LARRP September 2023 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



Become a Member Today!

Subscribe to our Newsletter

In this Issue

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"

September Spotlight
Deaths in LA county Jails

Letter from Troy Vaughn

It is with a heavy heart that we reflect on the many Angelenos who have died in LA County jails already this year, most before they were convicted or sentenced for a crime. As Vera Institute's Michelle Paris shared in her ***August 4th LAT Oped*** on this tragedy, "Most of the dead were Black or Latino, had not been convicted of the charges for which they were being held and were in custody only because they were too poor to pay the bail amount for their release."

While raw numbers don't nearly represent the individual lives and their family and loved ones who are also impacted, we share that thirty people have died in our jails so far this year, nearly one person every week. Some of the deaths have occurred at Twin Towers Correctional Facility, which holds the dubious honor of being America's largest mental health institution. Others were at Men's Central Jail, a decrepit aging facility which the County had promised to close more than three years ago. Given the pretrial nature of so many of these deaths, one must beg the question, is this the best option we have to deal with this crisis?

Each of these deaths is part of a larger crisis of violence, filth and disorder that has come to define Los Angeles jails, which overwhelmingly lock up the poor, the homeless, and people of color. More than 6,700 people are awaiting trial in these facilities right now, simply because they are too poor to pay bail and return to their homes, jobs, and loved ones.

I have witnessed the flaws and deficiencies of our criminal justice system myself, from both sides of the coin. Decades ago I too rotated between homelessness on skid row and the LA jails. And today as the executive director of LARRP, and the CEO of the LA Mission, I work to connect some of our most high risk residents to essential services, like housing, health care, and employment. Our county's approach to incarceration too often fosters deadly violence, neglect, and dehumanization instead of rehabilitation. I know there is a better approach, because I see every day how the services community-based organizations like mine provide—behavioral health treatment, case management, and supportive housing—promote safety and change the trajectory of people's lives for the better....

READ MORE.

Call to Action!

No More In Custody Deaths-- September



Vigil And Rally

Vigil

Sunday September 10th,
5:30-7:00pm
Grassy area outside Men's Central Jail, 441 Bauchet St. Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Rally

Tuesday September 12th,

Press conference- 8:30am
Rally and public comment- 9:30-12:00pm.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Within the next few weeks, The Vera Institute will be putting out an online tool to streamline the Public Comment process for folks to reach out to the Board about this ongoing tragedy, and once that is available, we will send it directly to you as a special announcement

LARRP Meetings

Housing Committee

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

Register Housing

Education Committee

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

Register Education

LARRP General Meeting

September 21, 2023
10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

Integrated Health Committee

September meeting cancelled

REGISTER Integrated Health

Employment Committee

October 18th, 2023, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Register Employment

Don't Miss This Month's News and Reports

Every month we publish the previous months news and reports about the Justice Impacted Community in LA County and beyond. Make sure you scroll down to the end of the newsletter, and don't miss our amazing archive!It goes back years and is the most complete

record of LA Criminal Justice news and reports existent!





News | Reports

LARRP in the Community

LARRP, in collaboration with the ***DOORS*** Center, was in attendance at last week's ***HOPICS*** **Homeless Connect Day!** It was a fantastic event with activities such as a petting zoo, wellness yoga, performances, food vendors, and much more! Thank you, HOPICS for having us as we support our community!



LARRP July Policy Update

As we enter the month of September, we are quickly approaching the end of the 2023 legislative year. If you have been keeping up to date on all of our legislative work, you will remember that a number of the bills we originally chose to support this year were sidelined amidst a bleak financial outlook for California. In the last few months, we have worked to adopt new legislative priorities, still aligned with the goals of reentry, but also broadly supportive of large scale health care expansion, streamlined nonprofit grant systems, and pushed for greater transparency in many facets of government work within the community.

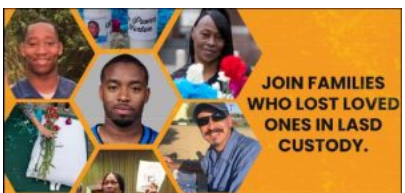
We want to highlight a bill you can take action on right now. ***AB 1241*** (Weber). AB 1241 (Weber) received unanimous support from the Legislature and will ensure that all Californians can access telehealth services, regardless of their Medi-Cal or commercial health insurance coverage.

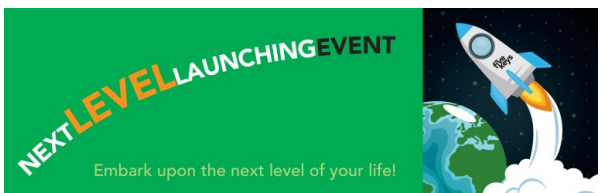
It is now on Governor Newsom's desk, and you can reach out to his office at 916-445-2841 OR by visiting the Governor's website ***(https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/)*** to submit your comments via email. We have a draft script below you can use for this key support!

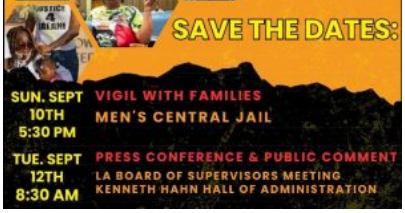
"Hi, my name is [insert name], representing [insert name of affiliated organization]. I am reaching out on behalf of LARRP to urge Governor Newsom to sign AB 1241 (Weber), authored by Assemblywoman Weber, into law."

Updated list of LARRP 2023 Priority Bills

Partner Events







No More In Custody Deaths-- September Vigil And Rally

Vigil

Sunday September 10th,
5:30-7:00pm
Grassy area outside Men's Central Jail, 441 Bauchet St. Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Rally

Tuesday September 12th,
Press conference- 8:30am
Rally and public comment- 9:30-12:00pm.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Civilian Oversight Commission

Town Halls

- **September 16: West Hollywood**
- November 2: San Gabriel Valley

Regular meetings:

- **September 21 - TBD**
- October 19: St. Anne's
- November 9: St. Anne's
- December 14: Peck Park, San Pedro

MORE INFO



Next Level Launching Event
A Five Keys 'Back To School' Event

Thursday, September 21st 2023 • 11am - 2pm
D.O.O.R.S Community Reentry Center – LA 3965 S Vermont Avenue, 3rd Floor Los Angeles, CA 90037

RSVP



Recovery Month Resource Fair and Legal Clinic 9-19-23

Tuesday, September 19th
9am to 1pm

Aegis Pinnacle Treatment Center
909 N Avalon Blvd Wilmington, CA 90744

As you may have heard, the month of September is National Recovery Month (Recovery Month), is a national observance held every September to promote and support treatment and recovery practices.

San Pedro Mental Health in collaboration with Aegis Pinnacle Treatment Center will co-host a Recovery Month Resource Fair and Legal Clinic. We hope that you will join us as we aim to increase public awareness surrounding mental health and addiction recovery including reentry resources available to our community.

Featured Opportunities

Tarzana Treatment Centers College offers Exciting new Programs



YUbuntu Rising Scholar Academy Program

• Job Placement
• Substance Use & Mental Health Academic Counseling
• Primary Care
• Resources: Food Banks, Housing and Utility
Contact: ***ubuntu@tarzanatc.org***

The Tuition Incentive Program

Tarzana Treatment Centers College offers TIP, a program that helps individuals interested in becoming Substance Use Disorder Counselor to obtain certification. Covered costs for accepted applicants.
Download flyer for more info

Apply

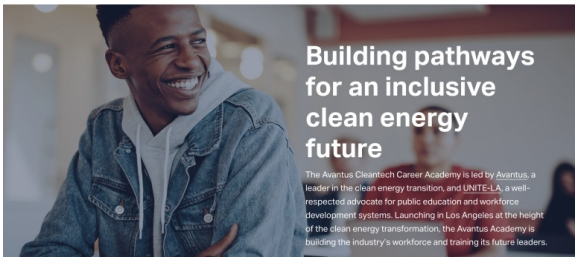
Medi-Cal Peer Support Certification Program Now Accepting Applicants!

80 Hours OF Training from Tarzana Treatment Centers College. For more info call: (818) 654-3955
Apply ***HERE***

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselor Certification Program

- 6-month Accelerated Online Certification
- 8 Core Courses
- 255 Supervised Internship Hours
- Accredited by CCAPP, CAADE, and CADTP
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Proof of Education (GED/High School
- Diploma)

More Info



Tech Pathways Academy Deadline Extended

New Deadline: Monday, September 11th
The nine-week, after-school academy for youth 16-18 yrs. old is a career awareness, certification and enrichment program that develops the next generation of industry leaders
APPLY

Unite LA continues to accept applications for our other fall programs:
Step into Tech
WorkforceReady Focused

Year Two CFCI Care Grant Applications Deadline extended to September 6th

Any Community Based Organization (CBO) that works in the below areas, is encouraged to apply:

1. Youth Development and Education
2. Assistance with Housing
3. Workforce Development and Job Placement
4. Violence and Exploitation Prevention
5. Re-entry Services

Out of 588 CBOs who applied in Year One, 118 were awarded Care Grants. That's 20% - a very significant chance for all whom apply.

Featured News Article

Guest Commentary: LA's Notorious Men's Central Jail Sees Three Deaths in One Week

Davis Vanguard, By Michelle Parris, August 11



Davis Vanguard, By Michelle Parris, August 11, 2023

There have been 29 deaths in Los Angeles County jails since the start of 2023, a result of the county's ongoing failure to meet its commitments to build a functioning "care first" pretrial services entity and close the troubled Men's Central Jail. The County Must Act

Read More



Also see Michele's ***opinion piece in the LATimes***

More News



California debates solitary confinement in local jails — and whether it's really possible to end it

LATimes, By Hannah Wiley, Keri Blakinger, Aug. 31, 2023

Across more than 120 jails in California's 58 counties, conditions behind bars can vary wildly... But there's one thing California's local lockups have in common: prisoners who spend weeks, months or even years in isolation without any meaningful human contact or rehabilitation. Assemblymember Chris Holden is trying to change that. The Pasadena Democrat introduced ***Assembly Bill 280*** this year to limit "segregated confinement"— what is colloquially known as "solitary."
READ MORE



From 'mission accomplished' to riot: Inside the chaotic first month at Los Padrinos

BY Rebecca Ellis, James Queally, Aug. 27, 2023

Nine days after Los Angeles County's top probation official declared "mission accomplished" for transferring nearly 300 youths into the reopened Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, police and news helicopters were circling the facility.
READ MORE



Frustration and criticism as L.A. County D.A. struggles to reform sentencing

LA Times, BY James Queally, Aug. 15, 2023

When he took office in 2020, L.A. County Dist. Atty. George Gascón announced a re-sentencing unit that he said could reduce the terms of up to 30,000 people. Only 95 had been re-sentenced as of last month
RED MORE



Judge Songhai Armstead talks about new grant investment

KTLA, August 10, 2023

Judge Songhai Armstead talked about how Los Angeles' new Justice, Care and Opportunities Department is giving away over $100 million over the next three years in grants to help make our community safer. To apply and for more information you can visit JCODLACounty.gov and follow on social media @LACJCOD. This segment aired on the KTLA 5 Morning News on Aug. 10, 2023.
LISTEN



READ MORE



LA City Council approves LAPD contract designed to improve hiring and retention

LA Daily News By Linh Tat, August 23, 2023

The Los Angeles City Council voted 12-3 on Wednesday, Aug. 23, to ratify a contract with the city's police officers that would bump up their starting salaries by nearly 13% and provide annual base raises of 3%. Taken together with additional bonuses, officers covered by the contract will get a 4% to 6% wage increase each year for four years.
Mayor Karen Bass and those who support the contract say the heavy investment is critical for retaining and recruiting officers in the Los Angeles Police Department, which has seen its numbers dwindle over the years.

READ MORE



Editorial: L.A.'s key justice reform survives court challenge. Time to pick up the pace

LA Times, By the Times Editorial Board, August 7, 2023

An appeals court recently overturned the trial court ruling and ordered that Measure J be fully reinstated.
It is time now for the Board of Supervisors to recommit itself to its Care First agenda with programs that break the cycle of recidivism and make the county safer and more just. Voters rightly demanded meaningful change, and are entitled to get it.

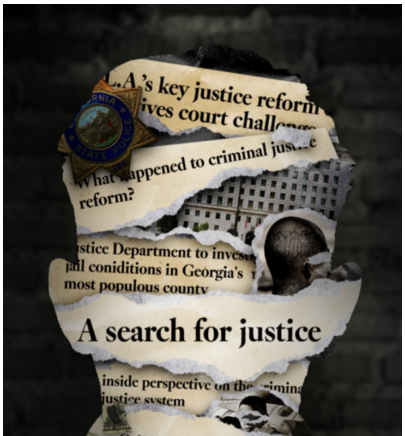
READ MORE

Opinion: The L.A. County jails have had 26 deaths this year. When will it stop?

LA Times, By Michelle Parris, Aug. 4, 2023

...Most of the dead were Black or Latino, had not been convicted of the charges for which they were being held and were in custody only because they were too poor to pay the bail amount for their release.

Read More





LAHSA leader marks her first 100 days by



LA County jails will never get better if we don't intervene now

Daily Trojan, By Quynh Anh Nguyen, August 22, 2023

One of the cruelest jail systems in the nation is right under our noses, but why hasn't it improved after a 50-year legal battle?

READ MORE



Guest Commentary: The Transformative Journey – Embracing the Voices of Successful Reentry

Davis vanguard, August 2023, by Rodney Wrice

In the intricate landscape of reentry from incarceration, a profound story of transformation unfolds—a story that can only be truly understood by those who have lived it. The significance of involving individuals who have successfully emerged from the darkness of incarceration to the light of reintegration cannot be overstated. Their experiences, marked by resilience and hard-won growth, hold within them the potential to illuminate the path towards effective rehabilitation and lasting societal change.

READ MORE



Inside a 'Nightmare' Lockdown at a Wisconsin

LAHSA leader marks her first 100 days by unveiling a new homeless center in South L.A.

LA Times, By Ruben Vives, Aug. 2, 2023

After 100 days leading the agency at the forefront of solving Los Angeles County's homelessness crisis, Va Lecia Adams Kellum touted a new pilot program as representative of her collaborative approach.
The 24,000-square-foot Welcome Navigation Center, operated by Adams Kellum's Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, is located on 45th Street and Broadway in South L.A. and will be staffed 24 hours a day in an effort to funnel people from the streets into permanent housing.

READ MORE



Measure J, L.A. County's 2020 criminal justice reform measure, is constitutional, appellate court finds

LA Times, By Jaclyn Cosgrove, July 30, 2023

An appellate court has ruled that a sweeping Los Angeles County criminal justice reform initiative known as Measure J is constitutional, potentially paving the way for millions of dollars to be invested in social services and a host of community-based jail diversion programs.
Measure J requires that 10% of locally generated, unrestricted L.A. County money — estimated between $360 million and $900 million — be spent on social services, including housing, mental health treatment and other jail diversion programs. The county is prohibited from spending the money on the carceral system —

prisons, jails or law enforcement agencies.
READ MORE

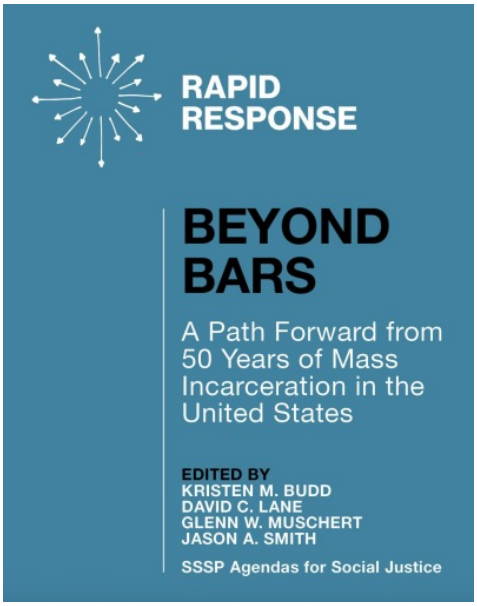
Inside a 'Nightmare' Lockdown at a Wisconsin Prison

NYtimes, By Mario Koran, Aug. 19, 2023

Inmates who have been confined mostly to their cells for more than four months describe unsanitary conditions and a dearth of medical care. Experts say dire staffing shortages are likely to blame and are leading to lockdowns across the country.

READ MORE

Reports



Beyond Bars: A Path Forward from 50 Years of Mass Incarceration in the United States

Edited by the Sentencing Project,August 1, 2023
To mark the 50-year mass incarceration crisis in the United States, a new book, “Beyond Bars: A Path Forward from 50 Years of Mass Incarceration in the

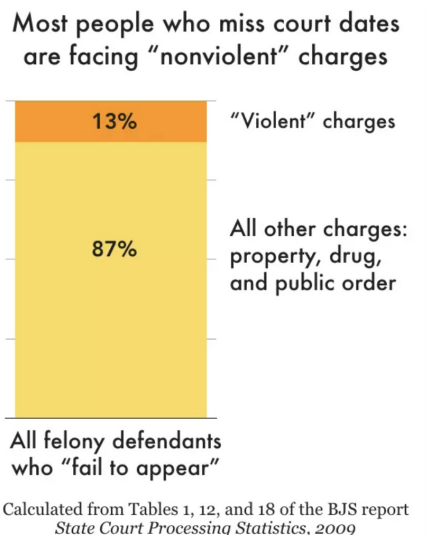
United States,” has been released, offering a compelling vision for criminal legal reform. The book delves deeply into the roots of the American criminal legal system as it meticulously examines one of the most critical issues of our time and presents practical solutions for a more just and equitable future.
READ more and Download





The First Step Act: Ending Mass Incarceration in Federal Prisons

The Sentencing Project, By Ashley Nellis, Ph.D. and Liz Komar, August 22, 2023
In 2018, Congress passed and then-President Donald Trump signed into law the bipartisan First Step Act, a sweeping criminal justice reform bill designed to promote rehabilitation, lower recidivism, and reduce excessive sentences in the federal prison system. Lawmakers and advocates across both political parties supported the bill as a necessary step to address some of the punitive excesses of the 1980s and 1990s.
The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports promising results thus far.
Read More





Serving Our Vulnerable Populations:

Los Angeles County Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly

Brilliant Corners releases a new research study that examines some of the most vital housing resources in our community – Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs). ARFs and RCFEs provide housing and enhanced support for a broad range of individuals with diverse care needs. They also offer customized assistance and community-based housing to individuals dealing with mental illness, seniors requiring supportive services, and individuals from these groups who have experienced homelessness – representing a crucial and distinct housing opportunity for some of our most vulnerable community members, and serving as an integral component of the housing support continuum. In recent years, in an effort to stem the loss of these critical housing resources, LA County and local stakeholders have been working to preserve and expand the supply of Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly.

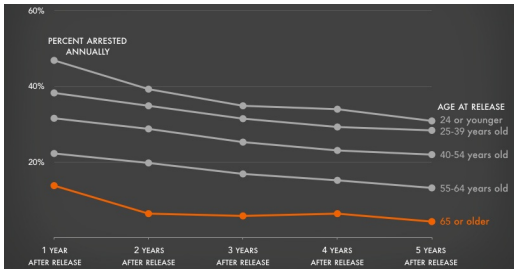
Read Report

High stakes mistakes: How courts respond to "failure to appear"

Prison Policy Initiative, by Brian Nam-Sonenstein, August 15, 2023

Research shows that while most people who miss court are not dangerous or evading justice, the way courts treat "failure to appear" may make our communities less safe. People miss court for many reasons outside of their control. They can't miss work, they don't have childcare, or they don't understand court instructions. Yet they are routinely seen through the eyes of the law and the media as fugitives from justice who threaten our communities, and met with unduly harsh punishments.

READ MORE



The aging prison population: Causes, costs, and consequences

Prison Policy Initiative, by Emily Widra, August 2, 2023

New Census Bureau data show the U.S. population is getting older — and at the same time, our prison populations are aging even faster. In this briefing, we examine the inhumane, costly, and counterproductive practice of locking up older adults.

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!