LARRP July 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

Spotlight-Pretrial Services * LARRP Committee Meetings * Policy Updates * LARRP Updates * Partner Events * Opportunities and Funding and information * In the News * Reports

Become a Member Today!

Subscribe to our Newsletter

July Spotlight - Pretrial Services

LARRP along with many community partners have been at the forefront of advocating for a robust pre-trial service system in LA County for many years, and we are happy to lend our voice to this issue.

The recent Vera report sheds light on the fact that we are still seeing people die in the county jail while we wait for coordinated pretrial services programs that will make significant improvements in the criminal justice system here in Los Angeles County. The report points out that three years after adopting the "care first, jails last" vision that created a transformative framework that has the potential to eradicate unnecessary detention before trial we are still waiting. In fact, it is clear by reading the report that we have stalled in our progress and are languishing in unnecessary jail costs, gaps in the service delivery system, continued loss of life in the county jail and defendants being robbed of their liberty. In addition, the report makes clear recommendations that the county should be taking right now to move the process forward.

I have written an op-ed that outlines the current situation that should be released soon.

Pastor Troy Vaugn

LARRP Executive Director



Investing in Supportive Pretrial Services: How to Build a "Care First" Workforce in Los Angeles County

Vera Institute of Justice, June 2023

Publication Highlights

- Local providers across the spectrum of services and service planning areas are experiencing staffing shortages resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and competition with Los Angeles County.
- Capacity-building support is needed to strengthen community-based service providers, as are changes to contracting, billing, and reporting procedures.
- To expand capacity, Los Angeles County should, among other things, implement pretrial services by increasing budgetary allocations for community-based service providers and

Read the Report

restructuring county contracting processes and technical assistance programs.

LARRP Meetings

LARRP General Meeting

July 20, 2023

10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Integrated Health Committee

August 7, 2023, 2:00 pm

July Meeting is cancelled

REGISTER Integrated Health

Employment Committee

August 16, 2023, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Register Employment

September Meetings

Education Committee

September 7, 2023, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

July and August Meeting cancelled

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

Register Education

Housing Committee

September 7, 2023, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

July Meeting Cancelled!

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

Register Housing

LARRP July Policy Update



State Legislative Update

California is facing a budget deficit of more than 30 billion dollars, leading to many new bills being pulled from

$80 million for mental health treatment county jails. The majority of this money will support health services for incarcerated individuals through increased funding for Integrated Correctional Health Services (ICHS) (***Budget Fact Sheet***, ***Ellis Sheriff***). The rest of this funding will go towards moving incarcerated individuals with serious mental health conditions into inpatient mental health facilities as opposed to traditional carceral facilities (Board of Supervisors Budget Deliberations Meeting 6/26, ***Ellis Sheriff***).

Establishing the Office of Constitutional Policing (OCP) for increased accountability and investigations into

gang presences within the sheriff's department.
On the flip side of a few of these promising budget elements, some organizations argue that money could be better spent. For example, $187 million of the CFCI funds

consideration, including more than half of the LARRP priority bills for this year, including both of our co-sponsored bills, ***AB 745*** (Bryan), The Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program, and ***AB 974*** (McKinnor), the Incarcerated Birth Certificate Waiver Bill.

With most of our original work sidelined this year, we are focusing on a number of new bills which aim to improve the contracting, grant-awarding, and payment process for nonprofits and other organizations which engage in business with the state of California. One such bill we are advocating for is ***AB 696*** (Lowenthal) which would provide and accept electronic signatures transmission, and offer the option of payment by electronic funds. The bill would also prohibit a state agency that administers a grant or contract after 2025 from requiring an original print signature on a contract or grant document. By moving toward quicker and more reliable e-signatures, e-verification, and e-payments, CBO's can spend time on what truly matters, delivering high quality services to the folks they serve. A full list of LARRP's priority bills can be found ***here***, and this document is regularly updated as bills move through the process.

County Budget Update

We also have many important updates from LA County, as budgetary conversations have been ongoing for the upcoming fiscal year. The LA County Board of Supervisors approved the 2023-24 recommended county budget last week, cementing county expenditures through June 2024. This budget includes a variety of positive reforms, along with shortcomings, for the justice-involved community and criminal legal system. Some highlights of the proposed budget include:

$692 million for the emergency response to the homelessness crisis in LA. This money would fund a 26-person staffing expansion within the CEO's Homelessness Initiative, service expansions including mental health outreach, and encampment resolution efforts including housing programs (2023-2024 ***Recommended Budget Press Release***, Board of Supervisors Budget Deliberations Meeting 6/26).

$288 million for Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) to rectify racism in the criminal legal system. The Board of Supervisors voted to dedicate 10% of the county's locally generated unrestricted revenues every year to community investments and alternatives to incarceration by June of 2024, which became the CFCI fund (also known as Measure J) (***Budget Fact Sheet***).

accumulated in the past few years have gone unspent, frustrating many justice advocates (Board of Supervisors Budget Deliberations Meeting 6/26). Additionally, although the creation of the OCP would create more law enforcement accountability, the proposed budget also allocates several billion dollars to the sheriff's department and expands the number of sheriff positions (Ellis Sheriff, ***Budget Fact Sheet***). Many organizations advocating for criminal legal and policing reform oppose this decision, as these organizations believe this money could be better spent on violence prevention and public support efforts (***Budget Fact Sheet***).

An issue LARRP has been pushing for for many years, t**his year's budget also did not include allocations to fund the additional beds needed to close Men's Central Jail,** which was supposed to close in March of this year, while devoting over $100 million to renovate and re-open the Los Padrinos juvenile facility (***LA Times Editorial Board***, ***Ellis Sheriff***).

Major overhaul in the county Probation Department also influences the Board's agenda. The Board just fired the 9th probation department head in 20 years and passed three motions to improve juvenile justice (Ellis Probation). These three motions are:

1. Reduce the number of teenagers in the Probation Department (***Ellis Probation***).
2. Find suitable housing for juveniles released from Division of Juvenile Justice facilities (***Ellis Probation***).
3. Further develop the Department of Youth Development, which could replace the Parole Department in the future (***Ellis Probation***).

The county will likely incur costs with these changes to juvenile justice, particularly in light of the state recently closing all youth prisons, transferring more responsibility for juvenile justice to counties (***Rinker***).

LA county is also reckoning with *videos smuggled out of Men's Central Jail* showing violence unaddressed by guards and appalling conditions inside county jails. In the Board budgetary review meeting, moments of silence were had for individuals recently killed within LA county carceral facilities (***Ellis Sheriff***). Board members recognized unacceptable conditions within county facilities, and justice advocates can find both hope for progress and concern for inadequate action within the adopted budget.

2023 Policy Priorities!

LARRP Updates

LARRP LEADERS bring a strong voice to the table

On June 23, 2023, LARRP had the opportunity to present to CCJBH (Council On Criminal Justice And Behavioral Health) and and its Council Members. This marked the successful completion of our contract with them and all of its commitments.



LARRP's representatives shared their profound insights into the challenges and triumphs that marked the past three years of the LEADERS Training Academy. Through personal anecdotes and powerful storytelling, LARRP's presentation underscored the invaluable contributions of all of the Alumni in the LEADERS Training Academy, illuminating the transformative journey they embarked on and the positive outcomes achieved, all while in reentry.

LARRP would like to thank the whole team at CCJBH for their willingness to partner with LARRP in order to make systemic changes together, including having the lived Experience voice at the table.

Partner Events

LA County Fair Chance Ordinance - Second Listening Session and Service Provider Feedback

Listening Session: Thursday, 7/6/23, 10 - 11:30 am

A chance for everyone to provide feedback on an updated draft that incorporates some of the feedback from the first session.

As you all know, LA County is in the process of drafting a Fair Chance ordinance to provide additional protections around employment searches. LA County is interested in gathering input from service providers.
If you aren't able to make the listening sessions, but want to provide feedback, please feel to send me any feedback you have and they will consolidate and pass along!

Feedback Form
More Info: ***njeong@rootandrebound.org***

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
JUSTICE CARE AND OPPORTUNITIES DEPARTMENT

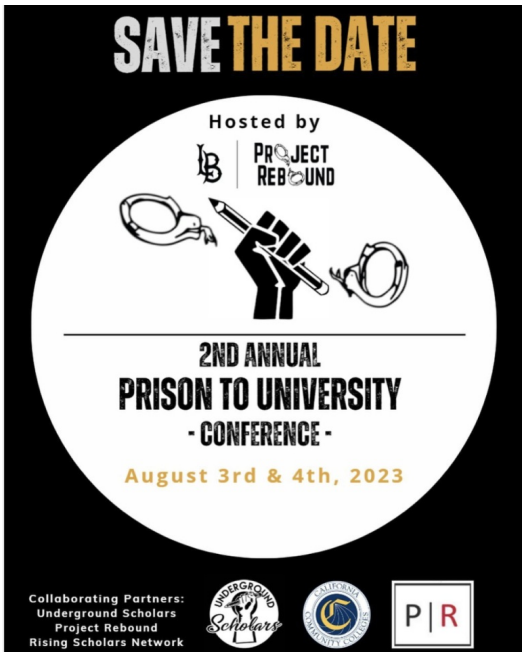
Thursday, July 20 at 4 P.M

Events Calendar

Civilian Oversight Commission

- **Thursday, July 20**
- Thursday, September 21

MORE INFO



2023 Prison to University Conference

August 3 · 9am - August 4 · 4pm
California State University, Long Beach
1250 N Bellflower Blvd long beach, CA 90840

The second annual Prison to University Conference hosted by our LARRP partners the Underground Scholars, Project Rebound, and Rising Scholars will take place August 3rd and 4th at Cal State University Long Beach. The PTU Conference is the premiere convening of reentry programs in higher education in California, featuring speakers, panels, workshops, a resource fair, and networking for students, faculty, and administrators. The resource fair in particular is a great opportunity for housing, employment, and other providers to share their programs with the

education community.

More info and get FREE Tickets

Call for Proposals

MORE INFO

Jobs, Opportunities and Information

worker education & resource center, inc.

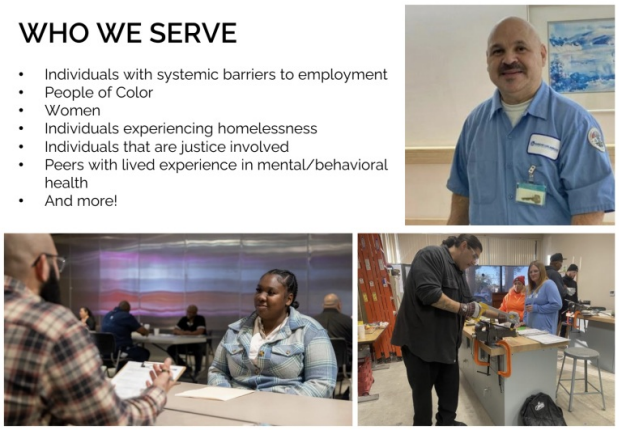
Shout out to our partners and steering committee member WERC who made an amazing presentation at the last General meeting.

Mission: To support workers experiencing barriers to employment in connecting to and retaining good, stable, and permanent jobs and improving quality of life.

Serving:
•Individuals with systemic barriers to employment
•People of Color
•Women
•Individuals experiencing homelessness
•Individuals that are justice involved
•Peers with lived experience in mental/behavioral health
•And more!

Worker Training for Job Seekers:

- PLACE (Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment)
- Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist (job seekers and incumbent workers)
- Harm Reduction Workers for Community-based Orgs



Upcoming PLACE Programs at WERC

Community Health Worker | Department of Health
40+ positions Throughout Los Angeles County
Training Dates: August 2023

Grounds Maintenance Worker, Department of Beaches & Harbors
15 positionsThroughout LA County Beaches
Number of Jobs: 15 positions
Training Dates: Begins August 2023
For more info about WERC and the PLACE program,

download the Brochure

DHCS is hiring

DHCS has an immediate opening for ***Chief, Financial Review-Outpatient and Behavioral Health Division within the Audits & Investigation program;*** **the filing deadline is July 6**

DHCS is also hiring for our communications, fiscal, human resources, legal, auditing, health policy, and information technology teams. For more information, please visit the ***CalCareers website***.



California DOJ is Hiring

- ***Deputy Attorney General III, Employment & Administrative Mandate Investigations Group***
- ***Deputy Attorney General IV, Government Law, Public Records Act Unit***
- ***Deputy Attorney General III, Consumer***



- ***Protection Section***
- ***Deputy Attorney General IV, Special Prosecutions Section***
-

and MORE



Finish First Academy Re-entry and Transitional Housing program.

Finish First Academy is accepting applicants/clients for re-entry and transitional housing. Our mission is to help women re enter society and get their lives back on track following incarceration. Finish First Academy

Re-entry and Transitional housing will be open as of Monday, July 10, 2023. There will be 12 beds available.

More info

In the News!

This shocking video is our featured story of the month



Fights, beatings and a birth: Videos smuggled out of L.A. jails reveal violence, neglect

LA Times, By Keri Blakinger, June 24, 2023

The brutal 20-minute clip is one of a few dozen graphic videos saved to a thumb drive picked out of the trash by one inmate, and later secreted out of the jail by another. Several of the clips recently reviewed by The Times show stabbings and fist fights. One shows an inmate trying to kill himself, and another shows several jailers punching a man in the head as they try to subdue him. Still another shows a woman giving birth in the middle of a hallway, where her newborn falls out onto the jail floor in a puddle of blood.

Watch and Read More

More News



Sheriff's Department gets $4 billion amid 'unconscionable' conditions in L.A. jails



'unconscionable' conditions in L.A. jails

LA Times, By Rebecca Ellis, June 26, 2023

"This budget acknowledges that there are serious problems with sheriff violence and jail conditions," said Ivette Alé-Ferlito, executive director of La Defensa. "But instead of investing in the care and freedom of the survivors, you're throwing more money at the very departments that are committing these atrocities. This is lipstick on a pig."

As she spoke, advocates in the crowd held signs with tombstones on them — representing the 24 people who have died in county custody since the start of the year — about one per week.

Read More



5 takeaways of the California budget deal

LA Times, June 29, 2023

Gov. Gavin Newsom and California lawmakers agreed to a $310.8-billion budget deal that will include an expansion of Medi-Cal coverage and transforming parts of San Quentin State Prison into a rehabilitation center.

Read and Watch

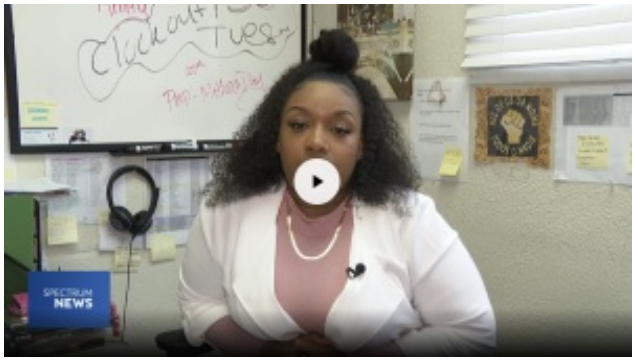


Opinion: Newsom should solve two problems at once: Close prisons and cut

Keri Blakinger on her criminal justice memoir Corrections in Ink

US Times Post, by Emma Bowman, June 11, 2023
...the first thing Blakinger learned was the lasting damage the American criminal justice system does to those it incarcerates. In her utterly honest memoir, Blakinger writes, "All the futility, the petty cruelties, the refusal to see us as fully human beings —that wasn't a flaw in the system." It was the system."

Read More



As women's criminal justice reform bill advances, advocate calls for change

Spectrum, By Cassie Semyon, Jun. 07, 2023
Heading into her Los Angeles office at A New Way of Life, Marina Judkins is on a mission. It's a mission often done quietly. But Judkins is hoping to bring it to the light.

Read or Watch

County reshapes justice system for women battling mental health issues

National Association of Counties News, By Meredith Moran, June 6, 2023

Los Angeles County, Calif. is reshaping its justice system with its Guiding Re-Entry of Women (GROW) program, which diverts women with mental health and substance use issues from incarceration, instead providing them with support services.

Read More



spending

LA Times, By Brian Kaneda, June 22, 2023

By seizing the chance to close more California prisons, we can forge a transformative path that not only tackles the history of harmful prison expansion but also directs resources toward meeting the long-neglected needs of many communities.

Read More

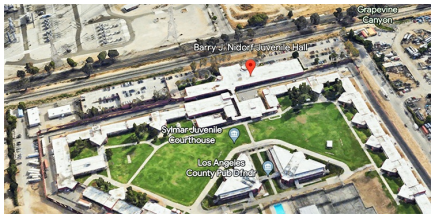


How LA County's Zero-Bail Rules Can Help Others Like Me

The APPEAL, by Angel Lopez, Jun 28, 2023

I was arrested during the pandemic. In normal circumstances, I likely would have spent months in jail only to be thrown back into the streets, having lost what few belongings I had and any progress I had made to get myself in a better place. Instead, the bail schedule freed me. This new normal allowed me to receive the drug treatment I needed and the additional resources and programs I would not have known about otherwise. I used every opportunity from EBS to get my life together, having learned this freedom could be hard to come by.

Read More



A String Of Kids Overdose & A Staff Member Attacked In One Of LA County's Troubled Youth Halls

WitnessLA, June 22, 2023 by Celeste Fremon

According WitnessLA's sources, and a document we



Column: What happened to criminal justice reform?

La Times, By Nicholas Goldberg, June 5, 2023

It seems like only yesterday that criminal justice reform was in vogue.
Progressives were being elected as prosecutors. Laws were passed to relieve prison overcrowding and divert offenders from the system who needed treatment, not jail time.

READ MORE



CA Senate Approves Bill Eliminating Deadline For Reducing Old Felony Convictions To Misdemeanors Under Prop 47

WitnessLA, May 30, 2023 by Celeste Fremon

On Tuesday, May 30, the California Senate approved a bill eliminating the deadline by which people must apply to reduce old felony convictions to misdemeanors for low level, non-violent crimes, under voter-approved Proposition 47.

Read More

have obtained, in the last five days there have been eleven drug overdoses at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, all of which required intervention, and in some cases, an emergency trip to the hospital.

Read More

Reports

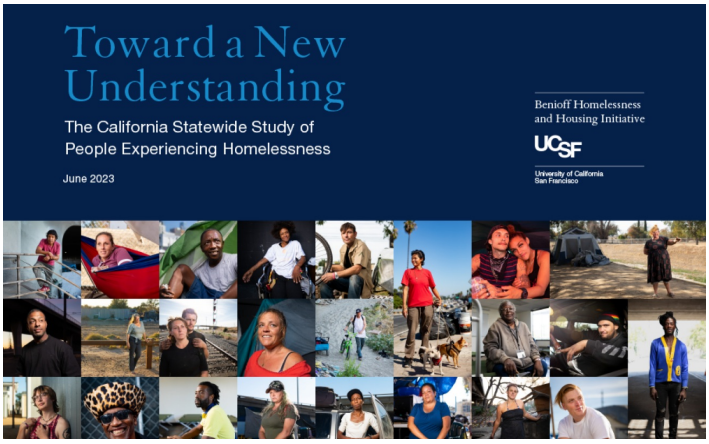


Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration

The Sentencing Project, By Richard Mendel, June 28, 2023

Report identifies six alternative to youth incarceration program models that consistently produce better public safety outcomes than incarceration, with far less disruption to young people's healthy adolescent development at a fraction of the cost.

Read the Report



California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness

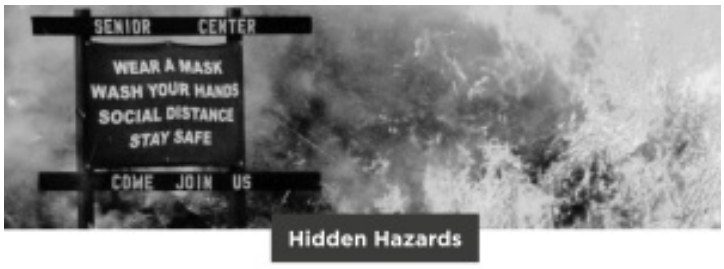
UCSF Report, June 2023, by Margot Kushel, MD and Tiana Moore, PhD

The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH), conducted by The University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHHI), is the largest representative study of homelessness in the United States since the mid-1990s. The study provides a comprehensive look at the causes and consequences of homelessness in California and recommends policy changes to shape programs in response.

Read the report



Left to Die in Prison:



The Impacts of Climate Change on Incarcerated People in California State Prisons

Ella Baker Center For Human Rights, By Aishah Abdala, Abhilasha Bhola, Guadalupe Gutierrez, Eric Henderson & Maura O'Neill, June 2023

Left to Die in Prison:
Emerging Adults 25 and Younger Sentenced to Life without Parole

The Sentencing Project, By Ashley Nellis, Ph.D. and Niki Monazzam, June 7, 2023

Two in five people sentenced to life without parole were 25 and under at the time of their conviction, despite irrefutable evidence that their younger age contributes to diminished capacity to comprehend the risk and consequences of their actions.

Read the Report

This series of climate hazards has made it evident that the effects of climate change will continue to intensify, have the greatest impact on already vulnerable populations, and, most critically, the California carceral system is not prepared to respond to climate hazards in or near prisons.

Read More

Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership | 742 N. La Brea Blvd. , Inglewood , CA 90302

Unsubscribe info@lareentry.org

Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent byinfo@lareentry.orgpowered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!