Message from Troy Vaughn * LARRP Committee Meetings * April Spotlight - Joe Mazlich * Grounding us In Our Space * DA Corner * Policy Update * LARRP Community Safety Committee Update * Jobs, Opportunities and Information * Community Events * News * Reports

Make sure you click "view entire message" when you come to the bottom of the email so you can see all the September events and some of the important new reports and news stories that have come out in the last month

Message from the Executive Director

Tribute to Joe

Joe, you are really missed my friend. Your calm yet commanding tone is clearly absent from our leadership meetings. I could say that much has changed since you died, yet also much has stayed the same. But only someone who didn’t know you could suggest such a thing. The truth is, for all of us who loved you here at LARRP, and worked side by side with you, we are profoundly changed by your loss. It’s as though we were swimming along, oblivious to our current and buoyancy, then abruptly and unceremoniously tossed from the sea. Forced to breath differently, to forever endure the crushing gravity of your absence. You are missed, but never forgotten.

Please see below for a brief remembering of Joe’s life and work
APRIL MEETINGS

**Integrated Health Committee**

April 4, 2022
2:00 PM

**APRIL 2022 General Meeting**

April 21, 2022
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Agenda:**
- Isabel Gonzalez - LARRP Voices From Impacted People
- Troy Vaughn | Executive Director of LARRP - Executive Director Report
- Capri Maddox | Executive Director, Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department - Updates from the Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department
- Committee Updates: Measure J Committee Updates
- Paying Tribute to Joseph Maizlish

**MAY MEETINGS**

*Employment Committee*

May 18, 2022
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**Housing Committee**

Special Meeting, Making the Connection!

May 19, 2022
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

**LARRP Meeting Archives**

April Spotlight Remembering Joe Maizlich

As anyone closely following LA justice work knows, Joe...
I last spoke to Joe on a leisurely Saturday afternoon in early December, it was a lovely rambling conversation covering some of the pressing policy issues in the justice sector, as well as recounting significant early moments in each of our political awareness and justice work. That afternoon Joe shared with me about the time he met Martin Luther King Jr. He had been avidly following the Civil Rights Movement as a young man in the 60s when MLK Jr. came to speak at Joe’s Temple. After an inspiring speech, Joe approached Dr. King and asked if there was a role for kids like him to help with Southern organizing work. “I am sure there is lots for you to do right here where you are,” Dr. King replied. He’s been an activist ever since, served 2 years in federal prison from 1968-1971, for being a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War. Joe often spoke directly from his experience as a formerly incarcerated person.

Joe Maizlish was a marriage and family therapist by profession, and he has been a fixture in Los Angeles criminal justice reform work for over a decade. I met Joe in the speaker line up for a County Board of Supervisors meeting back in 2011-12, and saw him frequently in that large theatre style Board Room, where we would sneak in our water and snacks to make it through a 5 hour session for a chance to give our 2 minutes of public comment on the latest justice related agenda item. Joe was ever present, always patient, kind, well informed, and deeply contemplative. By 2014 we had recruited Joe to join the LARRP Steering Committee, where he served as member of the core team for many years.

By 2014 we had recruited Joe to join the LARRP Steering Committee, where he served as member of the core team for many years. Joe put out a Weekly “Selected County items reports, resources, comment" email, which lifted up all the justice related items in the County, spanning BOS meetings, Cluster meetings, Jail Population Review Council, PSRT, ATI, CFCI, and the rest of the alphabet soup of County related workgroups and departments. All of us lived for that weekly round-up. With incredible attention to detail, Joe laid out each meeting or new report with his own insightful commentary on the key points. The last Weekly email round-up went out as truncated version in November, it’s been hard to keep up.

Since Joe always had a few words to say, I wanted to include words from Joe himself as we reflect on his life and his legacy.

A few weeks before Joe passed away from cancer, his wife Sarah posted on the Caring Bridge website:

“This morning for a time Joe became quite agitated, repeatedly attempting to leave the bed. "I have to fight," he said as he forcefully pushed away restraining hands. "I've got to fight." Fight whom? He couldn't say."

And in an email to LARRP co-founder Peggy Edwards in early December, Joe shared:

“I miss helping others keep track and advocate. What little writing I’m doing is a combination of stories and seeking understanding of what stands in the way of advancement and how to proceed on the many very much linked issues of spirit and public policy.”

Both of these commentaries leave me much to contemplate. Joe often ended his public comments asking the officials to consider a different perspective, to question the underlying assumptions they walked in the room with, and often offered to question his own. He pushed us all to think, to read, to collaborate better. The movement will remember Joe; his work is helping dismantle the beast of mass incarceration. Joe and I have co-chaired the LARRP Policy Committee together for many years, and I will miss my friend and colleague.
Every month at the LARRP General Meeting we begin by asking one of the LARRP L.E.A.D.E.R.S. to ground us in our space. These testimonies are so moving and inspiring, that we have decided to share them as a new LARRP monthly feature.

This month we are honored to feature Jane Bond.

Jane Bond in her own words

I am on the Integrated Health Committee. I have been diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder (D.I.D). To be on the Integrated Health Committee was a way to gain insight, knowledge and the networking tools I need to effectively bring awareness about D.I.D. and how one’s determinants of health increase the severity of trauma and propose that D.I.D. it is not a rare diagnosis. Severe and irreversible trauma is happening 24/7 to children all over the world. When a child six and under is routinely subjected to environments that are sexually, physically and / or emotional abusive; where the caregiver(s) and / or family unit is dysfunctional, unstable, unpredictable, violent, or absent they will fragment to survive. Prisons, jails, mental hospitals, rehabs and foster care are full of children who experienced these types of traumas.

The goal is to lobby for legislation that will allow therapy to be billable if prescribed for someone who meets the initial criteria for an evaluation for therapeutic services and a possible D.I.D. diagnosis as determined by a Compulsory Assessment for Therapeutic Services (CATS) score; that I am currently attempting to develop. There are no medications that specifically treat dissociative disorders, the primary treatment for D.I.D. is psychotherapy (talk therapy, counseling or psychosocial therapy) having a knowledgeable therapist with experience in guiding you to co-exist with you alter(s) is ideal. However, there is little information or training given to therapists on D.I.D. As it stands now – if therapy cannot be billed for then what is the point for the mental health field to invest in learning about D.I.D.? Unfortunately, millions will continue to disassociate to survive, and that is unacceptable.

I am getting so much out of my LEADERS experience. Where do I begin! My favorite part of my leader’s experience is learning about policy; particularly how city planning is set up to favor certain classes of people because of policies set in place long ago. I know knowledge equals power and confidence and I am gaining so much knowledge being a LEADER; feeling the confidence to effect change I think is half the battle in speaking up for what is right and what wrong. The other half is having support; I definitely can say I am getting the support I need from LARRP and the LEADERS experience.

I applied to become am leader because although I am helping those affected by the trauma they had experienced in my position as a Reentry & Employment Coordinator at a Rehabilitation for Substance Use Disorder, I felt I could do more. Applying to become a LEADER allowed me to have a higher sense of accomplishment and support. I recall when I received the email, I was accepted I was elated and still am. I know that bouncing back from a felony record is a difficult path but as long there are people who support you it can make the difference. I want to make a difference; I want to help affect the change needed to help remove the roadblocks that sometimes see unsurmountable for the justice impacted as well as system impacted.

DA's Corner

The DA’s Corner is a new feature in our monthly newsletter where we will some of the amazing new work happening in the DA’s office. These policies and programs have direct benefits to our population and yet few know about what they are actually doing.

In March, the LARRP Steering Committee and Staff had the pleasure of sitting with Diana Teran, the Special Advisor to LA District Attorney George Gascon, to learn about some of the groundbreaking efforts to enact true justice out of that office.

Ms. Teran has an extensive background in law enforcement oversight and accountability. She was with the Department of Justice’s Office of the Inspector General, with the LA Office of Independent Review (which became the OIG in 2014), and she worked under LA Sheriffs McDonnell and Scott. DA Gascon brought Teran in to build out a program around police officer accountability, and enhance systems for reviewing post conviction cases for wrongful conviction complaints. The key programs include:

- A Conviction Integrity Unit, expanded from 3 to 8 attorneys and supervisors, which reviews post conviction cases for wrongful conviction complaints, and re-reviewing some rejected claims.
LARRP Policy Update

Hello LARRP Network! We are incredibly excited to announce that a number of big steps have been taken to advance our policy objectives this year.

First and foremost, Isaac Bryan’s AB 1816, the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program has passed the Assembly Housing Committee with a 6 to 2 vote, moving us closer to our goal of securing $200 million to create permanent supportive housing for the reentry community, with an emphasis on the housing first model. We understand that housing and work experiences can range from difficult to traumatic for many justice-involved Californians, so we stand proudly with this bill which will help to alleviate many of those concerns and provide safe, long-term housing and job opportunities for the almost 8 million Californians who have a conviction record.

Another major policy we were pursuing, you may remember, was referred to as a reintroduction of SB 708, a bill which sought to increase gate funding and ensure that incarcerated individuals have access to CalFresh and Social Security services. This push became a specific budget ask under the direction of Senator Nancy Skinner of Oakland. Another bill to tackle the same issues was introduced by close LARRP ally Senator Sydney Kamleger, and in the proceeding weeks, we have decided to pool our resources and fight together for Sydney Kamleger’s bill. SB 1304 seeks to increase gate funding to almost $2600 dollars, with language allowing for continuous increases in step with inflation to ensure that those returning home have the same buying power without needing to constantly introduce new legislation.

We are especially excited about this push because Sydney Kamleger is also behind ACA3, the push to eliminate slavery and indentured servitude from the state constitution, ensuring that incarcerated individuals are guaranteed by right a fair day’s pay for their labor.

We will be working on all of those bills and priorities mentioned above, and more priorities as we push on to more of what 2022 has in store. If you are interested in being added to any of the workgroups happening with the legislation mentioned above, please email LARRP’s Policy and Legal Coordinator, Charles Vignola, at charles@lareentry.org.

Also of interest...

CalNonprofits is working on two budget requests and three state bills that are crucial for nonprofits right now and want to share an update on them as well as other pending state and federal legislation.

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LARRP Community Safety Committee Update

Until All Of Us Are Safe, None Of Us Are Safe

It Takes A Village
Gun Violence and Gang Violence Conference
Safe Healing in Action

Last fall, LARRP announced the launch of its first Community Safety Committee. This committee is designed to understand both the upstream drivers and downstream consequence of violence in all of its forms. Its formation stemmed from a growing recognition that if we do not address the origins of criminality and violence, we run the risk of losing gains in criminal justice reform in favor of a return to “tough on crime” policies. In fact, true criminal justice reform begins before a crime has ever been committed. And listening to those closest to violence is the first step of understanding how to prevent community violence.

It is in that spirit that on Wednesday the 23rd, I gathered in a church hall on the “eastside” of south L.A., with former and current gang members. Convened by Pastor Anthony “Shep” Crawford of The Experience Christian Ministries, the group meets regularly under the banner of “United We Stand Up.” This group is working to remember the 30-year anniversary of the 92 Civil Unrest, and to process their life histories and, more importantly, how to harness their hard-earned wisdom to heal themselves and their community.

Continued on the LARRP BLOG

Gun Violence and Gang Violence Conference
April 8th and 9th

LARRP is partnering with CA. State Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Gang Interventionists, Gun Violence experts, Victim support and advocacy groups, and others for a two-day symposium.

Please RSVP eric.washington@asm.ca.gov

Jobs, Opportunities, and Information

JOBS!

More Jobs! Updated Constantly on our Website!

Amity Foundation

Open jobs - Hiring immediately!!
- 2 job developers
- 2 case managers and
- 2 occupational therapists for our employment services department.

Apply Here

Rising Entrepreneurs Shark Tank, a collaboration between Ronnie’s House and Cal State Long Beach’s Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Sign Up

More New Opportunities and Information

Community Events
Upcoming Events Added Everyday!

Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI): La County Invests In Community Driven Public Safety

Wednesday, April 6th
3:30 to 4:30 pm

Mona Park, 2291 E 121st St, Compton, CA 90222

The Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) will host a celebration of community partners where TPI began in South LA, the importance of meaningful partnerships with community leaders, and investing in Peers approaches to promote peace and reduce retaliatory violence. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

LESSONZ LEARNED
FREE ReEntry Seminar

MAY 7, 2022. 12 - 3 pm

This ReEntry Seminar is Reserved for all MEN & WOMEN released from incarceration & Currently on L.A. COUNTY, CITY, STATE or FEDERAL Parole or Probation. RSVP NOW @ reentry030.network@gmail.com or (213) 866-8156 ASAP. Limited seats available due to Covid Protocols.

Location: Gwendolyn Cannon Training Village 5857 S. Central Ave Ste. 180 Los Angeles, Ca. 90011

Free Monthly Seminars. MORE INFO

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Monday May 16th

The March will begin at 5pm PT and the Mass Assembly at 6pm

You are invited to join poor and low-income, directly impacted people, faith leaders, and moral advocates from California, Arizona, Oregon, Utah and Washington for the The Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls

MORE INFO AND RSVP
Santa Monica Community Job & Resource Fair
May 19, 2022,
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404

In the NEWS

Featured News Item

This month’s featured story is a three part series from the LA Times about Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva

Column: Villanueva’s beef with firefighters, the L.A. Times. Gascón, L.A. County’s sheriff leans on his Latino identity. Does he exemplify our worst traits?

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Column: L.A. County’s sheriff has a strange obsession with how much

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Newsletter: Essential California:
Gustavo talks with Sheriff Villanueva; desmadre happens

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More news....

After years of talk, little progress on closing L.A. County’s aging jail

LA Times, By Alene Tchekmedyian, March 30, 2022

Supervisor Holly Mitchell said the county is not ready to close the jail, but she has been pushing to use state grants set aside to build jails to instead fund diversion programs. “We don’t want to build jails, but we want to use it to serve the same population,” she said. She added: “The point is how quickly can we and the community get ready to build out the services we need on the care end of our ‘Care First, Jails Last’ initiative.”

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Chesa Boudin’s radical life made him a lightning rod for the progressive prosecutor movement

LA Times By Miriam Pawel, March 30, 2022

...San Francisco voters’ verdict on Boudin will reverberate far beyond the city’s 47 square miles, including in Los Angeles, where Dist. Atty. George Gascon faces a potential recall. Because if you can’t make radical change in San Francisco, what future does the progressive prosecutor movement have?...

READ THE WHOLE PROFILE
LA County’s Civilian Oversight Commission Launches Full-Scale Investigation Into LA County’s Deputy Gang Problem

WitnessLA, March 24, 2022 by Celeste Fremon

On Thursday, March 24, Sean Kennedy, the chair of Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission or COC, announced that the commission will launch a full-scale investigation into the deputy gangs that have plagued the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and many of the communities it polices, for around 50 years. The COC-launched investigation will include a team of high-profile lawyers who will conduct the probe on a pro bono basis.

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George Gascón wouldn’t compromise, until he did. Now, no one is happy

By LA Times Today Staff, El Segundo, Mar. 11, 2022

In an interview for “LA Times Today,” District Attorney Gascón spoke with host Lisa McRee about his reforms, the recall effort against him, and his plans for the county.

WATCH THE INTERVIEW

Editorial: Blame it on Prop 47: The latest chapter in an endless work of fiction about crime

By the LA Times Editorial Board
March 8, 2022

Three bills to roll back or outright repeal Proposition 47 come before a key Assembly committee Tuesday. We’ve been here before, and it’s getting old.

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More and More Prisons Are Banning Mail

Vera Institute of Justice, Nazish Dholakia - Senior Writer, March 1, 2022

For people who are incarcerated, a letter or photograph from home goes a long way. But more jails and prisons are introducing cruel policies that mean people in those facilities never get them.

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REPORTS

Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2022
Prison Policy Initiative, By Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner, March 14, 2022

Liberation is Essential: Leveraging Governmental Public Health Tools
Can it really be true that most people in jail are legally innocent? How much of mass incarceration is a result of the war on drugs, or the profit motives of private prisons? How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed decisions about how people are punished when they break the law? These essential questions are harder to answer than you might expect. The various government agencies involved in the criminal legal system collect a lot of data, but very little is designed to help policymakers or the public understand what’s going on. As public support for criminal justice reform continues to build — and as the pandemic raises the stakes higher — it’s more important than ever that we get the facts straight and understand the big picture.

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There is staggering evidence and growing consensus that policing and carceral* systems actively harm individual, family, and community health in the United States and beyond. When we understand the prison industrial complex (PIC)* as a social determinant of health and driver of health inequities, it is clear that the field of public health must address the harms of carceral systems as a fundamental element of health equity work. The current systemic reliance on punishment, confinement, and surveillance is not inevitable; effective non-carceral systems of community-based safety and accountability exist. As in efforts to eliminate lead poisoning or other public health hazards, it is critical that we tackle the PIC with an anti-racist and root cause analysis. When we do, abolition* emerges as the most practical and necessary solution.

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