A message from LARRP Executive Director Troy Vaughn

We are living in a moment when our work is an expression of our fidelity to those whom we have never forgotten – to our brothers and sisters that are finally coming home, and to those that are still waiting to come home.

We are also living in a moment on which we can be grateful for those that have inspired, and challenged us as we reflect on their loyalty to their calling, and their fidelity to the people they spent their lives fighting for.

Our shared experience, and desire to eradicate systemic oppression, and mass incarceration has helped forge lasting alliances and has brought us together to fight for justice.

It has been rightly stated that silence is complicity; and I would add that words without meaningful action is also complicity. If we do not do our part to address and dismantle unjust systems, we are contributing to it. We also recognize solidarity is not enough, and that building a justice equity network is difficult work. Know that we stand ready for that challenge.

We are dedicated to counter injustice, oppression, racism, violence, and hate. In doing so, we pledge the following:

- We will do the work needed within our issue committees.
- We will implement policies and practices that address the specific needs our returning brothers and sisters.
- We will disrupt and fight to remove systems that promote injustice and discrimination.
- We will continue to grow and strengthen our programs to provide opportunities for our returning citizens by listening to their expertise and incorporating their leadership in our work.
- We stand committed to supporting our partners, staff, members, and returning community members beyond the current moment.
- We will work toward a community of change that offers alternatives to incarceration, and will not rest until lasting change is implemented.

In Solidarity and Service
Troy F. Vaughn, LARRP Executive Director

Every month LARRP begins its General Meeting with Voices from Impacted people.
This is Jeremy Pool from Amity Foundation, telling his story
LARRP MEETINGS and EVENTS

LARRP General Meeting
August 20
10:00am-11:30am
Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER - General Meeting

Integrated Health Committee Meeting
August 6th
2:00 pm
Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER - Health

Education Sub planning Committee
August 6
5:00 pm
There will be a special session of the Education Committee on August 6 at 5 PM, specifically to work on the regional convening of reentry educational programs currently planned for November 17-18. Anyone that can help primary organizers with planning and practical support. Please join in!

Education - Sub Planning

Education Committee Meeting
August 20th
4:00pm
Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER - Education

Employment Committee
Will meet in September - Stay Tuned

Housing Committee
Will meet in September - Stay Tuned

Watch recording of LARRP July General Meeting
- LARRP Voices From Impacted People - Jeremy Pool
- Executive Director Report and CCJ BH meeting updates - Troy Vaughn, LARRP
- 8000: The Landscape for Early Releases from CDCR - Doug Bond, CEO Amity Foundation, LARRP Executive Steering Committee
- Mayor Garcetti’s COVID19 Equity leader - Capri Maddox, Los Angeles Department of Civil and Human Rights (CHRD)
- LARRP Issue Committee Reports and Announcements

If you missed it click link below and enter the password 8?5f%6cV

LARRP July General Meeting PW: 8?5f%6cV

Did you miss a committee meeting or one of our packed General Meetings?
No worries you can find them here in our Meeting Archives

Meeting Archives

LARRP ACTION ALERT
SB 378 (Wiener) Probation
Alternatives for Drug Offenses

Mass incarceration has been devastating to CA communities and families, as well as the CA budget. And the impact is visible now more than ever. Mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug crimes force judges to imprison individuals who would be better treated and supervised in the community.

The Drug Policy Alliance is co-sponsoring SB 378 (Wiener), a bill that will repeal mandatory minimum sentences, allowing a judge discretion to grant probation to persons convicted of specified nonviolent drug offenses. Please join us in support of SB 378 (Wiener) and send in a letter as soon as possible.

Please join us in support of SB 378 (Wiener) by taking these steps

1. Submit your support letter for as soon as possible. CLICK for sample support letter
2. Please be sure to put on your letterhead, Sign, and Upload to the California Legislative Portal
3. Share a signed copy of your letter with Glenn Backes at glennbackes@mac.com and Norma Palacios npalacios@drugpolicy.org

SB 369 (Hertzberg) California Reentry Commission,

SB369, sponsored by Californians for Safety and Justice, would establish a commission in the state’s Health and Human Services Agency that would meet monthly to develop a health and safety agenda for folks being released from prison and jails.

SB 369 (Hertzberg) would require the commission to prepare and develop a new health and safety agenda for those returning home from prison or jail, conduct a review of reentry barriers, review current state criminal justice policies, and report to the legislature on the impact of COVID-19 on the reentry population, among other duties.

Please join us in support of SB 369 by taking these simple steps:

1. Submit your support letter for as soon as possible. CLICK for sample support letter
2. Please be sure to put on your letterhead, Sign, and Upload to the California Legislative Portal
3. Share a signed copy of your letter with Ed Little at elittle@safelandjust.org

August Spotlight

CDCR to Release 8,000 people by the end of August

With COVID-19 raging across California prisons, sickening and killing both incarcerated people and staff, Governor Gavin Newsom and CDCR have announced plans to release up to 8,000 people by the end of August. At least 40% of those being released are projected to need housing. You can read the full CDCR briefing on the releases HERE. You can also watch the presentation at the last LARRP General Meeting by Doug Bond, CEO of Amity Foundation and Executive Steering Committee member for LARRP by clicking HERE and enter the password 875F%6cV

Releases have already begun, and are roughly clustered into 4 overlapping categories (with exceptions for certain violent crimes, DV, and sex offenses):

- 180 days or less on their sentence:
  - Approximately 4,800 Incarcerated individuals (approximately 1,400 from LA County)
- 365 days or less on their sentence:
  - Approximately 2,100 Incarcerated individuals (approximately 600 from LA County)
- Medically fragile: “high risk” individuals, people over age 65 who have chronic conditions, or those with respiratory illnesses such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, who are considered to be at greater risk for morbidity and mortality should they contract COVID-19.
- Credits: CDCR will award a one-time Positive Programming Credit to all eligible incarcerated people of 12 weeks, stating, “These credits will be awarded to help offset credits not earned due to program suspensions, and to recognize the

Doug Bond, stated, “This is an opportunity to come together with shared resources across regions, CBOs, and public agencies, to help ensure success and safety for our loved ones coming home.” Toward that end, many reentry providers posted their services in the Chat box during Doug’s talk:

- Friends Outside in LA, has a project funded through BSCC to provide welcome home kits to new released state parolees. If anyone would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at iseta@friendsoutsidela.org
- New Opportunities is offering FREE high school education to individuals 18+. Additionally we have a reentry team and student support team who work in partnership with the American Job Centers and other community based Orgs such as FOLA to support individuals coming back to the community. any questions please email reentry@newopps.org
- Hi everyone - Irene Sanchez: I am here on behalf of Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA). We offer community intervention services for families and youth. I am the Case Manager for our Tattoo Removal Program, a partnership with LAC USC. We provide free tattoo removal services to folks who are completing community service, enrolled in school or 12 step programs. There are other ways to qualify. For more information please email tattoo removal@seaprograms.org
- Chrysalis is now accepting new referrals remotely for employment services. Individuals can call / email our New Client Intake Hotline -- call (213)
CDCR has a complex release testing protocol, which you can read about in detail here. Generally, those who have symptoms, test positive, or were recently exposed to someone who tested positive, stay in prison under quarantine for another 14 days or are released to Project Hope, CDCR funded Hotel rooms (like LA County’s Project Roomkey).

The state has allocated $15 million towards reentry services for these early releases. The funding will be streamlined through pre-existing channels of supervision and services: STOP, SB678, AB109, and County Departments of Health. Housing will be provided for 30, 60, 90 and 180 days on a case by case basis.

The Amity Foundation and HealthRight360, are leading the community side of coordinating placements, working directly with Parole and Probation, who have to approve each placement. Along with their networks of hundreds of smaller reentry providers, they have secured an additional 1000-1500 beds in LA County for these new COVID releases.

Despite the horror and devastation the pandemic has wrought on so many individuals and families connected to the prison system, it has done what no amount of federal court orders, advocate lawsuits, and public outrage could do: drastically reduce California’s inhumane and bloated prison system. As of July 30, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in-prison population was 99,929. The last time that number was below 100,000 was in 1990, when California’s overall population was almost 10 million less than it is today.

Update on LA County Justice Policy

Over the last couple of months, the LA County Board of Supervisors have been passing a number of exciting breakthrough motions that impact the justice system and our local reentry community. To name just a few, they have:

- passed motions to keep the jail population below 12,000 which was achieved for the first time in 3 decades;
- to close Men’s Central Jail, which we have been talking about for two decades;
- and to put ReImagineLA on the ballot, dedicating a minimum of 10% of the County budget do alternatives to incarceration and services.

Please see articles about these motions in our news section below.

As LARRP Steering Committee Joe Maizlish comments, “The continuing growth in COVID-19 spread in the County, offers us lessons and challenges about the "pre-existing conditions" and vulnerability of our society as a whole, that some populations especially, have lived and died with for decades. As service providers we are uniquely positioned to have a role -- a permanent one -- in strengthening everyone’s future.”

You can view the full agenda here and make sure to get on Joe’s email lists to stay informed about what’s going on in the county.

Information and Opportunities

**Community Change**

**Community Change, Women’s Fellowship**

10-month, cohort-based program for women of Color who have personally experienced incarceration, immigration detention, and/or the incarceration/detention of a close loved one.

It provides women of color with the tools they need to engage in strategic discussions and partnerships that

**New Community Learning Center For Returning Citizens**

**Mass Liberation** would love to partner with any concerned citizen, organization, and agency that provides reentry support services. The Nest is in South LA County, right along the 110 freeway. We offer classroom and online courses in four core areas: Healthy Relationships, Total Wellness, Personal Finance, and Responsible Citizenship. Participants learn the basic skills that will help them to
shape policy decisions and establish how power is attained and wielded at home, work, and in their communities.

The fellowship centers healing as part of transformative organizing and provides participants with a quarterly stipend.

Application Due Monday, August 10th, 2020

FAQ

Application

LARRP and 211 are partnering up in the launch of the CareLinQ ReLINC system to assist system navigators, case managers, and coordinators in providing outstanding services to our reentry community!

If you would like to join our partnership please contact Evelyn Garcia at Evelyn@lareentry.org

LARRP was fortunate to be included in a new program to get recently released people privately funded stimulus stipends. This excellent new program out of the Center for Employment Opportunities, seeks to support individuals who have been released from incarceration in the past 12 months and are unemployed or underemployed. Center for Employment Opportunities has raised millions of dollars to get these much needed stipends to thousands of people in reentry all over the country.

We have been publishing stories from the people who have received this stimulus check in LA in our newsletters.

Take a look at how CEO is making a difference nationwide!

Member Newswire

July 1, 2020 - ARC Executive Director and LARRP Steering Committee member, Sam Lewis powerfully advocated for the release of more people in custody during the California State Senate Public Safety Committee hearing on COVID-19 in State Prisons.

ARC, along with many other organizations and voices, are calling on our state leaders to protect the safety and health of the people inside, our brothers and sisters who fear for their lives during this pandemic.

During his testimony, Sam recalled his harrowing experience battling norovirus in Soledad Prison. At that time, he wondered, lying alone, in his cell, "Am I going to die in here like an animal that no one cares for?"

PARTNER EVENTS
Social Venture Partners Los Angeles’
2020 Fast Pitch - a virtual event
Thursday, August 6th
3:00 pm

This year’s event will highlight ten organizations who are working at the forefront of the intersectional movements for racial, economic, and social justice, tackling mass incarceration, the environment and food sourcing, city planning & urban mobility, immigration, and housing & homelessness. Reflecting the collective spirit of this group of visionary justice leaders, the theme is ‘Liberating Our Future’.

Presenters:
- Alliance for Community Transit-LA | Presenter: Laura Raymond
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition | Presenter: Sam Lewis
- CicLAvia | Presenter: Tafarai Bayne
- Californians United for a Responsible Budget | Presenter: Brian Kaneda
- Freedom for Immigrants | Presenter: Christina Fialho
- Initiate Justice | Presenter: Taina Vargas-Edmond
- LA Compost | Presenter: Michael Martinez
- LA Forward | Presenter: David Levitus
- LA Room & Board | Presenter: Sam Prater
- LA Walks | Presenter: John Yi

Buy Tickets

Naloxone (Narcan) Training
Tuesday August 11th
9-10am.

Training will go over all information needed to reverse an Opioid overdose. This training is open to all members of the community, agency staff, etc. Anyone can easily save a life with learning how to administer Naloxone!

- Opioid Overdose Background: Learn about opioid overdose causes and trends
- Opioid Epidemic: Learn about existing efforts to combat the opioid crisis and legislative protections for naloxone use and dispensing
- Opioid Overdose Prevention, Recognition, and Response: Learn how to correctly identify and respond to an overdose event, including how to administer naloxone, and how to prevent future overdoses

To register, please e-mail acowan@clarematrix.org

Reentry Against the Odds
Aug 12 & 19
Sponsored by Friends Outside in Los Angeles County (Friends Outside)

This webinar is part of a larger research project Friends Outside is conducting with individuals with sex offenses, workforce development practitioners, social services providers, housing advocates, law enforcement and employers about the unique challenges and opportunities of this population. As part of this study, we would like to gauge your knowledge and understanding of this population, pre- and post-summit.

Register

HOUSING RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Every Tuesday at 2:00 PM on Zoom
Basics of Fair Housing and protections against discrimination.

Register

TALLER DE DERECHOS DE VIVIENDA
Cada jueves a las 2:00 PM en Zoom
Conceptos básicos de la vivienda justa y las protecciones contra la discriminación.

Registrar

Virtual Expungement Clinic
August 22, 2020
A Discussion with Scott Budnick
Rescheduled for August 12th, 2020
11:00 am
Click here to Register

NEWS

Featured News Story

This month’s feature story is a riveting podcast from inside San Quentin, as the virus rages.

Outbreak at San Quentin
Snap Judgement, July 23, 2020

As the Coronavirus outbreak overwhelms San Quentin State Prison, one incarcerated person, Chanthon Bun, is awaiting his release on parole. Bun tries to protect himself from the virus, while incarcerated first responders and cleaning crews attempt to treat those who are collapsing and stop the spread of COVID-19. In this episode, we hear first-hand accounts from incarcerated people inside San Quentin trying to survive the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Click here to listen to the podcast

More News Stories

t's been a huge month! Here's just a smattering of the top stories!

Fears grow that releasing thousands of California prisoners will spread COVID-19 into communities
LA Times, By Anita Chabria, Richard Winton, Kim Christensen, July 31, 2020
Missteps by corrections officials handling releases from state prisons are fueling fears in some California counties that thousands of inmates eligible for early release will spread the coronavirus in their communities.
Read More

Op-Ed: It will take a lot more than diversity training to end racial bias in hiring
LA Times, By Judd B. Kessler And Corinne Low July 24, 2020
New research shows that even companies setting pro-diversity goals exhibit discriminatory bias in hiring.
Read more
Coronavirus In Jails And Prisons
The Appeal, by Kelly Davis, Jul 30, 2020
California watchdog agency that repeatedly warned of "dire consequences" of prison overcrowding urges lawmakers to implement reforms; human rights org tweets "keep-you-up-at-night horrifying" stories from Georgia jail; and we map out four days of coronavirus outbreaks.

About 20% of N.J. Prisoners Could Be Freed to Avoid Virus
NYTimes, By Tracey Tully, July 30, 2020
Believed to be the first Covid-19 bill of its kind, the legislation could free more than 3,000 New Jersey prisoners who are within a year of release.

County Supervisors Approve Reimagine L.A. Initiative – Second of Three Approvals
Streetsblog LA, By Joe Linton, July 28, 2020
Today, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors took another step toward putting the Reimagine L.A. referendum on the November ballot. If passed by voters, Reimagine L.A. would shift ten percent of unrestricted county funds towards services and programs for under-resourced communities. Placing the measure on the ballot requires one additional county approval, expected to take place at the board’s meeting on Tuesday August 4. Final November ballot submissions are due Friday August 7.

California’s Huge Overdose Increase Didn’t Have to Happen
Filter, By Travis Lupick, July 28, 2020

LA County Supervisors OK Reforms to Fight Racism, Gender Equality – Fund Alternatives to Jail
The Davis Vanguard, July 23, 2020
“It is time to prioritize the Office of Diversion and Reentry, as well as other promising ‘care first, jail last’ programs with a stable, dedicated budget commitment. Making such a rock-solid commitment, with the support of voters across Los Angeles County, will guarantee that these efforts will have the chance to succeed,” reads the motion drafted by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis.

Watch Common, Scott Budnick and Jarrett Harper on prison reform
Washington Post, July 16, 2020
Watch the video

County officials move to close Men’s Central Jail in downtown L.A., invest in health care-based responses
KTLA5, July 7, 2020
by: Kristina Bravo, Sara Welch
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to initiate a plan to close the Men’s Central Jail in downtown L.A. within the year, officials said.

Reports

Visualizing the racial disparities in mass incarceration
Prison Policy Initiative, by Wendy Sawyer, July 27, 2020
Racial inequality is evident in every stage of the criminal justice system - here are the key statistics

Virus-Driven Push to Release Juvenile Detainees Leaves Black Youth Behind
NYTimes, By Erica L. Green, July 30, 2020
After an initial decrease in the youth detention population since the pandemic began, the rate of
See these staggering charts!

The report, released this month by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, illustrates one more disparity the coronavirus has exacerbated for Black children, who are disproportionately funneled into the juvenile justice system.

*Read the Article*

*Read the Report*