LARRP January 2024 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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Message from Troy Vaughn * LARRP Committee Meetings* Policy Update* Partner Events * Featured Opportunities * News * Reports *

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

Imani beckons us to hold firm in our commitment to building a future defined by justice, equality, and prosperity for all. In the spirit of Kwanzaa, let us carry the wisdom of the seven principles into the new year: ***Umoja*** *(Unity),* ***Kujichagulia*** *(Self-Determination),* ***Ujima*** *(Collective Work and Responsibility),* ***Ujamaa*** *(Cooperative Economics),* ***Nia*** *(Purpose),* ***Kuumba*** *(Creativity),* ***Imani*** *(Faith).*

A Message from Troy Vaughn



As we enter 2024, we're taking a moment to reflect on this past year, but more importantly, we are looking forward to where we are headed. Our network continued to advance and grow this past year, as we settled into our diverse work model and executed our strategic plan to discover new and better ways to serve our those returning to our community and their families throughout Los Angeles County.

Our staff and network have remained steadfast in its commitment to developing strategies and initiatives in support of our mission which highlights the impactful work we do for the disenfranchised and less fortunate in our communities:

"The mission of the Los Angeles Regional Reentry

Our priorities for the next year include:

- Investing in our staff through the enhancement of career training and advancement opportunities.
- Supporting our core belief to be anchored in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I), for our employees, board of directors, steering committees, and the people we serve.
- Progressing our successful reentry service delivery model, with a combination of staff and volunteer expertise and investment in advanced technology.
- Structuring our strategic plan around the needs of the people with lived experience and community, we continue to augment our full-service capabilities, including expanding our committees: housing, workforce and economic development, education, violence interruption, capacity building and integrated health this year through strategic integration.

A Season of Stretching

During my prayer and meditation time it was impressed upon me as we approached the year ending that this new year will be a season of stretching. Service is always at the heart of what we do. This year, I believe the Spirit is calling us to

Partnership (LARRP) is to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive, culturally competent, and effective community reentry system, by providing a strong community voice in public policy and funding decisions; by serving as a convener of reentry service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders; and by building capacity across the county to meet the needs of the reentry community."

Our vision for 2024 captures our goals of being a great place to work, a trusted advisor to our community and political leadership, an organization where employees will grow both professionally and personally, community members will become stable and find new pathways to purpose, and donors, volunteers and investors will want to invest their time, treasure, and talent.

trust Him even further, as He stretches us in new and dynamic ways to serve.

Note of Appreciation

My wife Darlene and I would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff, committees, volunteer and partners and clients for their support during our health crisis last year, and for trusting in my ability to lead the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) during this season. Although we live in uncertain and changing times, we can be certain that our resolve to positively impact the reentry community won't change, and our work is being guided by a higher purpose rooted in our collective faith and energy. Thank you for exemplifying our mission and producing the high-quality work expected of us. We look forward to the New Year and the future, together.

LARRP Meetings

Community Safety Committee

January 10, 2024,
1:00-2:00 pm

The Community Safety Committee will be meeting Meetings will be held virtually on Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1 pm to 2 pm

Register Community Safety

Housing Committee

January 11, 2024
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Register Housing

LARRP GENERAL MEETING

January 18, 2024,
10:00 - 11:30 am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Integrated Health Committee

Febuary 5, 2024,
2:00 pm

Registar Integrated Health

Education Committee

Januiary 4, 2024
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Register Education

Employment Committee

February 21, 2024,
2:00pm-3:30pm

Even months on the third Wednesday of the month 2:00pm-3:30pm

REGISTER Employment

Make sure to Register for these Meetings so you can get on the list for Meeting

so you can get on the list for Meeting Reminders, and Updates!!!

Policy Updates



As we embark on this new year with new vigour and excitement, LARRP is reaching out to you to help us understand your priorities this year and how we can support the legislative and advocacy-based efforts of our diverse community of organization and individuals.

As you or your orgnizations come across legislation, at any level of governance, we are encouraging you to reach out to us and let us help you broadcast your work to our network. As Charles Vignola, our Public Policy and Community Engagement Manager undertakes the legislative research for this year to pick LARRP's policy priorities. We want to invest time and energy in our continuing support of the needs and desires of our community, so any legislation you would like help mobilizing around or working on support for, we encourage you to reach out to Charles at ***charles@lareentry.org***.

Our work is nothing without our community, and your support has always been vital to pushing for better legislation and advocacy in support of the reentry community. We look forward to hearing from you and building a strong basis for this new year!

We want to hear from you- please fill out this brief*survey* so we know what to prioritize in 2024

LARRP In the Community



LARRP Plays Santa

In collaboration with the DOORS Community Reentry Center, LARRP hosted a Brunch with Santa event where we brought together the DOORS Providers and clients to share a fantastic brunch alongside Santa with many holiday games, gifts, and music. This was our first Brunch with Santa, with a great turnout and feedback. We are looking forward to having one every year moving forward!



LA RHT+ Summit

The Los Angeles Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism, Culinary, and Fashion Project, known as the LA RHT+ Initiative, is a Strong Workforce Regional Project funded by the Chancellor's Office. The initiative is co-led by East LA College and LA Trade Technical-College and coordinated by the Workforce Innovation Labs. With the partnership of thirteen regional colleges, this innovative and short-term training opportunity provides entry-level management training and networking opportunities for participants. The recent LA RHT+ Summit, held aboard the majestic Queen Mary on December 1, 2023, emerged as a resounding success. The keynote address by LARRP Steering Committee Member, Mr. Jose Osuna left a lasting impact, highlighting the transformative potential when educational institutions partner seamlessly with industries. Pictured here with LARRP Employment Committee chairman, Marie Alexander

Partner Events



Probation Oversight Commission Meeting Schedule

January 11, 2024, 9:00 - 1:00

The Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission is a body that advises the Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors on progress towards systemic reform. Therefore, we encourage you as a member of the public to pre-register to attend our meetings by visiting our ***website***.
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted and can be accessed ***here.***

January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
March 14, 2024



Amity Foundation's 2nd Annual Brunch

March 16, 2024, 11:00 AM

We are delighted to invite you to join us for Amity Foundation's 2nd Annual Brunch. This event promises to be a splendid day of endless fun and entertainment, featuring both live and silent auction with lots of exiting items available for bid. Come be a part of this incredible celebration as we support Amity's mission of empowering underprivilege communities to improve health, and promote environmental, social and economic justice.

Sign up for the event and learn more.

Featured Jobs and Opportunities

Year-Three CFCI Care Grants Are Still Available

Applications for Year-Three CFCI Care Grants remain **open until January 5th, 2024**.
Approximately $175 million in Care Grants are available over three years. For more information, including helpful webinars, answers to questions about the application process, and to apply for a grant, please ***click here.***

California Launches New Opioid Resource Website

California ***launched*** a new, comprehensive opioid website that gives Californians a single resource for prevention, data, treatment, and support information. The website, ***OPIOIDS.CA.GOV***, is part of Governor Newsom's multi-pronged approach to connect Californians with information to prevent and reduce overdoses and deaths and support those struggling with substance use and addiction.
All Californians should visit ***OPIOIDS.CA.GOV*** to learn more and help us spread awareness and save lives. Together we can make a difference in combating this crisis.
We are also interested in hearing feedback from our partners about this new resource as we continue to iterate and improve the website. Please share your thoughts or comments with us at ***CommsOutreach@cdph.ca.gov***.

More Exciting Opportunities in 2024

Featured News Article

A story of hope and change to begin 2024



Seeking redemption: A death row inmate's journey into L.A. County's largest psych ward

LA Times, By Thomas Curwen, Photography by Irfan Khan, Dec. 13, 2023

The yelling surprised no one. Yet still Craigen Armstrong was concerned.
Ray was always acting out. This time he had just come back from medical and was standing at the glass wall, screaming at the sheriff's deputies on the other side. He was furious, accusing one of them of sleeping with his wife.

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More News



Gascón to face 11 challengers in primary

By City News Service Los Angeles, Dec. 31, 2023

LOS ANGELES — District Attorney George Gascón will face 11 challengers in the March 5 primary election, including five members of his office and two Los Angeles County Superior Court judges.

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Ending Solitary Confinement Requires Cultural Shifts

Part 3 Of A 3-Part Series
WitnessLA, December 31, 2023 by Chandra Bozelko

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case of Michael Johnson, a man confined to a solitary cell twenty-four hours per day, who was held in solitary confinement at Pontiac Correctional Center, a prison two hours from Chicago.

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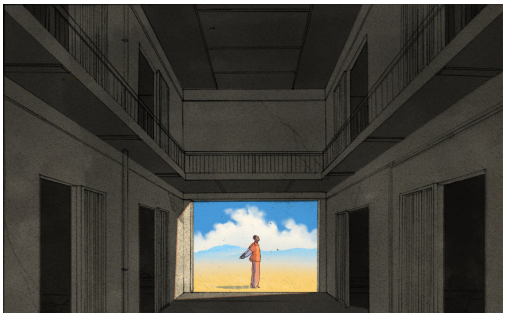
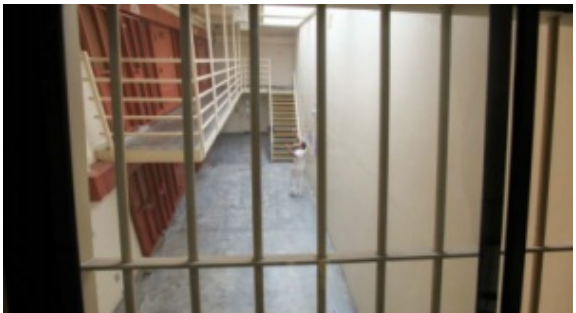
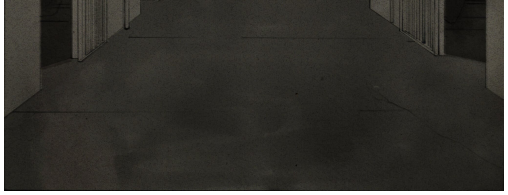
Part 2
Part 1







How Biden Can Tackle Mass Incarceration

NYTimes Opinion, By Michael Romano, Dec. 29, 2023

As a candidate, Joe Biden said he would substantially reduce the federal prison population as president. Last week he commuted the sentences of 11 people who he said were serving unjustifiably harsh prison terms for drug offenses and also pardoned people convicted of certain marijuana charges. Still, the number of people in federal prison has grown during the Biden administration. Despite historical bipartisan support for sentencing reform, Mr. Biden has failed to fully embrace the momentum of his two immediate predecessors...

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How Often Do Inmates Actually Return To Prison? It's Unclear.

States define recidivism differently, which can result in misleading interpretations of the statistics.

Stateline, Dec. 27, 2023 • Amanda Hernández
Several states this year have reported lower rates of recidivism, showing that fewer convicted criminals are being re-arrested after leaving prison.
But those statistics hardly tell the full story. Recidivism rates across the country can vary greatly because of how they're defined, how the data is collected and how it's presented to the public. So it can be difficult to say that, for example, one state is doing better than another in rehabilitating formerly incarcerated residents.

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The Real Culprit In The Overuse Of Solitary Confinement: Prison Disciplinary Systems

Part 2 Of A 3-Part Series
Witness LA, December 24, 2023 by Chandra Bozelko
Among the obstacles to doing away with the practice (which those who have experienced it, including the late Senator John McCain, describe as torture) is the fact that we won't empty restricted housing units unless we reform the way that people enter them: the prison disciplinary system.
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LA County Supervisors Call For More Data Collection, Staff Searches, And Treatment Programs To Stop Jail Overdose Deaths

WitnessLA, December 22, 2023 by Taylor Walker

On Tuesday, December 19, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion aimed at reducing overdose deaths in LA County jails.
In their motion, Supervisors Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn note that each year between 2018 and 2022, an average of 37.8 people died in the jails. Approximately 20 percent of those people died due to an overdose, according to the coroner's office. At least 46 people have died in LA County jails in 2023, so far.

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New law has Californians with criminal records ‘quite hopeful’ they’ll finally find housing

LA Times By Liam Dillon, Ben Poston, Dec. 27, 2023

In 2021, four years after finishing her last jail term and living in transitional housing in Riverside County, Erica Smith was ready for a permanent home.
Soon, Smith will have more opportunities for housing, courtesy of a new state law. Assembly Bill 1418, which takes effect Jan. 1, will ban local governments across California from enforcing crime-free housing policies.
Read More



After years-long fight, ex-sheriff agrees to comply with subpoenas, testify on deputy gangs

LA Times by Keri Blakinger, Staff Writer , Dec. 26, 2023

The change of heart comes days after a county judge scheduled a hearing to decide whether to order the former sheriff, who is running for county supervisor against incumbent Janice Hahn, to comply with the commission’s subpoenas.
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What Now with Trevor Noah

December 20, 2023

Trevor sits down with Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass on the anniversary of her first year in office. In 2022, Bass upset a well-financed opponent to win the election and return to the city where her activism began. Mayor Bass discusses her work as a high school student on Bobby Kennedy’s campaign, why she cut a London trip short because of Angela Davis, LA’s homeless crisis, and whether she’d ever run for President.

LISTEN Now (Interview begins about 11 minutes in)



New Laws Part 5 – Crime And Courts

Witness LA, December 12, 2023 by Taylor Walker
This fall, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed and vetoed hundreds of bills. As the new year draws closer, we move to the next part in our series sharing the fates of noteworthy justice-related bills that made it to the governor’s desk in 2023.
Earlier stories in this series looked at ***bills addressing conditions of incarceration*** in California, ***policing issues***, ***youth justice***, and ***assistance for crime survivors***. In this latest story, we’ll look at bills related to crime and the court system.

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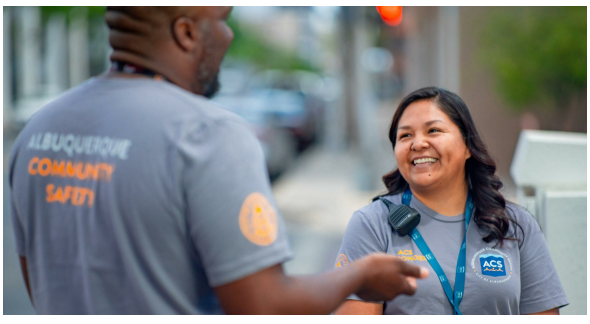

Cities Embrace Civilian-Led Public Safety Solutions

Column: In L.A., a new vision of incarceration proves rehabilitation works

LA Times By Anita Chabria Columnist, Photography By Francine Orr, Dec. 26, 2023

What does something different look like when your whole life, this is all you've known?
By the time he was 42 and staring down two more decades in prison, Eric Acosta knew all the wrong things, and this question began clawing at the corners of his mind.

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In L.A. District Attorney Race, Rhetoric Shifts From Reform to Fear

George Gascón is running for re-election in a very different climate, where concerns about crime have overtaken demands for equity and accountability.

By Tim Arango and Ana Facio-Krajcer Reporting from Los Angeles, Dec. 25, 2023

Three years ago, George Gascón rode a wave of collective outrage following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis to become district attorney of Los Angeles by promising to make the criminal justice system fairer and, most crucially, to rein in the police.
Now, to win re-election and stay in office, Mr. Gascón will need to tap into a different type of emotion: fear

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Vera, by Nazish Dholakia Senior Writer, Dec 12, 2023

Albuquerque, N.M., and Richmond, Calif., are among cities across the U.S. piloting new initiatives—and working to create safer communities.
Albuquerque Community Safety's creation is part of a recent nationwide push to develop and invest in proactive and non-punitive solutions that can reduce violence and promote safety. More than half of the 48 centralized government offices of violence prevention or neighborhood safety currently in operation were established since 2020, and at least 10 more are in the works, according to Vera's recent report, Coordinating Safety: Building and Sustaining Offices of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Safety. According to the report, these offices, which can serve as the hub for a city or county's public safety services, "have the potential to radically transform governmental approaches to public safety."

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After a year in office, L.A. County sheriff talks deputy gangs, jail deaths, overdoses

By Keri Blakinger , Dec. 10, 2023

By the time Sheriff Robert Luna ousted his predecessor and became L.A. County's top cop in late 2022, the nation's largest sheriff's department was awash in controversy.

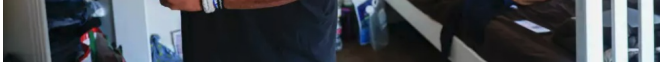
A year later, many of those problems remain unresolved — and critics say the new sheriff has little to show for his time in office. The department has yet to ban deputy gang

tattoos, and the courts have stymied efforts to identify the gangs' alleged members. County data show roughly 20% of sworn positions are effectively vacant, jail death rates are soaring and, in June, the county only narrowly avoided a contempt hearing over conditions inside its lockups.

Still, the signs of change are unmistakable. ***Read More***

Newsom's Push for Mental Health Treatment

Fox News, Elex Michaelson, Dec 9, 2023



A spare room and a big heart': Reentry program pairs formerly incarcerated people with willing homeowners

By Daniel Lempres, San Francisco Chronicle, Dec 25, 2023

Philippe Kelly knew finding a place to live after prison would make or break his return to society.
"To become free, you have to have somewhere to go," said Kelly, 37, who entered prison in 2001 for a fatal Los Angeles shooting he committed when he was 15.
"Homelessness is definitely one of the reasons why recidivism with certain types of incarcerated folks is high."

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Reports

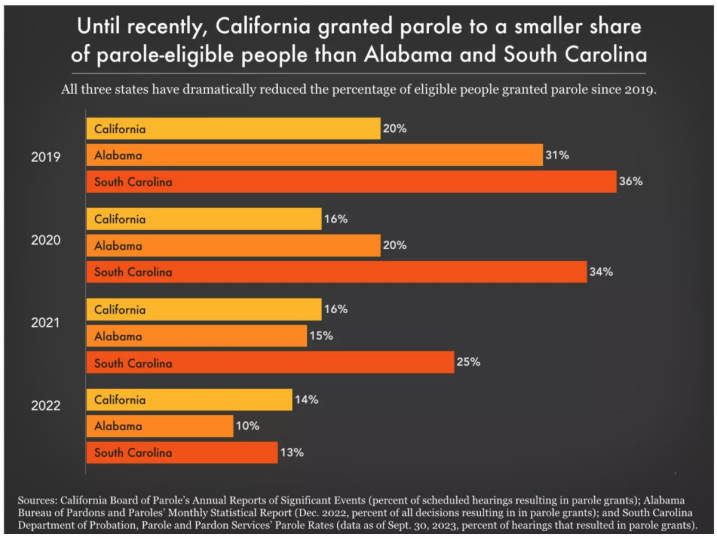
Winnable criminal justice reforms in 2024

Prison Policy Innitiative, By Sarah Staudt, November 2023

We list some high-impact policy ideas for state legislators and advocates who are looking to reform their criminal justice system without making it bigger.

1. Expand alternatives to criminal legal system responses to social problems
2. Redirect public funds to community organizations that provide social services
3. Reduce the number of people entering the "revolving doors" of jails and prisons. Use alternatives to arrest and incarceration for all offenses that do not threaten public safety.
4. Improve sentencing structures and release processes to encourage timely and successful releases from prison
5.

Read More, along with the details!



Going back to Cali: Revisiting California's parole release system

Prison Policy Initiative, by Emmett Sanders,

December 19, 2023

In 2019, we graded parole release systems across the US. Though no state performed particularly well, the 16 states that have mostly abolished discretionary parole since 1976 received our lowest grade, an F-. California was among them. Advocates from California asked us, however, to take a closer look at California's parole system. Unlike other states that have abolished discretionary parole, California's discretionary parole system since 2014 has significantly expanded eligibility for a large number of incarcerated people who meet certain criteria, and more become eligible each year.

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