LARRP March 2023 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



This newsletter is packed with information. When you get to the place where it says "Message clipped" make sure to click "View entire message"

In this Issue

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Message from LARRP Executive Director

A Healing Space Where Wellbeing, Creative Expression & Connection are Acts of Resistance



The Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) has long believed that the key to creating healthy thriving communities that provide economic solutions for our returning citizens is rooted in strong public and private partnerships (PPPs).

A key advantage of having the private sector provide public services is that it allows public administrators to concentrate on planning, policy, and regulation. The private community-based sector, in turn, is empowered to do what it does best, that is, improve the efficiency and quality of service. The leveraging of community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) allows government to tap into specific subject matter expertise that has a positive impact on the bottom line.

PPPs financed by the private sectors allow the spreading of the project costs for the public over a longer period, in line with the expected benefits (savings on food costs, supplies and services). Public funds are thus freed up for investments in sectors



This model of getting things done was clearly on display at our joint **Healing Space event held at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Center on February 19, 2023.** The event was led by Supervisor Holly Mitchell and the ***Justice Care and Opportunities Department's (JCOD)*** Interim Executive Director, Songhai Armstead. LARRP and many of its members/partners like ***Amity Foundation***, ***HOPICS***, ***Christ-Centered Ministries***, ***MannaFeast*** and many more demonstrated that when we come together to serve our community, we can do it in a very meaningful way.

In addition to the community showing up big, the County showed up big too! Every county department was there providing services and showing the community that they matter. The response and feedback from the community was overwhelming! We provided meals and services to over 2700 men, women, and children.

In 2023 and beyond, let's use this model of demonstration that when we come together to serve those that need it most, all things are possible. I am so grateful for all those that contributed to the success of

where private investment is impossible or inappropriate.



the event. Let's keep going team!

Onward and Upward

Pastor Troy F. Vaughn



LARRP Meetings

Education Committee:

March 2 2023, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Every first Thursday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Register Education

Integrated Health Committee

March 6, 2023, 2:00 pm

REGISTER Integrated Health

Employment Committee

April 19, 2023, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

2023 meetings will be held every EVEN month, on the 3rd Wednesday from 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Register Employment

LARRP General Meeting

March 16, 2023
10:00am - 11:30am

2023 meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Housing Committee

March 2, 2023
2:00 pm - 3:30pm

2023 meetings will be held every ODD month on the 3rd Thursday from 2:00 to 3:30

Register Housing

MEETING ARCHIVES

March Spotlight

LARRP's 2023 Policy Agenda



As we enter March, we are excited to bring some important bills in the reentry sector to your attention as we embark on this year's policy journey! We have been working hard behind the scenes, meeting with stakeholders, CBO's, justice-involved folks, and government representatives to understand the political landscape and bring attention to some of the most pertinent issues and concerns facing the reentry community.

We will start out with our local efforts. We have been in conversations for some time about a Fair chance Housing ordinance for LA County. A Fair Chance Employment Ordinance was on the BOS agenda yesterday, which can be found here, language which Alex Alexander and Amber Roth, co-chairs of the LARRP Employment Committee worked on, alongside other reentry employment experts, and we are happy to announce it passed with a unanimous vote.

We also saw a unanimous vote on Item 2 from the Board of Supervisors' Agenda. This motion, put forward by Supervisors Hahn and Barger, outlines specific language to employ folks from disenfranchised backgrounds, including specifically formerly-incarcerated individuals. The countywide workforce agreement lays out specific steps and protections for construction projects to follow, providing better-paying and safer employment opportunities for construction workers throughout the county.

Meanwhile we are also working on securing progress toward a City of LA Ordinance seeking to also establish Fair Chance Housing protections for all residents within the city limits. Over the next few weeks, we will be coalition building around advocacy efforts directed at the LA City Council, so keep your eyes open on our social media channels and email accounts to see where you can plug in and make sure folks in LA have equitable access to housing applications regardless of their background.

Turning our attention to our statewide efforts, we are proud to announce a number of bills we are signed on to co-sponsor for the year.

AB 974 by Assemblymember McKinnor. This straightforward bill seeks to allow the currently and formerly incarcerated population access to a fee-waiver in order to secure a birth certificate without having to pay the

$29 fee that is currently required. Many folks who are justice-involved need access to identifying documents, and the price can be a prohibitive barrier to accessing

AB 745 by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, a reintroduction of last year's Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Act. LARRP has been consistently meeting with his staff since last year to ensure we could bring back this bill and strategize a path to victory. This bill seeks to spend state funds to create a pilot reentry housing and workforce development program with a focus on long term supportive housing, specific job training systems, and better infrastructure to get services to the reentry population. Assemblymember Mia Bonta is a co-author, and we appreciate her support and assistance pushing the bill and ensuring it is properly funded.



The last legislation we want to bring to your attention is a federal bill which seeks to create a similar program to that mentioned above, but for the entire country. We are working with ***Congresswoman Nancy Barragan*** on a federal bill to direct funds toward a federal grant program to pilot housing-first systems. We are looking for organizations to support this bill, and right now, you can show your support for the bill by simply emailing the staffer working on the bill and letting him know that you want your organization to endorse the bill. An endorsement means that your name and logo would be on the support emails for the bill. Your support with this simple step would help us immensely. If you want to help by endorsing the bill:
Send an Email to **Remy.Golla@mail.house.gov**

Subject Line (LARRP-Sent Returning Home Act Endorsement)

"Hello, My name is _____ and I am representing (Insert Organization Name) and Kylie at LARRP let us know you are looking for groups to endorse the Returning Home Act. We would like to add our organization's name to the endorsement list and help get this vital pilot program passed!"

More Bad Prop 47 Bills - Letters of Opposition Needed!

Since Proposition 47 passed in 2014, we have seen countless unsuccessful attempts to repeal or amend the progress that it has led to in the justice-space. This year, bills like ***AB 23***, ***AB 75***, ***AB 329***, and ***AB 335*** have sought

to allow for more harsh prison sentences, a decrease in the $950 felony larceny threshold, or to wholesale repeal Prop 47. We have and continue to stand up against these

such documents. If you represent an organization who is interested in **signing on** to support this bill, you can use this link to sign on. We anticipate this bill to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee in the next few weeks, and will keep you updated on its progress!

attacks on data-proven methods for decarceration and limiting unnecessary justice-system involvement.

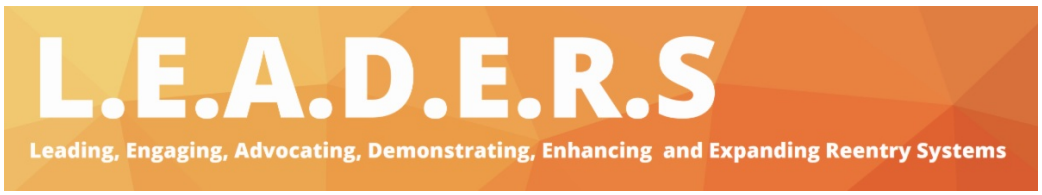
LARRP News

LARRP, Amity Partner with US Labor Department on new Grant

We are thrilled to announce that the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) has partnered with Amity Foundation on their grant with the U.S. Department of Labor's ***Growth Opportunities Program.*** The project aims to prepare justice-involved young adults for employment by providing education, training, paid work experience, leadership development, and mentorship. The ultimate goal is to support justice-involved individuals in accessing equitable career opportunities.

LARRP will provide leadership development, conflict resolution, and mentoring services to Los Angeles participants. Mentoring services will include weekly to monthly group and one-on-one mentoring support and conflict resolution training to equip participants with conflict management skills and applied experience as community mediators.

LARRP will work with other organizations to recruit and accept referrals for participants. The Leaders Training Academy program will provide monthly training, community engagement activities, and education and awareness support services to build participants' positive self-perceptions and identify participants' areas of personal interest, strengths, goals, and areas for growth. The services will address the social determinants of health, facilitation skills, public speaking, and health and stigma reduction for individuals who are justice-involved.



The purpose of The LEADERS Training Academy is to provide capacity to the formerly incarcerated, the people who have been closest to the problem but the furthest away from the solutions. Each year 12 individuals with lived experience are divided into 3 cohorts: Integrated Health, Education, and Employment to receive training to become change agents and provide a voice for impacted people in their chosen area.

We are excited to announce our collaboration with ***Christ Centered Ministries*** as we embark on the **third cohort of the LEADERS Training Academy.** Our team is currently in the process of identifying 12 exceptional individuals to participate in this life-changing program.

As we move forward, we will begin the interview process and carefully place each individual in their respective team(s): Integrated Health, Employment, and Education. We understand that this is an important opportunity, and we are committed to providing our participants with the best resources and support possible. We will continue to provide you with updates as the selection process unfolds. If you or someone you know would like to become a LEADER please contact Anthony Garcia ***anthony@lareentry.org***

We want to thank the ***Hilton Foundation*** and the ***Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)***

Featured Jobs , Opportunities and Information

Featured Job Posting

Shields has 50 Positions to fill!

Featured Opportunities and Information

Engaging With CalAIM

Quick Links for Community-Based Organizations

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), in partnership with the state of California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), awards SHIELDS for Families CalHOPE Support Program (CHSP) Grant!

- ***40 Support Specialists:*** Salary $42,000 to $49,000
- ***10 Support Specialists Supervisors:*** Salary $50,000 to $62,400



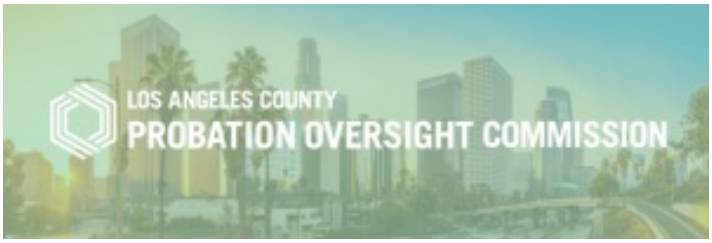
NEW Job Postings added every day!

This ITUP One-Page Resource features essential information and links to key resources to help community-based organizations (CBOs) engage with CalAIM.



More Opportunities and Information

Partner Events



Probation Oversight Commission Meetings

- **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.** (Commission Meeting IN PERSON)
- **Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.** (Commission Meeting IN PERSON)

REGISTER
Watch the previous meeting on ***YouTube***





Resource Fair and Prom Dress Giveaway
Positive Results Center

Saturday March 18, 2023, 10:00 - 3:00 PM
The Beehive, 1000 E 60th Street, LA, 90001

Sign Up:
Prom Attendee
Volunteer Sign-Up

Host a Resource Table

More Partner Events



Expungement Clinic in Riverside County

March 3rd 2023, 9am-2pm

2060 University Ave #113, Riverside, CA 92507
To Register Call 909-620-0688

In the News!

This month's feature article by Maurice Mitchell, National Director of the Working Families Party, was published last November, but we thought it would be worthwhile for all of us to read!



Maurice Mitchell talks with Cyndi Suarez of Nonprofit Quarterly about the inspiration behind the article

Building Resilient Organizations

The Forge, Maurice Mitchell, November 29, 2022

Executives in professional social justice institutions, grassroots activists in local movements, and fiery young radicals on protest lines are all advancing urgent concerns about the internal workings of progressive spaces. The themes arising are surprisingly consistent. Many claim that our spaces are “toxic” or “problematic,” often sharing compelling and troubling personal anecdotes as evidence of this. People in leadership are finding their roles untenable, claiming it is “impossible” to execute campaigns or saying they are in organizations that are “stuck.”

READ MORE

LISTEN TO THE ARTICLE (English)

LISTEN TO THE ARTICLE (Español)

Editorial: Ousting L.A. County’s chief probation officer isn’t enough. Only radical intervention can save juvenile justice

LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board, Feb. 28, 2023

Adolfo Gonzales, Los Angeles County’s chief probation officer, is not the real problem in a disastrous probation system that has failed teenagers



disastrous probation system that has failed teenagers caught in it.
That's not to say that Gonzales is up to the job. He's not. On his watch, juvenile halls and probation camps have sunk more deeply into crisis, further endangering a troubled population of teenagers in county custody and too often squandering the opportunity to get their lives on a better course.

READ MORE

ACLU Asks Judge To Hold LA County In Contempt For 'Flagrant Violations' Of Jail Order

The LAist, by Emily Elena Dugdale, Feb 27, 2023

The ACLU is asking a federal judge to find Los Angeles County in contempt of his earlier ruling mandating improvements in the handling of people at the Inmate Reception Center.

Read More



Mass Incarceration Is Slavery. Abolition Is A Vision For The Future.

The Appeal, by Olayemi Olurin, Feb 22, 2023
Yes, when abolitionists say abolition, we do really mean abolish prisons, policing, and America's entire criminal system as it exists. Yes, going as far as abolishing it is necessary. No, it's not radical. And yes, we know it's a process.
Read More

Mandatory evictions for arrested tenants would be banned under new state bill

LA Times, By Liam Dillon , Feb. 18, 2023

Assembly Bill 1418 takes aim at local policies known as "crime-free housing," which can force landlords to evict tenants accused of breaking the law or refuse to rent to those with prior criminal convictions.

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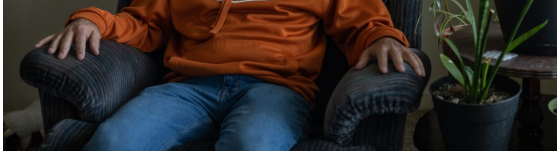


A Law Was Meant To Free Sick Or Aging Inmates. Instead, Some Are Left To Die In Prison.

WitnessLA Guest, February 21, 2023, By Fred Clasen-Kelly, Kaiser Health News

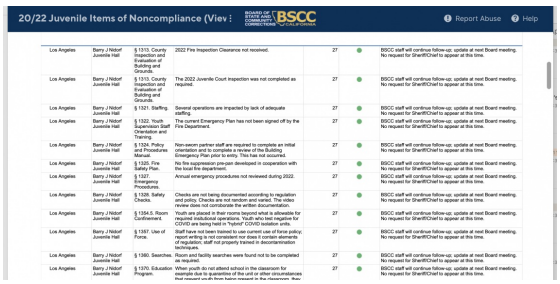
Doctors told Stout, now 62, the sharp pain and congestion in his chest were caused by stage 4 lung cancer, a terminal condition. "I'm holding on, but I would like to die at home," he told the courts in a request last September for compassionate release after serving about half of his nearly 15-year sentence

READ MORE



Why hotel rooms for L.A.'s homeless sit empty

READ THE ARTICLE
LISTEN TO THE PODCAST



State Oversight Board Says LA Probation's Youth Halls Are Dangerously Out Of Compliance In 39 Categories

February 15, 2023 by Celeste Fremon

Last Thursday, February 9, the members of the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) were presented with a report showing that Los Angeles County Probation's two youth lock-ups — Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Central Juvenile Hall — were once again extravagantly out of compliance

when it comes to basic standards of care for the kids in residence at the two facilities.

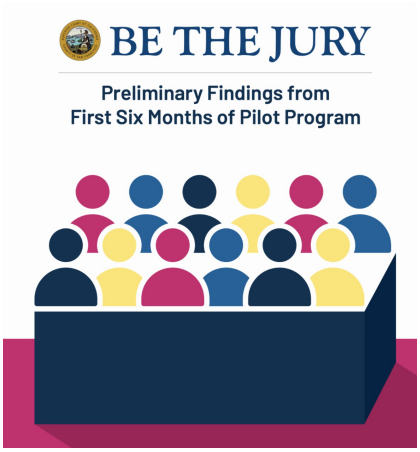
READ MORE

Leaving prison for many means homelessness and overdose. California hopes to change that

LA Times By Lila Seidman, Feb. 13, 2023
Californians who leave prisons and jails soon will have a better chance of success beyond bars. In January, California became the first state permitted to provide some benefits under Medicaid (known here as Medi-Cal) to incarcerated individuals. The new benefits would start 90 days before discharge in an effort to create a smooth transition to the community.

READ MORE

Reports



Unique Pilot Program Shows Success In Expanding Racial and Economic Diversity in San Francisco Jury Pools

The Financial Justice Project released a new report on the findings of the first six months of the Be The Jury Pilot Program. The Be The Jury Pilot Programtests whether providing $100 per day as compensation to jurors with lower incomes helps foster juries that are made up of a balanced cross section of San Francisco residents.
The preliminary findings show that the pilot program helps level the playing field, making it possible for San Franciscans with lower incomes to participate in their community's constitutional right to a jury by their peers.
These results were featured in an **San Francisco Chronicle** article by Justin Phillips.

Read the Report



State of Phone Justice 2022: The problem, the progress, and what's next

Prison Policy Initiative by Peter Wagner and Wanda Bertram, December 2022

(This report was released before the Martha Wright-Reed Act was passed by Congress. Learn more about the implications of this law in thes blog post.)

Read the Report

Blog Post: Prison Policy Initiative, by Wanda Bertram, January 19, 2023

Since You Asked: What's next for prison and jail phone justice now that the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act is law?

READ the Post

READ the Post