As the year, and the decade, come to a close, I reflect on how far we have come. I encourage us all to keep the momentum going for the criminal justice reform successes we have collectively secured across our nation.

LA County, our home, our place of service, the defacto 7th largest state, and home to the largest jail in the world, has finally begun to embrace true systemic reforms to the County’s criminal legal systems.

Whether it was the extensive Probation Department reform process, the stopping of LA County jail expansion, building a roadmap for Alternatives to Incarceration, or the critical District Attorney election, the principles of reform and the commitment to decarceration and community restoration are taking hold in LA County.

And, twelve months ago, Congress passed the FIRST STEP Act, signaling the arrival of bipartisan criminal justice reform at the federal level. The passage of the FIRST STEP Act marked a critical milestone in our journey toward a more fair and effective criminal justice system.

Let’s maintain our bipartisan momentum — the future of our criminal justice system and our democracy depends on it. The question for Washington now is: What’s next?
Integrated Health Committee Meeting
January 7, 2020
2:00 pm-4:00 pm
742 N La Brea Inglewood 90302

Policy Committee Meeting
January 7, 2020
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
LARRP Office
742 N La Brea Inglewood, 90302

Education Committee Meeting
January 16, 2020
4:00-5:30
West LA College
9000 Overland Ave,
Culver City, CA 90230

Employment Committee Meeting
January 16, 2020
9:00 - 11:00
Goodwill Worksource
342 N San Fernando Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90031

Housing Committee Meeting
January 16, 2020
1:00 -3:00 pm
Hopics Broadway 5715 S Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90037

REPAIR Expungement Fair
January 4, 2020
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Amity Foundation
3750 S. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

The following services will be available to justice involved and justice impacted everyday people:
• Record reclassification with Proposition 47 and Proposition 64 and expungement services
• Certificate of Rehabilitation Referrals
• On-site voter registration and education
• Employment services
• Live Scans

Unlock the Vote Campaign: Request for Volunteers
LARRP, along with a number of community partners including ANOWL, will educate and register individuals who are incarcerated inside the LA jails as well as engage with the justice-impacted community at re-entry fairs.
In order to engage with as many people who are impacted as possible, we need your support.

We will need volunteers:
• To go inside the jail facilities to educate and register,*
• At the visitor’s line educate and register family and friends,
• To help with mailings
• To attend reentry fairs to educate and register
January Spotlight

2020: Bring Your Vision to a LARRP Working Committee

With the new year upon us, we invite you to deepen the work to improve reentry systems and enact community repair in LA County by joining a LARRP Committee. The range and depth of reentry systems and services needing attention can feel overwhelming. Some may ask, “Where do I start? How can I make a difference?” or perhaps, “How can I deepen my reentry practice?”

Whether you are a front line case manager, an executive focused on managing staff and raising money, or a directly impacted person seeking to rebuild your life, please consider joining a LARRP committee where you can deepen your knowledge in a specific reentry area, identify gaps and problem solve to improve systems and services, or simply network with other practitioners in your field.

Each LARRP Committee focuses on a different area of reentry, such as housing, employment or education. Explore your options by clicking on any committee link, or register to attend one of the meetings that is happening this month.

The Employment Committee mission is to increase employment amongst the reentry population, resulting in greater stability, self-sufficiency, and an improved quality of life for the community at large, and is co-chaired by Maria “Alex” Alexander of Center for Living and Learning, and Cesar Perez from Amity Foundation.

The Housing Committee work includes understanding the housing and homeless services landscape, identifying interim and permanent housing solutions for the reentry population, and tracking polices and guidelines that impact formerly incarcerated people’s ability to access housing subsidies and resources. The committee is co-chaired by Veronica Lewis of HOPICS SSG and Janie Hodge of Paving the Way Foundation.

The Education Committee mission is to help support and advance educational and career pathways for both reentry students and the professionals who work with them, and to build bridges from corrections to college in Southern California. The Education Committee is co-chaired by Paul Seeman, Daniel Tabor, and Sugar Easley.

The Integrated Health Committee is a dedicated space for behavioral health stakeholders working at the intersection of reentry to convene regularly to promote harm reduction practices in reentry services and advance solutions to creating a continuum of health care for people leaving incarceration and living with convictions, and is co-chaired by Amanda Cowan from CLARE MATRIX and Nyabingi Kuti from Tarzana Treatment Centers.

The Faith Based Committee will focus on identifying and developing best practices and core competencies that would enable diverse groups of clergy and other spiritual organizations to leverage existing assets and resources to address needs of formerly incarcerated people, their families and their communities, and is co-chaired by Joe Paul of LARRP and Adam Siegal of Beit T’Shuvah.

The Policy Committee mission is to develop and advocate for the implementation of legislative and administrative policies that reduce recidivism, advance social justice, safeguard the rights of victims, and decrease incarceration levels while providing accountability to taxpayers and reducing structural inequalities. This committee is reconstituting and holds
PARTNER EVENTS

Volunteer For Your Local Homeless Count

The 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will occur on these dates:

- January 21, 2020 - San Gabriel & San Fernando Valleys (Service Planning Areas 2 & 3)
- January 22, 2020 - West Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, & the South Bay (Service Planning Areas 5, 7, & 8)
- January 23, 2020 - Antelope Valley, Metro Los Angeles, & South Los Angeles (Service Planning Areas 1, 4, & 6)

Sign up!

February 18th
6:30-8:00 pm
LA District Attorney Candidate Forum

National Council of Jewish Women, 543 N. Fairfax Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

RSVP

Saturday, January 18, 2020
8:00am - 2:00pm
28th Annual Empowerment Congress Summit
Communities in Peril: A Call to Action for 2020 and Beyond

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
1731 E. 120th St. LA, CA 90059

More Info
Register

Opportunities

Formation of a County “Reentry Health Advisory Collaborative”

The Collaborative will include 7 to 10 incarcerated/formerly incarcerated individuals or people who have had contact with the criminal justice system, and will “provide feedback on healthcare and social service needs related to the incarcerated/formerly incarcerated community and play an integral role in the design and implementation of service programs.”

Centralized Training Academy

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles

(HHCLA) is excited to announce the launch of several new FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES for entry level, mid-level and supervisory staff in the homeless services sector!!

Curriculum I: Care Coordination and Systems
incarcerated community and play an integral role in the implementation and monitoring of a Countywide roadmap of Alternatives to Incarceration.”

The application period has opened and will close on Jan. 16, 2020.

Apply Here

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Yes on R

The Reform LA County Jails Campaign is hiring a top-quality Paid Canvass Manager for its campaign to pass Measure R in the upcoming 2020 election cycle. The campaign will run a community-based paid canvass program alongside its grassroots community engagement effort that will focus on ensuring voters are educated on Measure R and that the initiative passes on March 3, 2020. More info

Yes on R - Other job openings in the field click here

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NEWS

Featured News Story

For our January Featured News Story we present an LA Times Editorial about the movement to stop new jails from being built.

2019 was the year L.A. County finally said ‘no’ to new jails
LA Times, By The Times Editorial Board
Dec. 26, 2019

Jails are crowded with mentally ill people because states including California closed mental hospitals over several decades beginning in the 1960s without building out the system of community-based mental-health care they had promised. Jail populations are disproportionately black and Latino, in part because of a criminal justice system laced with overly punitive policies that prey on poverty and sentences that punish multiple generations. Building new jails — even ostensibly more humane ones — may sometimes be unavoidable, but it consumes resources that could otherwise be used for correcting the problems and improving lives.

This year — 2019 — was the year that the Board of Supervisors got the message.

Read the Editorial
U.S. Supreme Court leaves in place ruling barring prosecution of homeless
Reuters, by Dec. 16, 2019, Andrew Chung
Read More

Why people are freezing in America’s prisons
It shouldn’t be up to concerned citizens to keep the incarcerated warm in the winter.
Vox, By Roxanna Asgarian
Dec 13, 2019
Read More

Ventura Training Center Provides Parolees Path in Firefighting
Spectrum News 1, By Tanya McRae Camarillo
Dec. 26, 2019
Read More

From Marijuana To The Death Penalty, States Led The Way In 2019
The Appeal, by Daniel Nichanian
Dec 20, 2019
A retrospective on the year that was on criminal justice reform. Seven maps. 16 issues. 50 states.
Read More

Sacramento Kings and Incarcerated Individuals Come Together For First NBA 'Play For Justice' Event at Folsom State Prison
NBA.com, Dec 12, 2019
"Today, the Sacramento Kings, with the REPRESENT JUSTICE Campaign tipped off a series of basketball games at correctional facilities between incarcerated individuals and NBA players and coaches."
Read More

The Hidden Cost of Incarceration
Prison costs taxpayers $80 billion a year. It costs some families everything they have.
The Marshall Project By Nicole Lewis and Beatrix Lockwood
Read More

The hidden scandal of US criminal justice? Rural incarceration has boomed
While big cities are finally putting fewer people in jail, small towns and rural counties are locking up more people than ever
The Guardian, by Jasmine Heiss and Jack Norton, December 13, 2019
Read More
Youth Confinement: The Whole Pie 2019

On any given day, over 48,000 youth in the United States are confined in facilities away from home as a result of juvenile justice or criminal justice involvement. Most are held in restrictive, correctional-style facilities, and thousands are held without even having had a trial. But even these high figures represent astonishing progress: Since 2000, the number of youth in confinement has fallen by 60%, a trend that shows no sign of slowing down.

What explains these remarkable changes? How are the juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems different, and how are they similar? Perhaps most importantly, can those working to reduce the number of youth in confinement build on this progress?

Pretrial Risk Assessment in California

The policies governing California’s pretrial system are undergoing substantial change. Amid recent correctional reforms and ongoing challenges to the state’s bail system, pretrial risk assessment has emerged as a way to help counties make decisions about whether arrested individuals should remain in the community or be detained until any charges stemming from that arrest are resolved.

This report presents an overview of pretrial risk assessment in California and offers considerations for using, evaluating, and improving the effectiveness of local pretrial risk assessment systems.

One Year After the First Step Act: Mixed Outcomes

In commemoration of the sentencing reform law’s passage one year ago this week, The Sentencing Project has published an analysis of the law’s successes, challenges, and the reform effort that remains.
importantly, can those working to reduce the number of adults behind bars learn any lessons from the progress made in reducing youth confinement?

Read the report

An Overview of Evidence-Based Practices and Programs in Prison Reentry
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Dec., 2019

Read the Report