherence & Retention Manager Positive Impact Health Centers</p>	Amplifying Community Voices in HIV Care & Support Services: The Making of a Client Advisory Board (CAB)
RIVERVIEW 2 2 nd Floor	Workshop XII			<p>Obie McNair, PhD, Sr. Manager for Community Health Research BlaqOut, Inc.</p>	Community Based Participatory Action Research: When Community Members Lead Research
RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Workshop XIII			<p>Erika Bowens, PharmD, BS, AAHVP, CPh Pharmacist-in-Charge Avita Pharmacy Montgomery</p>	How Pharmacists Are Helping Bridge the Gap in PrEP Care and Continuity
RIVERVIEW 4 2 nd Floor	Workshop XIV			<p>Justyn Smith, PhD., LPC-Supervisor Impulse Group Houston Mental Health Specialty Resources & Projects</p> <p>Jammie M. Hopkins, DrPH, MS, MSCR Assistant Professor Department of Community Health & Preventive Medicine Morehouse School of Medicine</p>	Turning Training into Access: Expanding Community Mental Health Through Strategic Counseling Internship integration
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Workshop XV			<p>Bishar Jenkins Jr., MPP, MA in Political Science, Senior Manager of Government Relations, AIDS United</p>	Sacred Creativity: Black Queer Aesthetics as HIV Advocacy tool in the Age of Christian Nationalism

				Joseph White Community Organizer AIDS United	
RIVERVIEW 6 2 nd Floor	Workshop XVI			Bijon Justin Barnes Engagement Specialist REACHLA	Queering the Clinic: Exploring the Critical Queering of Sexual Health Service Work in QTBIPOC Communities with REACHLA
	SESSION V	4:00pm	4:30pm	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
ALABAMA D Lobby Level	POSTER I			DeKeitra R. Griffin, MSW, MPA, LCSW PhD Student, School of Social Work Louisiana State University Odessa J. Foster, M.S. Ph.D. Student, School of Social Work Louisiana State University	Still Deserving of Touch: Platonic Connection, Coping, and Healing Among Black Same-Gender Loving Men
ALABAMA D Lobby level	Poster II			Rahem White (he/they) Program Director Arkansas RAPPs	Housing Stability as Treatment infrastructure
ALABAMA D Lobby level	Poster III			Kavarious Finch, BS Visual Artist and Community Health Advocate C.R.I.B.B.	Rooms With No Doors: Visual Storytelling on Home, Belonging, and Mental Health Among Black LGBTQ+ Young Adults
ALABAMA D Lobby level	Poster IV			Darius Rush, MSN, RN, PhD(c) Augusta University	Medical Mistrust, HIV-Related Stigma, and PrEP Uptake Among Individuals Recently Diagnosed with HIV: A Conceptual Framework
ALABAMA D Lobby level	Poster V			Alsean Bryant, Pharm.D., AAHIVP Sr. Medical Science Liaison Gilead Sciences	HIV Viewpoints: Survey on the Treatment Experiences of People Living with HIV in Canada, Mexico, and the United States
ALABAMA D Lobby level	SOCIAL HAPPY HOUR	4:30pm	5:00pm		

ALABAMA AB Lobby level	CRIBB – Graduation Dinner	6:00pm	8:00pm	Dempris Gasque CRIBB Program Manager NAESM, Inc.	
PS	Private Function-JP	8:00pm	9:30pm	SPONSORS RECEPTION	
SATURDAY					
Convention C Lobby level		6:00am	7:30am	Sylver Rochelin Instructor Froca Fitness	High Impact Aerobics Session
	SESSION VI	9:00am	10:30am		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	BREAKFAST PLENARY III			<p>Searching for John Doe Podcast</p> <p><i>Podcasters:</i></p> <p>Martez D. R. Smith, PhD, LMSW Public health scholar, licensed social worker, and community-engaged researcher</p> <p>Kalvin Leveille, MHA, MHC-LP Public health leader and HIV/AIDS advocate</p> <p>Antar T. Bush, LMSW, MPH, CHES Seasoned expert in public health communications, a creative storyteller, advocate, and cultural commentator</p>	<p>Navigating Love, Identity, and Mental Health</p> <p>Join Martez Smith, Calvin Leveille, and Antar Bush for a deeply personal breakfast plenary exploring the vital links between mental health, love, and interpersonal relationships. This interactive session moves beyond the surface to examine how emotional intimacy and vulnerability serve as foundations for both personal healing and community leadership. By dismantling the barriers within our own identities and connections, we can build stronger bridges toward equity and social justice. Expect a transformative experience that challenges you to lead—and love—more compassionately.</p>

	SESSION VII	10:45am	12:15pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	Workshop XVII			<p>Daniel D. Driffin, DrPH, MPH Project Manager External Affairs HIV Vaccines Trials Network Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center</p> <p>Leisha McKinley-Beach Founder & CEO Black Public Health Academy</p>	Southern Tea: Community Voices Shaping HIV Solutions Across Georgia
RIVERVIEW 2 2 nd Floor	Workshop XVIII			<p>Maliek Yuseef Powell Community Advocate & Media Storyteller M.I.B. Production House/Independent HIV Advocate</p>	Undetectable but Visible: HIV Disclosure, Reality TV, and Social Media Conversation
RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Workshop XIX			<p>Nathaniel Currie, DSW, MSW, LCSW Psychotherapist NAESM, Inc.</p> <p>Malachi Walker Community Health Coordinator NAESM, Inc.</p>	Ensuring Space for Spirituality in Direct Community Care Interventions
RIVERVIEW 4 2 nd Floor	Workshop XX			<p>Lorenzo Robertson Executive Director Ujima Men's Collective</p> <p>Ederick Johnson Program Coordinator Ujima Men's Collective</p>	Tapestry
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXI			<p>Jai The Gentlemen Host/Executive Producer Dear Black Gay Men Podcast</p>	The Digital Frontline: Leveraging Podcasts as Catalyst for HIV Prevention and Health Equity among Black Gay Men

RIVERVIEW 6 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXII			<p>Jason M. Dotson, MHD, MHS, LPC, LCADC, ACS Ph.D. Candidate Fielding Graduate University</p> <p>Alfred L. Forbes, MBA Advocate & International Consultant Forbes, LLC</p>	Good Intentions Are Not Enough: Examining Service Provider Preparedness to Support Black Same-Gender Loving Men
	SESSION VIII	12:30pm	2:00pm		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	LUNCH PLENARY IV			<p>Dr. Daniel Black, Ph.D. Author, Professor, Consultant, Mentor</p> <p>John D. Patton, Interim Executive Director & CEO NAESM, Inc.</p>	Hanging out with Mr. P.....
	SESSION IX	2:15pm	3:45pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXIII			AK Reese, MSW, CPS-MH NAESM, Inc.	Somatic Liberation: Pleasure Mapping using Kink and Trauma Informed Frameworks to Address Shame in Black LGBTQ+ Sexual Health
RIVERVIEW 2 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXIV			<p>Johnnie Kornegay Deputy Director for Strategy and Impact Counter Narrative Project</p> <p>Charles Stephens Executive Director Counter Narrative Project</p> <p>Thandiwe DeShazor Program Manager Counter Narrative Project</p>	Healing Through Memory: Honoring Forty Years of Joseph Beam's In the Life

RIVERVIEW 3 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXV			David Brandyn Sex Educator, Content Creator Butch Queen	The New Outreach Workers: Partnering with Black Queer Influencers to Advance Sexual Health Equity
RIVERVIEW 4 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXVI			Rodney McCoy Independent Consultant RJM Consulting Louis Shackelford, MPH Director of External Affairs HIV Vaccine Trials Network Fred Hutch Cancer Center	Beyond the Red Ribbon: Prevention Through the Lens of Kink
RIVERVIEW 5 2 nd Floor	Workshop XXVII			John G. Rowell Jr., MPH Associate Director of Prevention Alliance of AIDS Services- Carolina	Reflect & Reveal Part II: How Photovoice can Illustrate Change in SGL Black Men’s Sexual Health Outcomes
	SESSION X	4:00pm	6:00pm		
ALABAMA D Lobby level	EXHIBITS	3:45pm	5:00pm		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	Legends Awards Black Tie Dinner Gala	7:00pm	10:00pm	Hostess: Miss Sophia Honorees: Michelle L. Allen Miguel Bujanda Dr. Daniel Driffin Dr. LaRon Nelson Steven Sawyer Dewayne Crowder Entertainers – Star of the Century Niesha Dupree Necole Luv Dupree Stasha Sanchez April Chanel Chavon Scott Vita VonTesse	

SUNDAY				Depart Conference	