

YOU'RE INVITED!

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS & AGING AWARENESS DAY PANEL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Did you know?

- HIV is an Aging issue. More than half of people living with diagnosed HIV in the U.S. are aged 50+. Some were diagnosed later in life, while others have lived with HIV for many years.

Good news!

- More people are aging with HIV and living long, healthy lives.



DETAILS

WHO



WHAT

LIVE PANEL OF STORYTELLERS AGING WITH HIV

See reverse for speaker bios.

WHEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10-11:30am CST

WHERE

ZOOM

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Questions? Contact Nina Orłowski at nina.orłowski@ageoptions.org or 708-853-5571.

STORYTELLERS & PANELISTS



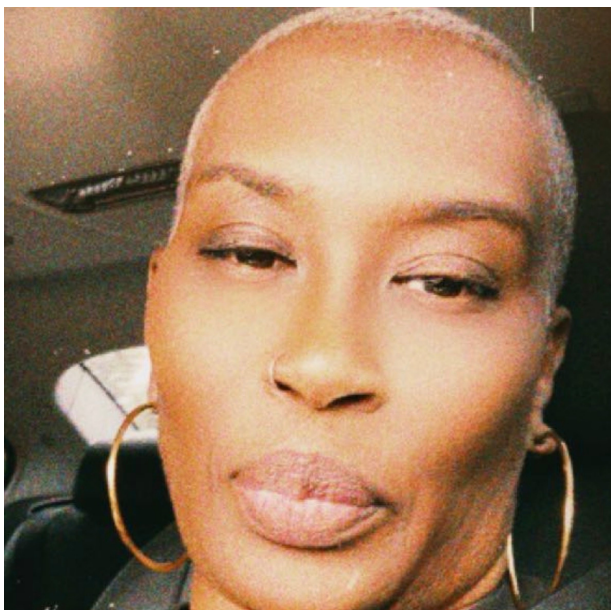
CAPRICE CARTHANS

Caprice Carthans is a 40 year survivor of HIV. She started her work in advocacy over 30 years ago. She is featured in To Survive on this Shore, sits on the Board of Directors at AIDS Foundation Chicago, and is the a Board Chair for Life is Work, a trans-led organization in Chicago. She's also the Executive Director of Equity Alliance Health of Illinois.



KENNY MARTÍN-OCASIO

Kenny Martín-Ocasio was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1963, and was raised in Puerto Rico. He came to Chicago at age 18 to resume his higher education and received his Bachelor in Arts, Special Education degree from Northeastern Illinois University in 1987, and a Master of Science in Health Services Administration in 1999. He has worked in the area of human services (substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence), and child welfare for over 32 years, and has dedicated his career to working towards the professional, social, economic, and educational advancement of minorities, especially Latinos and the LGBTQ community. He has served as president of the DuPage Hispanic Task Force, co-chair of the Latino Consortium, member of the Illinois Latino Agenda, the Latino Youth Action Coalition, the Cook County President's Latino Advisory, and currently in the LGBTQ-DCFS Collaborative and the Illinois Hispanic Employment Plan Advisory Council. For the last fifteen years, as a board member and volunteer of the Association of Latinos(as) Motivating Action, he fights for the equal rights of the Latino LGBT community. Kenny now serves as Senior Vice President of Community Integration at Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness.



CARMEN EARSERY

Carmen Earsery is a Licensed Community Health Worker with more than 17 years of experience supporting People Living with HIV (PLWH), individuals at risk for HIV, and communities impacted by health inequities. Guided by both professional expertise and lived experience, Carmen has dedicated her career to HIV prevention, education, care coordination, community outreach, and program leadership. Throughout her career, Carmen has served in several key roles, including Early Intervention Specialist, Prep Navigator, Medical Case Manager, SAMHSA Grant Program Manager, and Prevention Supervisor. Her work has centered on increasing access to education, testing, prevention services, linkage to care, and supportive resources for individuals and families across the community. In addition to her public health leadership, Carmen holds a master's degree in theology and is licensed as an Evangelist through the Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.). In April 2026, she transitioned into full-time ministry, serving at a Christian-based emergency homeless shelter, where she continues to combine faith, compassion, advocacy, and community service. Carmen currently serves as Board President of the Open-Door Health Clinic Community Advisory Council (CAC). She has also served as Co-Chair of the CAC for Legal Aid Chicago, as a member of the Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council, and as a longtime member of the Ryan White Advisory Board since 2011. From 2024 to 2026, Carmen also contributed to the Reunion Project's People Aging and HIV Conference as a member of the planning committee. Across these roles, she has remained committed to advancing equitable health care access, community-centered advocacy, and meaningful representation for those most affected by HIV/AIDS.

OPENING REMARKS

IANA AMISCARAY (SHE/HER)

Sr. Manager of Special Projects,
AIDS Foundation Chicago,
Pride Action Tank

PANEL MODERATOR

NIC WESTRATE (HE/HIM)

Associate Professor,
Dept. of Educational Psychology,
University of Illinois Chicago