LARRP October 2023 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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Spotlight * LARRP Committee Meetings * LARRP in the Community * Policy Updates* 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"

October Spotlight
Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) Update with Judge Songhai Armstead

Our special guest for the September LARRP General Meeting was the new Director of JCOD and long time LARRP ally, Judge Songhai Armstead. Director Armstead spoke to LARRP members about the many resources and programs that they have woven together under this new department's purview.

The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) is the County's new central agency working to unite reentry programming and create a coordinated delivery system for LA County's non-clinical efforts to serve vulnerable justice-impacted people and communities and drive forward the Board of Supervisors' vision of Care First, Jails Last. Moving towards coordinated entry systems is not a new approach in Los Angeles, and has worked effectively in other sectors such as homelessness. The idea is to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to the community's housing and homeless assistance resources and are quickly identified, assessed for, and connected to flexible housing and service options, including financial/rental assistance, voluntary supportive services, and other mainstream resources based on their needs, strengths, and goals. Having a truly coordinated reentry system to help members of the justice community helps to prioritize assistance so that people who need it most the most can receive help in a timely manner.

JCOD through its various initiatives, i.e. pretrial services and RICMS, is well suited to lead this effort, while ODR will continue to serve those with high levels of clinical (mental, substance and health" needs. We will continue to learn more and seek ways to partner with this critical new County agency. We all rise together when we work together.

Onward and upward
Pastor Troy F. Vaughn

Watch the JOCD update with Judge Songhai Armstead below



Download the PowerPoint

LARRP Meetings

LARRP General Meeting

October 19, 2023
10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Employment Committee

October 25, 2023, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Register Employment

Integrated Health Committee

October 2, 2023
2:00 pm

REGISTER Integrated Health

Housing Committee

November 2, 2023, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Register Housing

Education Committee

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

Featuring a presentation by Dr. Matthew Luckett from our partner Cal State University Dominguez Hills on ***their new project with CDCR*** providing a Masters Degree in Humanities to incarcerated people

Starting with the November meeting, we will transition to meeting every other month instead of monthly, with the idea of deepening and strengthening the programming we can offer to our members and partners.

In 2024 we will also resume in-person meetings at different institutions, giving programs a chance to highlight their accomplishments and hopefully making the Committee programming more accessible to students on site. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting a Committee meeting in 2024!

Register Education

LARRP July Policy Update



As we approach the end of the year, we are closing in on the Governor's last days to sign into law the bills we have worked to push through the State legislature. By next month, we will be able to report back on the outcomes of all of the bills we worked on this year. As we have a number of bills awaiting a signature or veto, we want to draw your attention to two of our priority pieces of legislation.

One such bill is AB 28. (Gabriel and McCarty - Principal coauthor: Senator Portantino)This bill is brought to us by the violence-prevention work LARRP is engaged in, and would enact an 11% tax on all gun and ammunition sales which would be earmarked specifically to fund violence-prevention and gun research-related endeavors. Violence prevention is a rising topic for reentry and other justice-related groups, so steps to both curtail the presence of firearms and fund ongoing efforts to understand and prevent violence are of the utmost importance.

A bill you can take action on right now is AB 268 by Assemblymember Akilah Weber. This bill would require the Governor to appoint both a licensed health care provider and a licensed mental or behavioral health care provider to the Board of State and Community Corrections. The BSCC oversees many programs for justice-involved individuals, so adding clinical oversight and expertise to the Board would be a significant step forward. You can reach out to the Governor's office through this portal, either online or by calling, and telling them:

"I am reaching out on behalf of LARRP in strong support of AB 268 by Assemblymember Weber, and believe it would help ensure the currently and formerly incarcerated have strong clinical support at the state level. The BSCC oversees health standards and oversight for many aspects of carceral care, so expanding the oversight board with clinical professionals is a strong signal that we believe in protecting the health of the incarcerated community. I urge the governor to sign this bill."

Updated list of LARRP 2023 Priority Bills

LARRP LEADERS Cohort Number 3

L.E.A.D.E.R.S
Leading, Engaging, Advocating, Demonstrating, Enhancing and Expanding Reentry Systems

We're thrilled to bring you the latest news from the LEADERS Training Academy, our pioneering initiative designed to empower formerly incarcerated individuals with the skills and resources needed to instigate meaningful change. A few highlights to share:

- Progress of Cohort #3: We're currently mentoring 12 exceptional members in Cohort #3, segmented into specialized teams focusing on Integrated Health, Education, and Employment. Members are provided with housing opportunities, job development and soft skills.
- Unique Focus: Utilizing their lived experiences, these members are committed to tackling multifaceted challenges, with an emphasis on understanding and combating lack of housing, addiction, and associated stigmas.
- Mentorship From Alumni: Our current cohort has the privilege of receiving insights from the experienced alumni of Cohorts #1 and #2, fortifying the cycle of learning and leadership.
- Upcoming Milestones: Presentations at upcomimg LARRP General meetings: Members of Cohort #3 will be showcasing their amazing selves in late November. Stay tuned for more details.
- What is Your Role in Their Journey? Offer Your Expertise: We are continuously seeking professionals willing to conduct skill-building workshops for the LEADERS. Interested in this opportunity contact Anthony Garcia *Anthony@lareentry.org*

We extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your belief in our mission fuels our optimism for positive changes on the horizon.

LARRP and Partners

We are SO proud of our Steering Committee Members and Partners!

Steering Committee member Janie Hodge of the Paving the Way Foundation has some exciting news!



Thanks to the Amity

LARRP Steering Committee Member Maria Alexander (Alex) Grant Achievement Spotlight!

Center for Living and Learning (CCM) won



CFCI grant Paving the Way is able to make it possible for women to become union members in the construction field. Their first Cohort graduated 7 women and 6 of them are on their way to completing the Boot Camp Training. Four have been offered positions.

They also want to announce the launch of their new website: ***https://pavingthewayfd.com/***

LARRP in the Community
DOORS Open House with Five Keys



The D.O.O.R.S. Community Reentry Center-LA hosted a Five Keys Open house to share the fantastic resources Five Keys offers, such as completing a high school diploma, anger management, parenting, and domestic violence classes for free! Terrific giveaways were offered to all community members and students pursuing furthering their education. If you would like to learn more about the array of services provided at the D.O.O.R.S. Center, feel free to contact Evelyn at ***evelyn@lareentry.org***

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a ***CalMoneySmart grant*** It is to provide peer based financial coaching to our participants. See this wonderful ***post*** about it from Senator Caroline Menjivar on Facebook!



Alex also joined ***Talent Rewire's Frontline Employee Council.*** Talent Rewire believes that frontline employees are the experts when it comes to their jobs, their needs, and their aspirations. And in order to live into our purpose of “increasing the economic mobility of frontline employees – particularly people of color and women” See the picture of Alex in the graphic below!



LARRP Community Safety Committee

As chair of the LARRP Community Safety Committee, I have seen firsthand the residual impact of the tragic loss of life on survivors in communities across this country. The consequence of gun violence is pain, grief, and the deterioration of trust amongst members of our community – consequences that span generations. As we prepare to close 2023, it is likely that the chronic and upward surge of violence in all of its insidious forms will continue.

LARRP is taking a stand and delving into the fray as I prepare to launch our Community Safety Committee in 2024. I felt it necessary to gain a deeper insight into the intricacies of the discipline of Community-Based Public Safety before I arbitrarily convened network partners for

As a result of this learning, we are now preparing to convene our local, community-based public safety partners, including the Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention-Crisis Response Unit, the L.A. County District Attorney Victims Services Unit, The L.A. City Attorney's REACH program, victims/survivors, formerly incarcerated violent offenders, and a host of other community and faith leaders. LARRP is excited to delve into this vitally important area of public safety. Our Community Safety Committee will be an important component of the healing work that we all so desperately seek to offer to the residents of L.A. County. Please click ***here*** for an overview of the Community Safety Committee.

this committee. So, over the last year, I have worked closely with Mr. Aqeela Sherrills, Executive Director of the recently founded ***CBPS Collective***, to gain a deeper understanding of the history and concepts of Community-Based Public Safety. The CBPS Collective has amassed an amazing and eclectic group of subject matter experts who are representing, on a national scale, a burgeoning complementary strategy to our current public safety ecosystem.

Thank you for your continued patience and support in this beautiful County of Los Angeles.

Elder Joe Paul

Partner Events



JOCD Resource Fair

October 2, 2023 11:30 am - 1:30pm

RSVP: ***RSVP@JCOD.LAcounty.gov***



Civilian Oversight Commission

Town Halls

- November 2: San Gabriel Valley

Regular meetings:

- **October 19: St. Anne's**
- November 9: St. Anne's
- December 14: Peck Park, San Pedro

MORE INFO



LA County Office of Violence Prevention Crisis Response Pilot program update

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corp.
We are so excited to share where we are from the listening sessions you participated in 2022 and have you meet our team and a timeline for the launch of services.

Register



Los Angeles County Probation Santa Monica Community Job and Resource Fair

October 4, 2023
1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA,90401



Realizing the Promise of Victims Compensation

October 10, 12:00 pm

Webinar on Helping Community Violence Intervention Meet the Needs of Victims, presented by The Community Based Public Safety Collective

Register



The Walk To Save Black Men's Lives in Los Angeles

Saturday, November 11 · 8am - 1pm
Rancho Cienega Recreation Center

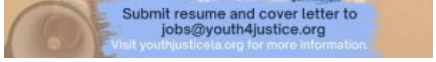
FREE Health Screenings, Vendors, Live Entertainment, and FREE Family Friendly FUN!

More Info

Featured Opportunities and Jobs







Youth Justice LA

Now Hiring! LA 4 Youth Lead Organizer

MORE INFO

California Invests Additional $33 Million In Mentored Internship Program

Organizations Utilize Grants to Recruit Students to the Behavioral Health Workforce

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) awarded an additional $33 million to 120 nonprofit provider and tribal organizations, extending the existing behavioral health workforce Mentored Internship Program to organizations that successfully completed the first round of the program.

The Mentored Internship Program grants are part of the ***Behavioral Health Workforce Development initiative*** funded by Opioid Settlement Funds.



UNITE-LA is accepting applications for Step into Tech for our fall cohort.

The fall cohort begins on October 10th.

More info

Featured News Article

Thanks to the LA Times Editorial Board for the three important editorials in September, pointing out the destructive an inequitable reality of cash bail. The other two can be found in our More News section below.



Editorial: Chief Moore and other bail reform critics are wrong. Cash bail should not be a form of punishment

The LA Times Editorial Board,September 25, 2023
Testifying in August in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of money bail, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said the value of this system is to show the public that “there’s consequences for going out and committing serious offenses, felony offenses. And that those consequences are that you face the risk of being incarcerated and punished.”

So the punishment in Moore’s equation applies only to people without money. The second problem is that the Constitution forbids punishment before conviction. A police accusation cannot, by itself, be transformed into evidence and then magically turn into proof beyond a reasonable doubt. A system that imposes punishment based on arrest, before the accused has an opportunity to present a defense in court, is tyranny

Read More

More News

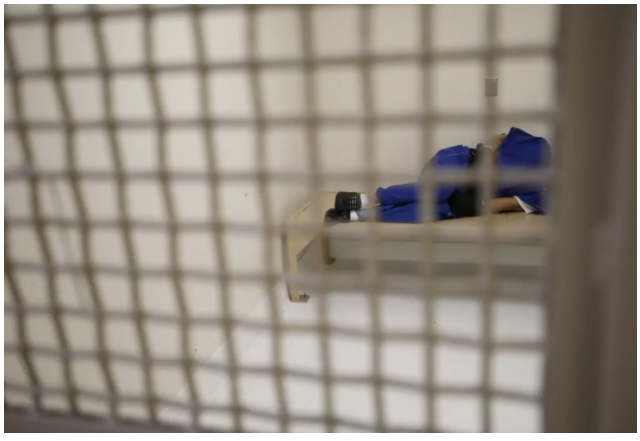


Editorial: Goodbye to cash bail. L.A. is moving to a better approach to pretrial justice

By the LA Times Editorial Board, Sept. 24, 2023

In one week, the system for handling most people after they're arrested in Los Angeles County changes, finally giving L.A. a safer and more just approach to the pretrial process.
The current regimen — pay money bail at the police station without a hearing or go to jail — is to be replaced for most suspects.

Read More



You think you know what bail is? You're



Editorial: Why skeptical Californians should rethink cash reparations for slavery

LA Times Editorial Board. Sept 17, 2023

Black Californians have suffered discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, the criminal justice system and in housing, which has translated into a devastating lack of generational wealth.
Read More



The L.A. City Council is looking to expand. Getting there could take nine years

LA Times, By David Zahniser Sept. 13, 2023

For much of the past year, Los Angeles political leaders have been laying the groundwork for a potentially seismic change in city government: increasing the size of the City Council for the first time in a century.

Read More



A Fight Over Funding Alternatives To

probably wrong

BY the LA Times Editorial Board, Sept. 24, 2023

Suppose you are arrested for stealing a car. You'll be brought to the police station, where the officer on duty will tell you the price for your release. Under the 2022 version of the Los Angeles Superior Court felony bail schedule, a violation of the California Penal Code Section commonly known as grand theft auto, you must come up with $35,000 in order to go home.

Read More



L.A. County offers 3,000 new mental health and substance use treatment beds in bid to end lawsuit

By Doug Smith, Sept. 26, 2023

Facing the prospect of a trial neither side wanted, Los Angeles County and the plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking more homeless services have proposed a settlement that appears to meet the demands of a federal judge who twice rejected earlier agreements.

Read More

Incarceration While The LA County Jails' Death Toll Continues To Rise

Witness LA, September 16, 2023 by Taylor Walker

On Tuesday, September 12, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to set aside $88 million in Measure J funding for alternatives to incarceration meant to help the county shut down the dangerous and dungeon-like Men's Central Jail.

Read ***More***



Criminal Record Expungement Clinics Benefit 1 Million+ in CA

Public News Sercice by Suzanne Potter, Producer, September 5, 2023

One year ago, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 731, a law that allows more than a million Californians to clear many old felony convictions from their records. Now, expungement clinics across the state are helping speed that process along.

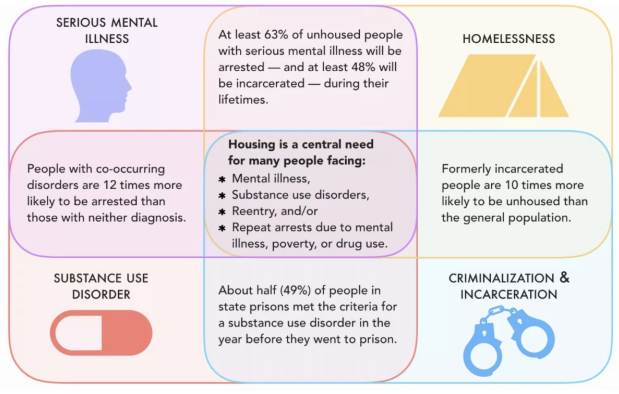
Read More

Reports and Briefings



Below You will find 3 reports presented at the August 10th meeting of the Probation Oversight Commission:

- **Report on *Electric Monitoring***
- **Report on the *Movement of Youth*** from Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (B.J.N.J.H.)



Seeking shelter from mass incarceration: Fighting criminalization with Housing First

Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH)

- ***Progress update f***rom the L.A. County Probation Oversight Commission on strategic planning goals, important topics, POC's Model of Change, and staff recommended focus areas for the current fiscal year

by Brian Nam-Sonenstein, September 11, 2023

Providing unconditional housing with embedded services can reduce chronic homelessness, reduce incarceration, and improve quality of life – especially for people experiencing substance use disorder and mental illness.

Housing is one of our best tools for ending mass incarceration. It does more than put a roof over people's heads; housing gives people the space and stability necessary to receive care, escape crises, and improve their quality of life. For this reason, giving people housing can help interrupt a major pathway to prison created by the criminalization of mental illness, substance use disorder, and homelessness.

Read More

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

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