LARRP June 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"

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Message from LARRP Executive Director



As I sit in my study to write this month's executive statement for the newsletter, my mind and heart is moved to speak about the probation reform that is still needed in our county. On June 16th we will celebrate Juneteenth in this nation, and that's a good thing. I think about the fact that when President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation, in 1863 which declared a formal end to slavery in the United States, change was not instant after the proclamation. In fact, it took nearly two and a half years later, on June 19th, 1865, before the enslaved African Americans of Galveston, Texas got the news by way of the Union army troops that freedom had come at last. When I think of The Emancipation Proclamation, I can see how freedom is both realized and delayed.

This seems to be the theme of how we engage in the process of real, meaningful, criminal justice reform in this county. There is no shortage of commissions and

motions that create roadmaps and make

My questions are: Why does it take the threat of a state-ordered shutdown of its juvenile halls by the California Board of State and Community Corrections for Los Angeles County to see that The Probation Department is failing in its current state? Was it not clear when we can't seem to keep key top leadership position? Was it not clear in the comprehensive reports and recommendations? Was it not clear in the inhumane way our youth have been treated in our juvenile halls and camps for years? So bad that many officers say they're too traumatized to come to work. Living quarters for youths are decrepit and programming is sparse.

Don't get me wrong I'm grateful that we are finally woke and we appear to be taking steps to really engage; and while written motions are great, we must be in motion to enact change. We must stop writing and start doing! Maybe we need depopulate the halls and create homeless shelters; clean of out the camps and create after school programs and community engagement centers so our youth don't get in trouble in the first place.

On this Juneteenth, I encourage us to call on our leadership to take up the roadmap many of us helped to create. The dangers of ignoring the voices of the people should be clear. Reforming the Probation Department is paramount! We cannot delay the reform that we clearly realize is needed anymore. It is time to unequivocally abandon the idea that putting human beings in cages or in bondage can somehow serve

recommendations that paint the picture of freedom and reform that is realized and canonized in a document, but delayed in the implementation of what the needs of the people in the community are.

We are grateful for the work done by Probation Reform Implementation Team (PRIT) that was formed in 2018 to synthesize and prioritize recommendations to reform the Probation Department and submit a comprehensive work plan for reform to the County Board of Supervisors. That work was massive, and it was completed and led to the creation of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) and a roadmap of recommendations that if implemented can reform the probation department.

society. We are better and we need better solutions.

Admittedly, we may not have a clear picture of exactly what a world without cages and shackles will look like, but at least we have a roadmap on how to get there, maybe it's time to follow it? Our communities and our futures deserve better, and I believe together we can get there.

Onward and Upward

Pastor Troy F. Vaughn

LARRP Meetings

Education Committee

June 1, 2023, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

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

Register Education

LARRP General Meeting

June 15, 2023
10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Employment Committee

June 21, 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

Integrated Health Committee

July 3, 2023, 2:00 pm

Please note that the **May and June meetings will be cancelled** as our Chair is out. See you in July!

REGISTER Integrated Health

Housing Committee

July 6, 2023
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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

Register Housing

June Spotlight - CFCI Funding Overview

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
JUSTICE

LARRP has been posting the CFCI funding opportunities

on our website and newsletter, one by one

Additionally, priority was given to organizations that have historically experienced barriers to accessing County funding. In accordance with the CFCI Advisory Committee's spending plan, Amity distributed

approximately $47 million to 118 grantees over three years for Program Areas 1-7.

as they become available. But we thought it would be a good idea for us to look back and get an overview from our steering Committee Member, Amity, that is the Third-Party Administrator for much of those funds.

As a reminder, CFCI comes out of the hard fought battle for Measure J — an innovative ballot measure to dedicate at least 10% of Los Angeles County's locally generated unrestricted funding toward community investments such as youth and small business development, job training, housing services and alternatives to incarceration, with the goal to reduce the impact of racial and economic injustice. More than 2 million voters cast ballots in November 2020 to provide a 57% victory for this historic measure.

Through a competitively bid process, Amity Foundation (Amity) was selected to act as Third-Party Administrator (TPA) to manage and distribute a portion of funds included in the CFCI spending plan. The goal is to equitably increase access to funds for organizations serving youth and those impacted by injustice and inequities within the criminal legal system.

These include:

- PA 1: Re-envisioning Youth After School and Summer Programs
- PA 2: Career and Education Pathways for Youth
- PA 3: Youth Specific Housing
- PA 4: Culturally Affirming Family Reunification and Pre-Trial Support
- PA 5: Supportive Services for Reentering LGBTQ
- PA 6: Reentry Women
- PA 7: Youth Centers

To see a list of awards go to ***www.amityfdn.org/tpa-grantees***

Amity is also in the process of selecting awardees for Program Area 8, which is $7.65 million over two years, for capacity building grants for justice-serving organizations.

Amity will be releasing the next funding opportunity round in June (Year 2). Please go to ***www.amityfdn.org/tpa*** to join our mailing list and receive email notifications about upcoming funding opportunities.

Policy Updates



LARRP is excited to bring you our legislative priorities for 2023! While there are many bills that we have been working on since January, this represents the full slate of LARRP's priority bills at the state and federal level. Each bill mentioned carries with it major ramifications for the currently and formerly incarcerated, and we encourage you to familiarize yourself with this legislation so that as we ask for advocacy and provide opportunities for you to get involved, you can hit the ground running! Your ongoing advocacy efforts help us work on behalf of our community, and we are so proud to bring you our priorities. If you want to participate in the LARRP Policy Team, or want Charles to speak to your team or organizations to present these bills, please let us know by emailing ***Charles@lareentry.org***

2023 Policy Priorities!

LARRP Updates



Meet LARRP's new policy Intern Christina Aaron

Christina is a rising junior at Duke University studying sociology and public policy. At Duke, she is a



Christina is a rising junior at Duke University studying sociology and public policy. At Duke, she is a part of a women's leadership program, a member of the cheer team, and a research assistant on a project evaluating license suspension reform in Durham, NC. She looks forward to learning about the intricacies of state and local policy and collaborating with experts in reentry to produce meaningful change.



LARRP, in collaboration with Rock 'N Rollers and the D.O.O.R.S. Community Reentry Center, provided an Adopt a Bike Workshop for the D.O.O.R.S. clients where they taught them how to ride a bike safely and some tricks and tips on how to fix their bikes. At the end of this workshop, they received a free bicycle, helmet, lights, and bike lock. It was great to provide 15 individuals with a bike to have a form of transportation around Los Angeles!

In May, LARRP, in collaboration and D.O.O.R.S.also attended the Centinela Probation Office's Resource Fair to share the fantastic resources the D.O.O.R.S. Center offers.

Partner Events

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
JUSTICE CARE AND OPPORTUNITIES
DEPARTMENT

CFCI Advisory Committee Regular Meetings

- **June 1, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**
- **June 15, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

MORE INFO



Shields For Families Presents Jericho Job Recruitment

June 1, 2023 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
2354 N Wilmington Ave, Compton, 90222

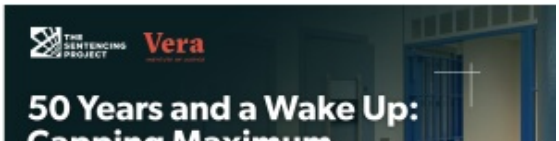


Summer Splash Service Connection

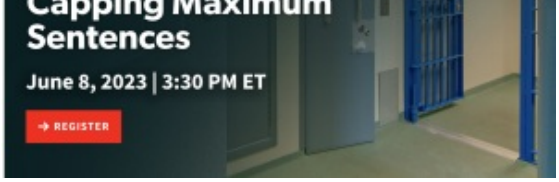
June 15, 2023, 11am-2pm
3965 Vermont Ave. 3rd Floor, LA, CA 90037

Join D.O.O.R.S Community Reentry Center - LA as we kick off summer, celebrate pride month & share amazing resources for you!

REGISTER







50 Years and a Wakeup: Capping Maximum Sentences

Jun 8, 2023 12:30 PM

VERA Institute of Justice webinar

Register

Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting

June 13, 2023, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The Task Force will hear an update on the Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal and the role out of the Crisis Care Continuum Plan.

Register

Civilian Oversight Commission

- **Thursday, June 15 -** Dollarhide Community Center
- Thursday, July 20
- Thursday, September 21

MORE INFO



Black Voice News Block Party

June 16, 2023 at 6 PM
Come celebrate 50 years of service with Black Voice News at Black Voice News @ 50 Block Party + Community Conversation in partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc - Mu Xi Lambda Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc - Eta Nu Omega Chapter and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc - San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter as we launch the “Power of the Press: Black Voice News @ 50 Exhibit" at the San Bernardino County Museum

Register

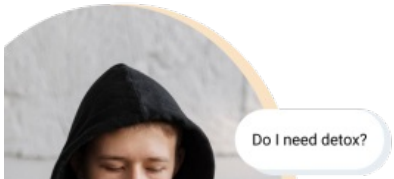
CCJBH Lived Experience Project Showcase

June 23, 2023, from 2:00-4:30 PM

As CCJBH's current Lived Experience Projects (LEP) come to a close, LEP contractors will reflect on their successes and challenges over the past three years. These efforts have supported local community-based organizations, each of which have been implementing unique projects that include individuals with lived experience to help reduce justice involvement of individuals with behavioral health needs.

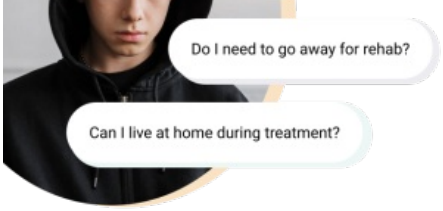
Register

Select Opportunities and Information and Funding









Atlas, Shatterproof's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Locator

Atlas is a resource to help people find addiction treatment that will meet their needs. As Atlas grows, our goal is to provide support across all 50 states.

Learn More



DHCS' Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved Round 3 Funding Application

The PATH Justice-Involved Initiative Round 3 application is open until **June 30, 2023**. Round 3 funding will support correctional agencies, county behavioral health agencies, and other justice-involved stakeholders as they implement personnel, capacity, and/or IT systems that are needed for collaborative planning and implementation of pre-release service processes.

For more information, visit the ***Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program website***.



Short-Term Employment Opp

Starting Juneteenth The Hood Incubator is kicking off a 100 Days of Cannabis Justice campaign where we have a goal of engaging with 5,000 California Black voters or drug war survivors of any race to share information with them about their voting rights, employment rights with a record, and expungement eligibility.

We are currently looking to hire Community Organizing Fellows who will be helping to lead street canvassing teams as well as phone banking. The position is 4 months long, pays $31/hr and is 20 hours a week mostly evenings and weekends.
Apply

In the News!

State orders L.A. County to move nearly 300 youths out of 'unsuitable' juvenile halls."

By Rebecca Ellis, James Queally, May 23, 2023
State regulators on Tuesday gave Los Angeles County two months to move roughly 300 youths out of its two troubled juvenile halls, taking the unprecedented step after finding the county had done little in the last month to come into compliance with a long list of state regulations.

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More News

LA County Should Loosen Strict Reentry Program Criteria

LAW 360, By Sophia Lowe, Eleanor Pearson and Samuel Mistrano, May 19, 2023
On Feb. 28, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to draft a Fair Chance Ordinance that would prevent most businesses in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County from excluding job applicants with histories of criminal records during the hiring process, and that would fine employers that violate it.

Read More

18-year-old dies of overdose in L.A. County juvenile hall, as state suggests shutdown

By James Queally, Staff Writer, May 9, 2023
A state oversight agency issued a report Tuesday calling for Los Angeles County's juvenile halls to be shuttered in the wake of a staffing crisis and reports of increased violence and drug use, just hours after an 18-year-old was found dead of an apparent overdose in one of the deteriorating facilities.

READ MORE

Dozens of LASD deputies ordered to show suspected gang tattoos, reveal others who have them

LA Times, By Keri Blakinger, May 17, 2023

Nearly three dozen deputies have been ordered to come in for questioning, show their tattoos and give up the names of any other deputies similarly sporting ink connecting them to two of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's most notorious deputy gangs.
READ MORE



LA County picks former state adult parole director as interim chief of probation

Pasadena Star News, By Jason Henry, May 11, 2023
Guillermo Viera Rosa receives promotion just weeks into new job. Guillermo Viera Rosa, a strategist hired by Los Angeles County less than a month ago to reform its struggling juvenile halls, will now, at least temporarily, lead the largest probation department in the country as the new interim chief probation officer, county officials announced Thursday, May 11.
Read More



Claude Garrett Was Wrongfully Imprisoned For Decades. He Died After Five Months Of Freedom.

The Intercept, Liliana Segura, May 14 2023

In many ways, Claude was lucky. He had a job, a place to live, the support of loved ones. But incarceration exacts a heavy toll.
Read More

Is California giving reparations for slavery? Here's what you need to know

LA Times, By Taryn Luna, Staff Writer, May 6, 2023

California's Reparations Task Force voted on Saturday to recommend that the state issue a formal apology for slavery and potentially provide billions of dollars in cash payments, moving forward a historic effort to enact remedies and compensation for descendants of African Americans who were enslaved in the U.S.
The vote at a public meeting in Oakland marks the beginning of the end of the nine-member panel's two-year process to craft a report recommending reparations for slavery, which is due to the state Legislature by July 1.
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Interim chief resigns from embattled LA County Probation Department

Los Angeles Daily News, by Jason Henry and Steve Scauzillo, Pasadena Star News, May 2, 2023

Karen Fletcher, Los Angeles County's interim chief probation officer, is stepping down after less than two months leading the county's troubled Probation Department.
The Board of Supervisors promoted Fletcher to the department's top spot in March after firing her predecessor, Chief Adolfo Gonzales. Her resignation letter to the board on Monday, May 1, states her last day will be May 19

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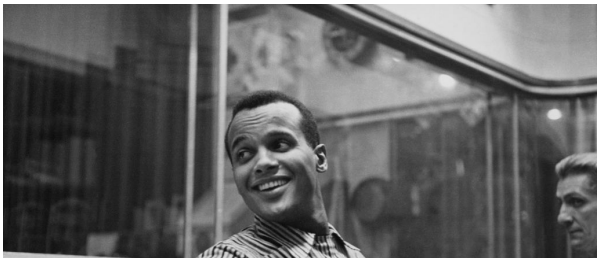

Inmates leaving California prisons may be armed with Narcan to reduce overdose risk

LA Times, By Don Thompson, May 10, 2023
Individuals newly released from prison are 40 times as likely to die of opioid overdoses than members of the general population, researchers say.
Read More

Editorial: Unconscionable abuse and shameful inaction at L.A. County jails

LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board, May 7, 2023
Last fall, the plaintiffs' attorneys at the ACLU Foundation of Southern California obtained an order banning custody practices that would spark international outrage if they were perpetrated by enemies in wartime: chaining or handcuffing mentally ill people to chairs for days without access to drinking water, toilets, showers, adequate ventilation or medication, and leaving them to sleep on concrete floors at the Inmate Reception Center with no mattresses or blankets, amid one another's excrement.

Read More



Jamaica, Farewell

NewsOne By Asha Bandele, May 2, 2023
Award-winning author and journalist asha bandele recalls Harry Belafonte not just as a legendary artist and activist but also as a master strategist.
It really doesn't matter that we knew for some time that his death was imminent. He'd been frail for years, and for years, each time I asked Susan Taylor, who'd formally introduced us more than two decades ago, if perhaps there was an event Mr. B. could attend with us, she'd tell me he wasn't well enough. But in the way I could never see my own father's strength leaving him, not even when he was in hospice, neither could I prepare myself to hear that Harry Belafonte—artist and organizer, father, husband, son and friend—had drawn his final breath.
Read More

Reports

Punishment Beyond Prisons 2023: Incarceration and supervision by state

Prison Policy Initiative, by Leah Wang, May 2023

The U.S. has a staggering 1.9 million people behind bars, but even this number doesn't capture the true reach of the criminal legal system. It's more accurate to look at the 5.5 million people under all of the nation's mass punishment systems, which include not only incarceration but also probation and parole.

READ MORE



Care First Budget Report and Analysis

The Re-imagine LA County Coalition and our partners have combed through all 1055 pages of the proposed LA County Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24 to bring the community a full budget analysis. This report breaks down – in detail – the pitfalls within LA County's budget, and illustrates why the county urgently needs to invest in Care First.

We have found that the County continues to use "Care First, Jails Last" language to describe its policymaking, yet the County's true priorities are reflected by its budgetary decisions and it continues to fail to adequately invest dollars in systems that uplift, equip, and empower our Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities year after year.

Read the Report