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
WEDNESDAY					
ALABAMA D Lobby Floor	Exhibit Move-In	6:00pm	9:00pm		
THURSDAY					
ALABAMA D Lobby Floor	Exhibit Move-In	9:00am	12:00pm		
Hotel R-Booth Lobby Floor	NAESM Registration	8:00am	5:00pm	Krischelle Brown	
RIVERVIEW 8 **2nd Floor**	Speaker Ready Room	8:00am	4:00pm	Huview Productions	Audio-Visual for Presenters
RIVERVIEW 1 2nd Floor	Institute I	9:00am	12:00pm	**Jonathan Paul Lucas, PhD, MPH,** Director of Research FHI360 **Caleb Brown, MPH, MHA, CHES** Research Associate, Yale School of Nursing - HPTN096 Study **Perry Rhodes III,** Coalition Manager HPTN 096 Initiatives and PhD Candidate	PHASE: Creating Human-Centered, Community-Responsive HIV Care
RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Institute II	9:00am	12:00pm	**Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr., LMSW** General Manager The Watkins Group, LLC	Examining How Trauma, Religious Trauma, Stigma, and Shame Impact Spirituality, Health, and HIV Prevention

RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Institute III	9:00am	12:00pm	**Jammie M. Hopkins, DrPH, MS, MSCR** Assistant Professor Department of Community Health & Preventive Medicine Morehouse School of Medicine	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 2nd Floor	Conversation Series	10:am	12:00pm	*Moderators*: **Glynnis Young, PSY.M, LPC, NCC** Psychotherapist Avondale and Associates Psychological Services **Marco Mays** Founder The Black Cave	**Deep In The Cave** 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.
ALABAMA AB Lobby Level	General Lunch	12:00pm	2:00pm		
ALABAMA D Lobby level	EXHIBIT EXPO	2:00pm	5:30pm	**Official Exhibit Opening** **By NAESM Prevention**	
RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Workshop I	3:30pm	5:00pm	**Jordan Braxton** Community Empowerment Manager Vivent Health	Black Girl Power: How the Voices of Black Trans Women Can Change Policy
RIVERVIEW 4 2nd Floor	Workshop II	3:30pm	5:00pm	**Gerald Garth, MBA** Executive Director AMAAD Institute **Diamond Paulk** TGI Program Manager AMAAD Institute	My Sister's Keeper
RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Workshop III	3:30pm	5:00pm	**Gillette Harris** Program Coordinator Us Helping Us People Into Living	Strutting for our Healing – Transformative power of Ballroom for Black Queer Folk

RIVERVIEW 6 2nd Floor	Workshop IV	3:30pm	5:00pm	**Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D, M.Phil, LMSW** Associate Professor SUNY Albany	Life Span Development of Black Transgender Women
RIVERVIEW 7 2nd 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 I Black LGBTQ+ Communities
RIVERVIEW 1 2nd Floor	CRIBB- GATHERING	6:00pm	8:30pm	**De'Andre S. Pickett, Ed.D., Ph.D.** CRIBB Program Manager NAESM, Inc.	
EXHIBIT A **1st floor** **Convention Cntr**	Sponsored by: Department of African and African Studies at WashU	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** *Founder & CEO* Live Like An Icon	*Bridges, Not Barriers: Creating a Path to Equity, Access, and Justice.*

				Founder The Black Cave **Tavaras Koonce (he/him)** Programming & Development Director Montgomery Pride United **Jonathan Joseph** Manager, HIV Prevention & Outreach Office of HIV Prevention and Care Alabama Department of Health	
Starlight Foyer 2nd Floor	NAESM CONFERENCE OPENING RECEPTION	8:00pm	10:00pm		
FRIDAY					
Hotel Reg Booth Lobby level	NAESM Registration	8:00am	5:00pm		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	SESSION I	8:50am	8:59am		
				John 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.	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 2nd Floor	Workshop VI			**Chad Zawitz, MD** Senior Director US Medical Affairs Gilead Sciences **Alsean Bryant, PharmD, AAHIVP** Senior Medical Science Liaison Gilead Sciences, Inc.	Carceral Linkage to Care
RIVERVIEW 2 2nd Floor	Workshop VII			**Jordan Cox** Peer Navigator Williams & Associates, Inc.	Bridges Not Barriers: Kings of Tomorrow as a Syndemic Model for Health Equity in St. Louis
RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Workshop VIII			**Morris Singletary** Executive Director The PozItive2positive Initiative	DO they really want to end the Epidemic
RIVERVIEW 4 2nd Floor	Workshop IX			**Justin Smith, MS, MPH** Director, Campaign to End AIDS Positive Impact Health Centers **Devin English, PhD.** Associate Professor Rutgers School of Public Health	Digital Bridges to Equity: Community-Led mHealth as a Pathway to Health for Black Same Gender Loving Men in the South
RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Workshop X			**Donta Morrison, PhD.** Director of Community Outreach and Engagement UCLA Care Center **Kyle Gordon, MHA** Project Manager | External Affairs HIV Vaccines Trials Network Fred Hutchinson Cance Center	When the Date Doesn't Tell the Whole Story: Class, Representation and HIV Research Among Black Gay Men

RIVERVIEW 6 2nd Floor	Workshop XI			**Von Biggs** National LGBTQ+ Health Educator and HIV Advocate Holy Cross Health & HIV Health Services Planning Council	Swipe Right on Truth: What Dating App Profiles Reveal About Bias, Identity, and LGBTQ+ Equity
	SESSION II	12:30pm	2:00pm		
ALABAMA AB Lobby level	LUNCH | PLENARY II			*Moderator:* **Dr. Alexis Gibson** *Panelists:* Kysi "Keyz" Collins (She/Her) Tiiiwon Siaway (She/They) Madison Bailey (She/Her) Jamillah Bell (He/They) Tony Walker Billups (He/Him)	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 2nd Floor	Workshop XII			**Darren Wright** Patient Navigator, Engagement Coordinator Positive Impact Health Centers **Sharon Kricun** Adherence & Retention Manager Positive Impact Health Centers	Amplifying Community Voices in HIV Care & Support Services: The Making of a Client Advisory Board (CAB)
RIVERVIEW 2 2nd Floor	Workshop XIII			**Obie McNair, PhD, MPH** Sr. Manager for Community Health Research BlaqOut, Inc.	Community Based Participatory Action Research: When Community Members Lead Research

RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Workshop XIV			**Erika Bowens, PharmD, BS, AAHIVP, CPh** Pharmacist-in-Charge Avita Pharmacy Montgomery	How Pharmacists Are Helping Bridge the Gap in PrEP Care and Continuity
RIVERVIEW 4 2nd Floor	Workshop XV			**Justyn Smith, PhD., LPC-Supervisor** Impulse Group Houston Mental Health Specialty Resources & Projects **Jammie M. Hopkins, DrPH, MS, MSCR** Assistant Professor Department of Community Health & Preventive Medicine Morehouse School of Medicine **Daryll Manning** Board Member Impulse Group	Turning Training into Access: Expanding Community Mental Health Through Strategic Counseling Internship integration
RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Workshop XVI			**Bishar Jenkins Jr., MAR, BA in Political Science,** Senior Manager of Government Relations, AIDS United **Joseph White** Community Organizer AIDS United	Sacred Creativity: Black Queer Aesthetics as HIV Advocacy tool in the Age of Christian Nationalism
RIVERVIEW 6 2nd Floor	Workshop XVII			**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	
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			**Searching for John Doe Podcast** ***Podcasters:*** **Martez D. R. Smith, PhD, LMSW** Public health scholar, licensed social worker, and community-engaged researcher **Kalvin Leveille, MHA, MHC-LP** Public health leader and HIV/AIDS advocate **Antar T. Bush, LMSW, MPH, CHES** Seasoned expert in public health communications, a creative storyteller, advocate, and cultural commentator	**Navigating Love, Identity, and Mental Health** Join Martez Smith, Kalvin 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.
	SESSION VII	10:45am	12:15pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2nd Floor	Workshop XVIII			**Daniel D. Driffin, DrPH, MPH** Project Manager | External Affairs HIV Vaccines Trials Network Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center **Leisha McKinley-Beach** Founder & CEO Black Public Health Academy	Southern Tea: Community Voices Shaping HIV Solutions Across Georgia
RIVERVIEW 2 2nd Floor	Workshop XIX			**Maliek Yuseef Powell**	Undetectable but Visible: HIV Disclosure, Reality TV, and Social Media Conversation

				Community Advocate & Media Storyteller M.I.B. Production House/Independent HIV Advocate	
RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Workshop XX			**Nathaniel Currie, DSW, MSW, LCSW** Psychotherapist NAESM, Inc. **Malachi Walker** Community Health Coordinator NAESM, Inc.	Ensuring Space for Spirituality in Direct Community Care Interventions
RIVERVIEW 4 2nd Floor	Workshop XXI			**Lorenzo Robertson** Executive Director Ujima Men's Collective **Ederick Johnson** Program Coordinator Ujima Men's Collective	Tapestry
RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Workshop XXII			**Jai The Gentlemen** Host/Executive Producer Dear Black Gay Men Podcast	The Digital Frontline: Leveraging Podcasts as Catalyst for HIV Prevention and Health Equity among Black Gay Men
RIVERVIEW 6 2nd Floor	Workshop XXIII			**Jason M. Dotson, MHD, MHS, LPC, LCADC, ACS** Ph.D. Candidate Fielding Graduate University **Alfred L. Forbes, MBA** Advocate & International Consultant Forbes, LLC	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			**Dr. Daniel Black, Ph.D.** Author, Professor, Consultant, Mentor **John Patton,** Interim Executive Director & CEO NAESM, Inc.	Hanging out with Mr. P.....
	SESSION IX	2:15pm	3:45pm		
RIVERVIEW 1 2nd Floor	Workshop XXIIV			**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 2nd Floor	Workshop XXV			**Johnnie Kornegay** Deputy Director for Strategy and Impact Counter Narrative Project **Charles Stephens** Executive Director Counter Narrative Project **Thandiwe DeShazor** Program Manager Counter Narrative Project	Healing Through Memory: Honoring Forty Years of Joseph Beam's In the Life
RIVERVIEW 3 2nd Floor	Workshop XXVI			**David Brandyn** Sex Educator, Content Creator Butch Queen	The New Outreach Workers: Partnering with Black Queer Influencers to Advance Sexual Health Equity
RIVERVIEW 4 2nd Floor	Workshop XXVII			**Rodney McCoy** Independent Consultant RJM Consulting **Louis Shackelford, MPH**	Beyond the Red Ribbon: Prevention Through the Lens of Kink

				Director of External Affairs HIV Vaccine Trials Network Fred Hutch Cancer Center	
RIVERVIEW 5 2nd Floor	Workshop XXVIII			**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 **Entertainers – Star of the Century** Niesha Dupree Necole Luv Dupree Stasha Sanchez April Chanel Chavon Scott Vita VonTesse	