LARRP February 2021 Newsletter

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LARRP MEETINGS and EVENTS - February 2021

LARRP January General Meeting:

February 18, 2021, 10:00 am

With George Gascón

REGISTER - General Meeting February

Integrated Health Committee

February 1, 2021

1:00 PM

Agenda:
- LEADERS academy co-hort
- Agency Updates re: Covid 19
- Resource Sharing
- IH strategic planning/goals
- Policy updates and/or support

Meetings in March:

Employment Committee

March 17, 2021

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Register Employment

Housing Committee:

March 18, 2021

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Register Housing
**Education Committee:**

Feb 18, 2021  
4:00PM- 5:30 PM

REGISTER Integrated Health

**Partner Events**

**A Community Conversation: Steps Towards Decarceration**

February 1, 2021  
5:30-7:00pm  
Presented by the DAAC

REGISTER

**Addiction treatment in L.A. jails**

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Webinar: (including the status of “Medically Assisted Treatment” Presented by the Harm Reduction Network

ZOOM Link

**Cannabis, Equity, & Racial Justice: Virtual Convenings**

The Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) would like to invite you to a virtual convening series on cannabis policy, equity and racial justice. As you will see in the registration form, there are sessions dedicated to several key issue areas in cannabis policy, including a session on the Prop 64 grant programs, trauma-informed practice and economic equity. Please consider joining for one or more of the sessions.

**REGISTER and more info**

- Session #6: The Cannabis Industry, Equity and Public Health: **February 2nd, 10:00 to 11 am**
- Session #7: Building People Power and Coalitions to Advance Equity and Racial Justice: **February 4th, 10:00 to 11:30 am**
- Session #8: Advancing Healing-Centered and Trauma-informed Approaches: **February 9th, 10:00 to 11:30 am**

**LA County Workforce Development Board Local Planning**

Your voice will help us modernize the workforce
New Leaf Launch Event!
Feb. 3, 2021
12:00pm-1:30pm
We'll be discussing the New Leaf toolkit and the MORE Act with an incredible panel of experts and advocates. A New Leaf is a guide created by Root & Rebound and Viola for people with marijuana-related convictions as well as other drug convictions in all stages of reentry. Designed to inform you of your rights and privileges under the law, A New Leaf offers information, action steps, checklists, helpful hints, referrals, and resources.

RSVP

The Intersection of Sex Work & Substance Use Disorders
February 10
12 - 1:30pm
Soma Snakeoil of the Sidewalk Project Joins us for a discussion on the spectrum of sex work, intersectionality with SUDs, and how to support the community.

REGISTER

February Spotlight - Policy Updates

Downsizing the LA Jail: Time to Close Men’s Central Jail

Building off the success of the Jail Reductions report, the BOS passed a motion in July to Develop a Plan to Close Men’s Central Jail (MCJ), convening a new MCJ Closure Workgroup that has been meeting furiously since August. Charged with developing a plan to close LA’s largest, oldest and most decrepit jail facility within one year, the MCJ Closure Workgroup created subcommittees and got to work. With a goal of reducing the jail population below 8,500 in order to accommodate closing MCJ, and a jail population rising daily with reduced COVID safety precautions, along with increasing numbers of sentenced...
As the LA County Board of Supervisors (BOS) began advancing their “care first, jail last” strategy in 2020 numerous public-private bodies (Commissions, Committees, Workgroups) were established to bring together justice stakeholders from government agencies, service providers and advocates to research, deliberate and make recommendations on how to enact a more JUST vision of LA’s Justice System. All of the new bodies build on the groundbreaking work and recommendations of the ATI (Alternatives to Incarceration) Workgroup from 2019.

In June 2020, due to COVID-19 measures, LA hit a 30 year low in the jail population with just under 12,000 individuals held in LA County jail, down from the long standing average daily population of 17,000. The Board of Supervisors convened a collaborative body to determine what measures had been taken to drop the jail population so significantly and make recommendations on what the County could do to maintain a reduced jail population. Through a rapid and intense series of summer meetings, which LARRP co-founders Troy Vaughn and Lynne Lyman actively participated in, the Committee produced this report with dozens of recommendations, Maintaining a Reduced Jail Population Post COVID-19, August 9, 2020. The BOS moved the findings and recommendations of this report to a new collaborative body, the Jail Population Review Council, hosted by the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), where the charge is to prioritize and develop pathways to implementation for the many recommendations.

LARRP continues to dedicate tremendous resources to this herculean effort. Troy and Lynne served as Chair and Staff to the Services and Programs (S&P) Subcommittee where they worked with issue area experts in county agencies and community organizations to identify pathways to community based placements for the 4 most vulnerable populations in the jail, those with severe mental illness, those with substance use disorder, those experiencing homelessness, and the medically fragile. The S&P SubComm identified numerous existing County-to-Community placement pathways that could be immediately scaled up to accommodate thousands more community-based placements with expanded fiscal investments. A Facilities Subcommittee is working on developing a plan for redistributing individuals who cannot be safely released into community placements to the remaining 6 LA jail facilities, and the Data and Racial Equity Subcommittees are gathering and analyzing critical data and community feedback. This work is ongoing and will require a tremendous amount of vision, courage, and tenacity to implement. The MCJ Closure Workgroup will be meeting through the end of March and developing a final report and recommendations, you can read Report 1 and Report 2 here. LARRP’s February General Meeting will feature a live update on the MCJ Closure work from lead consultant Karen Tamis.

This month the Reimagine LA Measure J Advisory Committee finalized all 17 members and is moving forward with the development of standing Subcommittees to help shape their recommendations. The subcommittees will be finalized by early February 2021 and will provide an opportunity for community members to engage in the discussions and prioritization of how to move the ATI recommendations forward for the first year of funding in fiscal year 2021-22.

Visit the Measure J Website for updates on the progress of the Advisory Committee about subcommittee meetings.

Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code

A quick and exciting update on policy priorities for the 2021 legislative year. As many of you may know, a committee was formed to do a statewide Penal Code Review starting in January, 2020.

In the past year, the committee issued 10 nonadministrative memos on over 50 hours of public Committee hearings including testimony from 57 expert witnesses, public comment, and staff research. The full report will be coming soon but in the meantime, we want to share the 10 major recommendations the Committee has made (shared in a letter by Chair Michael Romano to the Governor and Legislature on Dec. 10). These items will be in focus in 2021, and can serve as a priority list for us to pay attention to.

1. Reduce punishment, fines, and fees for driving without a license and driving on a license suspended for failure to pay a fine or appear in court.
In January, The LA County Probation Department, which is the lead agency for AB109, released a progress report on Public Safety Realignment Implementation in LA County.

**Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)**

Under the Leadership of Retired Judge Songhai Armstead, Los Angeles County’s Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Project is well underway. After decades of a community safety strategy organized around police and punishment, we’ve reached a remarkable moment of consensus in Los Angeles County that a “care first, jails last” is needed. Many workgroups have been created to oversee the implementation that will make ATI a reality in Los Angeles County. Coupled with the passage of Measure J, we will now have both a fiscal strategy and a road map, with an action-oriented framework and implementation plan, to scale alternatives to incarceration and diversion so care and services are provided first, and jail is a last resort. For more detailed information on the process please see the attached document with supporting links.

**LARRP Updates**

**Sunsetting Records**

LARRP is teaming up with Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ), the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Prisoners with Children, and Homeboy industries to work on a bill that will ensure proper and easy record expungement for many individuals involved with the carceral system.

AB 1076, a bill that was passed in October 2019, created a pathway for sunsetting one’s records through expungement. This bill requires individuals to seek out this benefit, and work through a complicated bureaucratic system. We are working on a bill that would not only make that process automatic, but also retroactive, ensuring that no one’s criminal conviction is a lifelong label. In the coming weeks, we are searching for sponsors in the California state legislature who will be able to help us champion this bill and push into a brighter future for all Californians.

**Member Newswire**

Introducing the Phoenix, a new LARRP Member
The Phoenix is a national non-profit whose mission is to build a sober active community that fuels resilience and harnesses the transformational power of connection. Our peer-based recovery model encompasses a weekly calendar of free in-person and virtual fitness and social events to anyone with 48+ hours of sobriety.

Having recently launched in Los Angeles, the Phoenix is excited to build community through partnership, allyship, and program participation. We are currently seeking partners in the government, non-profit, SUD treatment/recovery, gym, and community organization sectors.

To learn more about us visit their [website](#) and to inquire about programs or partnerships locally contact Simone Berry, Senior Programs Manager.

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**LARRP Program Announcements**

**D.O.O.R.S Community Reentry Center Orientations**

In partnership with the County of Los Angeles Probation and the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership is conducting orientations for the D.O.O.R.S Community Reentry Center. These orientations are an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the many services offered at the facility. This is a one-stop-shop for all the services anyone may need such as housing, employment, education, and much more! Pre-registration is not required. If you have any questions please contact Evelyn Garcia at evelyn@lareentry.org.

**ReLINC- Restoring Lives, Investing, and Networking in Communities**

In collaboration with 211 Los Angeles County, Christ Centered Ministries, and Paving the Way Foundation we are looking for additional community service providers to join our ReLINC network to effectively service our reentry population. All the efforts will be tracked by the innovative CarlinQ system that will track referrals, collaborations, and success rates. If you would like to join this network of community service providers contact Evelyn Garcia at evelyn@lareentry.org.

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**Information and Opportunities**

Top left: The Phoenix logo and a photo of a person in a Phoenix t-shirt. Top right: A video play button with the text “VIDEO”.

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**Mental Health First Aid**

Offered by The Phoenix, Mental Health First Aid is an education program that teaches people how to identify, understand, and respond to mental health and substance use issues.

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**COLLECTIVE REMAKE**

A social movement to remake our commonwealth.
Mental Health First Aid Training
Olive Support Services is happy to announce our free upcoming training in Mental Health First Aid. A certificate is issued upon successful completion of this virtual training.

Download the Flyer for more info

AV Transitional Housing Program for adult males with qualified housing vouchers
Olive Support Services is now accepting applications for February move-in. Please send referrals our way. Please contact us with any questions at 818-679-9166.

Download the flyer for more info

Co-operative Education and Development (CEAD) ONLINE Workshops
February - April 2021

Collective REMAKE will offer two series of ONLINE workshops on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. Workshops are open to individuals directly impacted by incarceration. Participants are supported with a small stipend.

Applications Now Available! (Click Here)

Uncuffed, wants to speak with people who were recently incarcerated in CDCR prisons. Compensation will be $50 per participant. For an application or more information, please email uncuffed@kalw.org

Project Place
Project Place is a free monthly listing of rental properties for low-income, senior, and veteran residents throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Information on COVID-19 renter protections, rental assistance, and transitional housing is also included.

Download Project Place

Centralized Training Academy
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles and LAHSA will be offering a Co-operative Education and Development (CEAD) ONLINE Workshops on February 1, 2021.

For more information, visit www.HomelessHealthCare.org
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles and LAHSA will be launching additional cohorts of our Care Coordination and System Navigation Training, Applied Care Coordination & System Navigation, and Supervisory trainings, along with topical modules for Boundaries and Ethics, Harm Reduction, Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Informed Care, and Working with Challenging Behaviors. These trainings serve to increase the capacity of homeless service providers operating within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) through the provision of foundational training and professional development for direct service staff as they enter and continue to work within the homeless services sector.

Registration for all trainings went LIVE at 8:00 AM PST on Tuesday, January 26th on the LAHSA Centralized Training Academy website: HERE

Each course will be listed under either the "Care Coordination and Systems Navigation" or "Essential Skills" tabs on the left-hand menu.

### Defy Ventures Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Program

Defy Bootcamp Info Sheet

A 14-week program for people with criminal histories who want to explore entrepreneurship and develop their small business idea into formal business concept and pitch. The program is designed for adults (18 and over) who are stable in their reentry (employed and housed), have been out of custody for at least 6 months and have time to invest in the program. There is no cost for this program.

**Recruitment and Admissions Timeline:**

- February 1 - Online Application Opens
- February 15 - Applications Due
- March 1 - Interviews
- March 8 - Bootcamp Begins

### NIC announces new e-courses around correctional healthcare

The National Institute of Corrections is excited to announce three new e-courses around correctional healthcare and infection control, prevention and response - now available in its Learning Center! Information about each course and the respective learning objectives are outlined below:

- Role of the Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator
- Principles of Infection Control and Prevention
- Corrections Outbreak Response

### Register in the learning center today

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### LARRP Partner - Commissary Club is new Social Network for formerly Incarcerated People

Y Combinator-backed employment platform 70 Million Jobs is launching a new social network geared toward helping formerly incarcerated individuals connect with each other. While 70 Million Jobs focuses on helping people with criminal records find jobs, Commissary Club wants to serve as a place for folks to find community.

**Commissary Club link**

**More Info**

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### REDUCIENDO LA REINCIDENCIA!

YEP tiene como objetivo reducir la reincidencia entre los jóvenes Latinos que están en riesgo o que han sido previamente encarcelados.
February 9, 6-7 pm - 2nd Virtual Info Session led by Defy Staff
March 1 - Classes Begin

MORE INFO

Youth Empowerment Project

LARRP Partner, Tarzana Treatment Center, has a new program. It will provide diversion services to SFV youth referred through diversion programs at LAUSD schools, LAC Probation Department, Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD), and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC). They are also looking to recruit participants through referrals, from the community, and word of mouth!

Diversion services will include onsite screening, intake and assessment, intensive case management, cognitive behavioral group therapy, pro-social enrichment activities, workshops, and more!

If you think you may have youth who would benefit from this program or would like to learn more about what we are offering, please contact Celinia Lopez at 818-996-1051 ext. 1416 and by email at clopez@tarzanatc.org!

Funding Opportunities

Advance notice of all funding opportunities is generally sent to LARRP Members. Then if they are still available, we will include them in our newsletter. As a member, you can also find an updated list of all Grant Opportunities on our Members Only webpage

Become a Member today!

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives, Fiscal Year 2021

NIJ is requesting proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. NIJ is interested in supporting multi-site, randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that:

- Are specifically designed to address violent, habitual recidivism.
- Are initiated during an individual’s incarceration and continue in the community.
- Address multiple criminogenic needs that can be assessed incrementally.

2021 COVID-19 Recovery Re-Housing Services

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is pleased to announce the release of the 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Re-Housing Services Request for Information. Under this RFI, LAHSA is looking to identify qualified homeless service providers that are interested in delivering Recovery Re-Housing services, a new and comprehensive model of re-housing services, specifically designed to address the needs of homeless individuals in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Permanent Housing service and subsidy model targeted for COVID-19 high-risk populations including residents at Project Roomkey sites. LAHSA is encouraging all qualified nonprofit providers including current and new providers to respond to this RFI.

*The RFI is now available on their website.*

**Timeline:**
- Release: January 22, 2021
- Written Questions Deadline: January 29, 2021 at 2 p.m.
- Submission Deadline: February 12, 2021 at 2 p.m.

If you have any questions about this RFI, email fundingopportunities@lahsa.org.

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**NEWS**

**Featured News Story:**

This month we feature several articles about the battle by the Assn. of Deputy District Attorneys to stop Gascón from fulfilling his promise of reform. The outcome of battle will have profound implications for the future of criminal justice reform in LA and the rest of the country - see more articles below.

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**Editorial: L.A. County voters elected George Gascón to change the criminal justice system. Let him do it**

By the LA Times Editorial Board, Jan. 28, 2021

„,after voters opted for Gascón’s vision of criminal justice reform, and after he issued a set of directives on his first day in office to put his reform policies into effect, the deputies’ labor union went to court to block him. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday. Although the union — the Los Angeles Assn. of Deputy District Attorneys — is not challenging the election itself, it’s trying to forestall its practical effect..."

**Read More**

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**More News Stories**

**Editorial: L.A. County voters elected George Gascón to change the criminal justice system. Let him do it**

LA Times Op-Ed By Erwin Chemerinsky And Miriam
...Reasonable people may differ about the best approach for a D.A.'s office to take. But that is not for the courts to resolve, nor is it the prerogative of individual line prosecutors to decide. The court should reject this legal challenge and make clear that the elected district attorney alone has the power to run that office.

Read More

As LA Moves Toward Closing Men's Central Jail, County Supes Vote To Move Toward Building A Restorative Justice Village

WitnessLA, January 26, 2021, by Taylor Walker

Read More

They wanted to bring a sneaker shop to South L.A. Then their dream got bigger

An LAtimes article about LARRP Member Akil West

Read More

UCLA wins $3.65-million grant to build ‘Age of Mass Incarceration’ archive with LAPD records

LA Times By Kevin Rector, Jan. 28, 2021

With a $3.65-million grant and a trove of Los Angeles Police Department records dating back decades, scholars at UCLA have launched a new archival project aimed at independently preserving and dissecting the history of mass incarceration in L.A.

Read More

Black Lawmakers Dig Into History of Inequality in Criminal Justice System

Sacramento Observer, January 21, 2021 by CBM Newswire

Two Black lawmakers, Sen. Steve Bradford (D-Gardena) and Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), made history last month when they were both appointed Public Safety Committee chairpersons in their respective chambers of the California legislature.

...Overall, Bradford and Jones-Sawyer told members of the press, mainly from southern California, that they will concentrate on legislation that emphasizes rehabilitation, economics and education over incarceration, the closure of private prisons, and establishing a police culture that is transparent....

Read More

Prosecutors From All Over U.S. Support District Attorney Gascón Against Attempt To Shut Down LA
As Biden Dumps For Profit Prisons With New Exec Order, 100 Criminal Justice Leaders — Including LA DA George Gascón & A List Of Other Prosecutors — Urge POTUS To End Death Penalty

WitnessLA, January 27, 2021, by Celeste Fremon

Illinois Will End Cash Bail — And Limit Use Of High-Tech Incarceration

Reformers typically propose predictive algorithms and electronic monitoring as alternatives to money bail. Illinois is different.

The Intercept, Isaac Scher, January 17 2021

Reports

Health Departments Taking Action on Incarceration: A Framework for Advancing Health Instead of Punishment During COVID-19

Human Impact Partners, January 2021

This resource includes 8 recommendations and specific actions health departments can take to address the harms of incarceration.

See the report

Top Trends in State Criminal Justice Reform, 2020

The Sentencing Project, Jan. 15, 2021, by Nicole D. Porter

50 Years Of Deputy Gangs In The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

Identifying Root Causes and Effects to Advocate for Meaningful Reform

A Report by the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, LMU Loyola Law School January 2021

Read the Report
In recent years most states have enacted reforms designed to reduce the scale of incarceration and the impact of the collateral consequences of a felony conviction. This briefing paper describes key reforms that were prioritized in 2020.

Download the PDF

The Sentencing Project, Jan. 22, 2021, by Nazgol Ghandnoosh

Following a nearly 700% increase between 1972 and 2009, the U.S. prison population declined 11% in the subsequent 10 years. At this rate of decline it will take 57 years — until 2078 — to cut the prison population in half.

Download the PDF