LARRP May 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

Breaking Through the Noise of Reentry to Hear a Sound of Restoration



This season of my life has been a time of reflection and listening for a sound of restorative power that will break through the noise of compliancy and the status quo within the reentry space.

This week ended with me having a meeting with Attorney General Rob Bonta. He came to the LARRP offices to see our model of restorative transformation in the reentry space.

He was impressed with how the LARRP partnership with Christ-Centered Ministries results in such successful recidivism numbers and how we are resolved to have an organization that provides second changes to people returning home. This speaks to LARRP's collaborative model with all our partners and member organizations, which focuses on a housing model coupled with unique services and employment opportunities to provide people with the hope and support they need to be successful in the reintegration process.

For years I've sat at the intersection of hearing what I call noise from people about what works and doesn't

The reentry landscape is filled with the noise of false promises; but few are listening and responding to the sound of change that comes from the people with first-hand knowledge and experience. In 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to create a jail closure implementation team, which would develop goals and timelines to safely depopulate and close the jail which I participated in developing; and yet here we are over 2 years later, and in fact, it appears like we're moving in the opposite direction.

We hear a lot of noise around "Care First, Jail Last," but we still don't have the mental health services, housing services and other adjunct supportive services needed to build capacity in our community for our returning citizens. We cannot allow our demand for "Care First, Jail Last" to become just a mantra; it must be a movement of change that reverberates throughout this nation.

At LARRP we are dedicated to ensuring our brothers and sisters should not be arrested because they have a mental illness, substance addiction or are simply unhoused in our community. We need services to address the real issues they are facing.

As I sat in the meeting with the Attorney General, hearing testimony after testimony from the men and women that our work has touched, I was both moved and reminded of just how important our work is. I had a lot of things flooding my mind during the meeting, but one thing stood out to me. Our VP of Network Partnership and Government Relations, Joe Paul,

work in the reentry space, and I've learned that the sound of restorative justice can only really come from people that have lived experience. This remains the cornerstone of our philosophical approach to the work we are doing at LARRP. We know that ensuring a seat at the table for people with lived experience is critical to understanding their perspectives and identifying opportunities to reform and transform impacted areas in meaningful ways. I must add that having us at the table is great, but truly listening and responding is just as important.

said, "Restorative Reentry is Public Safety."

That's the crux of the matter when you think about it; the goal of reentry should be to empower people to be able to make decisions that support the ultimate goals of public safety. This can only happen if we break through the noise and listen to the sound of restoration from the people that have been there.

Onward and Upward,

Pastor Troy F. Vaughn
Executive Director

LARRP Meetings

Education Committee:

May 4 2023, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

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

Register Education

Housing Committee

May 4, 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

LARRP General Meeting

May 18, 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

Urgent Action needed for Tuesday May 2 BOS Meeting



Three Simple Steps



Urgent Action needed for Tuesday May 2 BOS Meeting. We have been in talks with Supervisor Mitchell's office to support her Motion 7, which seeks to understand the progress of ODR so far in their opening and supporting of 750 new beds to support the reentry and diversion populations, and ask for how best to look at opening up another thousand beds throughout LA County. Supervisor Mitchell's office has made it clear to us here at LARRP that this motion only stands a chance of being passed with immense county support, so we are asking you to reach out to your Supervisor with a call today, and by submitting the written comment to this link in support of ***Motion 7!***

1. **Please Click the link to submit written Comment**
2. **Scroll to to Motion 7**
3. **Submit the sample comment.**

Sample Comment

"Dear Board Supervisors, I am reaching out to you to ask you to vote in support of Motion 7, Holly Mitchell's Expanding ODR Housing Motion. ODR has a long history of providing vital support to those seeking diversion, and to the county reentry population. Expanding ODR's housing funding and support is one of the best and most effective ways to bring down rates of homelessness in the reentry community. We appreciate your support of this vital motion and your continued work to provide resources to the reentry community."

Submit Public Comment

Motion 7

Policy Updates



County Policy

This week, we got the chance to sit down with John Mathews, Senior Deputy, Justice, from Supervisor Mitchell's office to discuss changes at the Probation Department, and the stalled efforts to close MCJ.

In March, ***Adolfo Gonzalez, Chief of the Probation Department was dismissed by the LA Board of Supervisors,*** and an interim head, Karen Fletcher, was put in place as a new Chief is sought by the Board. Probation has been experiencing both overcrowding and staffing issues, and while the continued efforts to limit the amount of probationers has been persistent, there are clear issues that can not be solved until new leadership is

brought in to help understand the complex issues facing the department and how best to address them without increasing their overall budget.

MCJ's closure follows a similar story wherein the Jail Closure Implementation Team has faced leadership turnover, and the decarceration process has been complicated by the lack of ODR housing space and programmatic resources. MCJ's closure has been in limbo for years as the Board has undertaken steps to understand the issue but has been reluctant to make a full commitment to a certain date to close it. We encourage you to continue to support MCJ's closure in conversations with advocates, community members, and elected officials.

State Legislation

Throughout April, LARRP has been working to connect our community and network to the slate of state bills we are advancing this legislative year. We have connected you all to efforts around ***AB 745 (Bryan),*** the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program which aims to increase access to affordable housing and job opportunities for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. and ***AB 974 (McKinner)*** the Birth Certificate Waiver Bill, seeks to remove the financial barrier for individuals who are reentering society and cannot afford the cost of a birth certificate, which is often a requirement for obtaining an identification card, employment, and other essential services.. These bills are currently on the suspense file, essentially placing them in a holding pattern while we work on amendments to address the financial components of the legislation.

Our June newsletter will carry with it the slate of bills we are working on that have survived the first round of

legislative votes, as it is much more likely that these bills will succeed once they have made it through the first round of appropriations. We will include links to the bills, opportunities to be an advocate for them, and how to connect that information to your networks to help with these vital properties.

Federal Legislation

We are also expecting our federal bill, Congressmember Nancy Barragan's ***Returning Home Act***, to be introduced within the next few weeks as well, which will open up a new avenue for your advocacy efforts as we work to get $100 million in federal funding for reentry housing grants across the country. Similar to AB 745, the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program, this is a pilot program with the goal of reducing the number of unhoused formerly incarcerated individuals across the country.

Featured Jobs Opportunities and Information

Opportunities

Paid Summer Internship Opportunities for Justice-Impacted College Students

Are you a justice-impacted college student who is committed to building on the progress LA County has made to address injustices that impact your community?

The Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell is looking for a small team of talented students that are interested in working with their policy teams this summer.

For more information ***click here***.

More Opportunities

Jobs

Midnight Mission Seeks CEO

MORE INFO



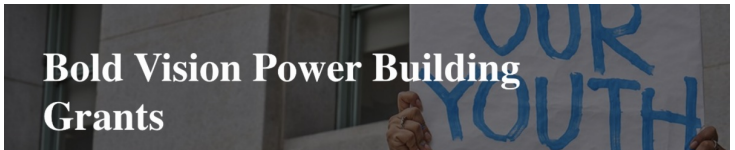
More Jobs

Funding Opportunities

LA County's Department of Economic Opportunities Grant Program Opportunity

If your organization falls under the category of a microbusiness, small business, or a non-profit and has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,

there is assistance available to you. Please refer ***here*** to the eligibility criteria provided to determine your qualification for such aid.



The Yield Giving Open Call

This is a $250 million open call focused on elevating organizations working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States: communities, individuals, and families with access to the fewest foundational resources and opportunities. This initiative will award unrestricted gifts of $1 million each to 250 organizations.

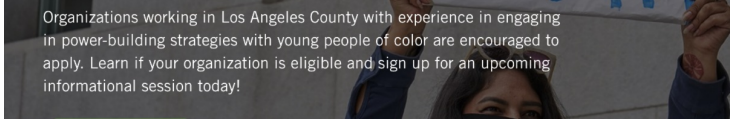
This Open Call seeks community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to advance the voices and opportunities of individuals and families of meager or modest means, and groups who have met with discrimination and other systemic obstacles.

Before applying, complete the ***Organizational Readiness Tool*** and refer to the Open Call rules to help determine eligibility and to ensure that your organization is a strong fit for the Open Call. Take some time to review the application, which is accessible in ***PDF*** form here.

Interested organizations must register to apply before 4 p.m. U.S. Central Time on Friday, May 5, 2023.

Complete applications are due before 4 p.m. U.S. Central Time on **Monday, June 12, 2023.**

Organizations must have an annual operating budget of at least $1 million and no more than $5 million for at least two of the last four fiscal years to be eligible to apply.



Bold Vision Power-Building Grants - Call for Proposals

In partnership with Liberty Hill Foundation, we are extremely thrilled to announce that today Bold Vision is launching the grant application for organizations working with BIPOC youth. The grants will support organizations that do work in alignment with the Bold Vision power building recommendations that are uplifted in the Bold Vision final report.

Applications to apply for the Bold Vision Power Building Grant will be accepted starting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, until Friday, May 26, 2023. The three-year Bold Vision Power Building Grant will help support L.A. County community organizations working to advance racial equity and solidarity in support of BIPOC youth. Organizations that engage in BIPOC youth organizing, youth development, base building, political education, participatory research, among other important power building strategies are strongly encouraged to apply. To learn if your organization is eligible and to sign up for informational sessions, please ***click HERE***.

If you have questions about this grant opportunity, please reach out to Dora Quach at DQuach@libertyhill.org.

DHCS released funding opportunities for two opioid and stimulant use disorder community-based prevention programs. Both projects are part of DHCS' broader efforts to address SUD, collectively known as the California MAT Expansion Project, to increase access to MAT, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities

- **Opioid Use and Stimulant Use Education and Outreach in 2S/LGBTQ+ Communities Project *RFA***
- **Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Prevention for Communities of Color Project *RFA***

Become a LARRP Member and gain access to more funding opportunities!

Become a Member

Partner Events







Life inside a 6x8 cell

Virtual Conference on LASD Jails
Thursday, May 4, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

You are invited to a virtual conference to learn about living conditions for people inside the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department jails. Regularly inspected by outside agencies to ensure the conditions are humane, the jails should provide at least the minimum standards as required by law.

But, what is it really like living inside a 6x8 foot cell? Panelists will review incarcerated people's daily routines, with a focus on basic needs such as food, running water, and laundry. We'll also discuss other areas that affect a person's wellbeing – such as access to sunlight, appropriate temperatures, cleanliness, personal space, and ability to sleep.

Register now!



Fair Chance Employment Information Session for Jobseekers

Thursday, May 11 · 10am - 1pm PDT
Los Angeles Southwest College - Multipurpose Room
1600 W Imperial Hwy Los Angeles, CA 90047

MORE INFO



Community Meeting On LASD In Palmdale

MAY 13, 10am - noon

Legacy Commons Auditorium
930 E Avenue Q-9, Palmdale, CA 93550
Learn more and RSVP* at coc.lacounty.gov - registration is not required.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
JUSTICE CARE AND OPPORTUNITIES
DEPARTMENT

CFCI Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

May 18 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

More info

Civilian Oversight Commission

Meetings:

- Thursday, May 18
- Thursday, June 15 - Dollarhide Community Center
- Thursday, July 20
- Thursday, September 21

MORE INFO

In the News!

This Month we are featuring an interview with former LARRP Steering Committee member



Eunisses Hernandez

Eunisses Hits the Ground Running

LA Progressive, Sharon Kyle And Dick Price, Apr 12, 2023

Now that's she's been representing Northeast LA's CD1 since December, Eunisses has begun grappling with the city's many issues. Job one has been to restore faith in a city council that has suffered one blow after another with criminal indictments and convictions on top of that ugly taped conversation that brought down three city councilmembers.

As part of a progressive bloc on the council with fellow newcomers, Nithya Raman and Hugo Soto-Martínez, Eunisses has been trying to create more access: "Letting people know when the meetings are, letting them know the bills we're working on, making the council more transparent, more inclusive."



Hernandez is working with progressive allies Raman and Hugo Soto-Martínez to develop much-needed tenant and homeowner protections to keep people housed. Eunisses is also working to create a robust alternative response program to cut down on the number of police shootings.

Read More or Watch the whole Interview

More News

The Untold Story Of How A Stubborn Group Of Parents Helped Shutter The Nation's Largest Youth Prison System

The Appeal, Nell Bernstein, The Imprint Apr 26, 2023

How a scrappy group of parents played a key but lesser-known role in the pending closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice

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California attorney general asks judge to sanction LA County if it doesn't fix juvenile halls

Orang County Register, By Jason Henry, Pasadena Star News, April 12, 2023

'It is imperative that our institutions give (incarcerated juveniles) every opportunity for rehabilitation, growth, and healing,' said Attorney General Rob Bonta

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A California lawyer cashed in on criminal justice reform by fanning the hopes of inmates' families

LA Times, By Harriet Ryan, April 21, 2023
When California enacted landmark criminal justice reforms several years ago, inmates and their families saw a chance at freedom. Aaron Spolin saw a business opportunity.

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California Politics: The prison reform that divides California Democrats

By Laurel Rosenhall Sacramento Bureau Chief, April

By Laurel Rosenhall Sacramento Bureau Chief, April 20, 2023

SACRAMENTO — Will this be the year California limits solitary confinement in state prisons and jails?
Even though the state's voters and the Legislature's Democratic majority have embraced a number of progressive criminal justice reforms over the last decade that have reduced the prison population, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom last year vetoed legislation to limit the use of solitary confinement.

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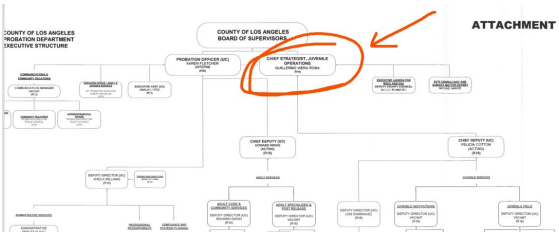

LA County Reorganizes The Youth Side Of Probation. So Will It Help?

Witness LA, April 19, 2023 by Celeste Fremon

On Wednesday, April 19, Los Angeles County CEO, Fesia Davenport officially notified all those who work for the nation's largest probation department that Guillermo Viera Rosa is now on the job as the department's "Chief Strategist for Juvenile Operations."

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Kim Kardashian leads young influencers on Los Angeles prison trip to raise criminal justice reform awareness

Fox News, By Michael Ruiz , April 17, 2023

Kim and Khloé Kardashian walked into a California prison Monday morning with a different goal in mind – guiding a group of young influencers through the American criminal justice system.

"It's always an honor to be able to visit the men and women living behind our prison walls," Kim, a longtime criminal justice reform advocate, said Monday. The



Conditions At LA County's Jail Intake Center Continue To Violate Judge's Preliminary Injunction, ACLU Says

Witness LA, April 7, 2023 by Taylor Walker

Last year, conditions at Los Angeles County's jail intake center reached lows so disturbing that the ACLU filed an emergency motion on September 8, 2022, asking U.S. District Judge Dean D. Pregerson, who oversees the county's 2015 federal consent decree, to issue a temporary restraining order against the county.

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California parole chief tapped by Gavin Newsom resigns to lead LA's troubled juvenile halls

The Sacramento Bee, By Maggie Angst, April 05, 2023

The head of California's adult parole division is leaving to oversee Los Angeles's long-troubled juvenile halls and manage the nation's largest juvenile justice system. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday night to hire Guillermo Viera Rosa as the county's new chief strategist for juvenile operations.

Read More

L.A. County probation chief fired by Board of Supervisors

LA Times, By James Queally, Rebecca Ellis, March 7, 2023

Los Angeles County leaders unanimously voted to fire Probation Department Chief Adolfo Gonzales on Tuesday, pledging it would be the first step in an overhaul of one of the county's most troubled departments.
The vote brings an abrupt end to Gonzales' tumultuous two-year term, in which the department careened from one crisis to the next.

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"Kardashians" star had spent several hours at the California State Prison of Los Angeles County in Lancaster with Michael Rubin and members of the REFORM Alliance – a group that aims to help ex-cons successfully return to society through probation and parole reform – and a number of young social media stars.
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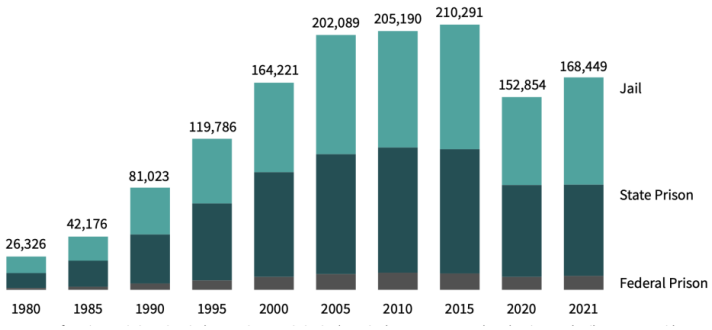
Reports

Incarcerated Women and Girls

The Sentencing Project, By Niki Monazzam and Kristen M. Budd, Ph.D., April 3, 2023

Research on female incarceration is critical to understanding the full consequences of mass incarceration and to unraveling the policies and practices that lead to their criminalization. The female incarcerated population stands over six times higher than in 1980.

Rise in Women's Incarceration, 1980-2021



Over the past quarter century, there has been a profound change in the involvement of women within the criminal justice system. This is the result of more expansive law enforcement efforts, stiffer drug sentencing laws, and post-conviction barriers to reentry that uniquely affect women.

The female incarcerated population stands over six times higher than in 1980. Over (half 58%) of imprisoned women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18.
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2022 Protected And Served? Report

It's no secret that the criminal legal system has always been used as a weapon to surveil, police, criminalize, discriminate, and harass LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV.This is especially true for people who hold multiple marginalized identities such as transgender people of color. This is why 10 years ago, we launched our first-ever Protected and Served? Report, which revealed the alarming rates of misconduct, abuse, and discrimination LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV experience in the criminal legal system.

Today, Lambda Legal, in partnership with Black and Pink National, is releasing Protected and Served? 2022, a new report, consisting of quantitative data and personal stories gathered from more than 2,500 community members who participated

in our survey about their experiences with the criminal legal system including police and other law enforcement, courts, prisons, jails, schools, and other government agencies.

Read the Report