

Memo

DATE: November 12, 2025

TO: ACBHD Team Members & Community Partners

FROM: Stephanie Montgomery, Health Equity Officer, Health Equity Division Director
Alameda County Behavioral Health Department



SUBJECT: African American Wellness Hub Community Update

Greetings Team Members and Community Partners:

Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) is pleased to share an update on the **African American Wellness Hub (Hub)**, an initiative designed to expand culturally rooted healing, wellness, and belonging for African American and Black individuals and families. The Hub honors African American culture, experience, and wellness traditions while welcoming all community members to participate in services aligned with equity and inclusion.

After years of advocacy and planning, the Hub is set to begin the design and preconstruction phase. What will ultimately be created through Alameda County's first *Progressive Design Build* approach, the Hub will reflect innovation, partnership, shared accountability, and a strong community voice. Once construction approval is received, completion is anticipated to last approximately 24 months.

The Hub is being developed in collaboration with ACBHD Office of The Director, ACBHD Health Equity Division, the Alameda County General Services Agency, Suffolk Construction and SKA Architects, and Vanir Construction Management. Together, these partners are committed to cultural alignment, technical excellence, innovation, and community accountability. The Hub is more than a building: it will be designed to be a legacy of community care, cultural pride, and collective healing.

Community involvement is essential to the Hub's development. To support this commitment, ACBHD has developed an *African American Wellness Hub Advisory Committee (AAWHAC)*. The African American Wellness Hub Advisory Committee was established in October 2025 by the Department (ACBHD) to provide project-specific input into the development of a Hub centering on African American wellness; and co-designed through community input. The initial phase of its convening will serve as a time-limited body focusing on offering culturally affirming, holistic, and community-based feedback that will inform design and construction which may be coordinated by ACBHD through General Services Agency (GSA) and other county-contracted construction/design or other related programs.

As the project continues, future phases of the initial committee; or other newly established African American Wellness Hub Advisory Committee membership groups will be determined to ensure the highest level of community engagement possible relative to this system-wide initiative. The advisory committee will work with our department to ensure that cultural values remain at the forefront, programs reflect

community priorities, and design elements foster healing, creativity, and dignity. Community members are encouraged to stay engaged by participating in listening sessions, following county updates, and sharing insights that strengthen the vision.

We invite you to join our *first AAWHAC engagement session* and to register using the link below:

[African American Wellness Hub Advisory Committee](#)

(Session 1)

Date: November 19, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting Location: ZOOM

[Please click HERE to register](#)

How to Stay Connected?

Additional opportunities for input and learning will be shared as the project progresses. Community members can stay engaged by participating in future listening and engagement sessions, following county communications and partner updates, sharing insights, and staying connected with this vision.

With your continued partnership, we are creating a space for wellness, belonging, creativity, and joy for generations to come.

We welcome you to participate in this impactful process.