LARRP May 2022 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!

Become a Member Today!

Support our work, and gain access to the special Members Only page

LARRP Committee Meetings * Grounding us In Our Space * DA Corner * Policy Update * LEADERS Updates * LARRP Community Safety Committee Update * LARRP Updates * Jobs * 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 month’s events and some of the important new reports and news stories that have come out in the last month

LARRP May Committee Meetings

Integrated Health Committee
May 2, 2022
2:00 PM

REGISTER Integrated Health

Education Committee:
May 5, 2022
4:00 pm

REGISTER Education

May 2022 General Meeting
April 21, 2022
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

REGISTER - General Meeting

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

REGISTER Housing
**Grounding Us in Our Space**

*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 Steven Hensley.

**Steven Hensley, 2022 Undergraduate Dean’s Medalist**

“Five years ago, I was starving on a park bench after being released from prison. I didn’t know how to navigate the free world.”

Steven Hensley had been incarcerated since the age of seventeen. Following his release, he worked tirelessly to secure employment, housing, and admission into Fresno State.

“Today, I am studying philosophy and working to alleviate conditions of inequity in the community,” Hensley said.

Now, Hensley is the undergraduate Dean’s Medalist for the College of Arts and Humanities. He has studied in the Department of Philosophy and will be earning a B.A. in philosophy, pre-law option and a B.A. in political science in May.

**READ MORE**

---

**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.*

Click the video below to watch the DA’s message on Victim’s Rights

---

**WAGE THEFT**

*What is Wage Theft?*
- Failure to pay workers for their labor
- Failure to pay overtime wages for hours worked
- Underreporting number of hours worked

*Victims of Wage Theft*
- Workers
- Their Families
- Their Communities
- All of Us

*Impacts of Wage Theft*
- Workers and their families cannot pay their bills
- Businesses lose revenue
- Communities lose tax dollars
- Community services are reduced

*Wage theft harms workers, their families and all of us.*

District Attorney George Gascón partnered with the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters to announce an agreement with the California Labor Commissioner that will bolster the investigation and prosecution of wage theft and protect workers.
LARRP Policy Update

April was an incredibly busy month for our policy work and we are excited to share with you all of the vital work we have been engaged in!

Assembly Bill 2383: LARRP has officially signed on to co-sponsor Assembly Bill 2383, the Statewide Ban-the-Box Initiative, written by Assemblymember Reggie Jones Sawyer. We are working alongside the Anti-Recidivism Coalition on this bill which will ensure that there is a statewide “Ban-The-Box” initiative for housing applications. Housing is a major concern for the reentry community, and the previously incarcerated population often struggles to find housing as a result of their conviction history. With this bill, initial housing applications will no longer be able to ask about an individual’s conviction history, which would help many applicants be able to secure housing.

Assembly Bill 1816: LARRP has been working alongside our other co-sponsors PATH, REPAC, Housing CA, and the Coalition for Supportive Housing on Assemblymember Isaac Bryan's AB 1816, the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program. It will allocate $200 million over the next 5 years for permanent supportive housing and workforce development for the reentry community. We secured a vital Yes vote from the Assembly Housing Committee, and are currently waiting to move out of the suspense file of the Appropriations Committee. We have had countless meetings between LARRP and Assembly budget staff to secure support for this bill.

Our last major update is that we have almost finalized our policy priorities for 2022. The policy team and LEADERS have selected a number of key bills for the LARRP Steering Committee to vote on to decide on our top priorities. This process has involved key input from many stakeholders and has ensured that we are listening to our community and the lived experience voices which guide our work.

If you have any questions, or are aware of bills that your organization is working on that you would like support on, please contact LARRP’s Policy and Legal Coordinator Charles Vignola at Charles@lareentry.org.

LARRP Community Safety Committee Update

Reflections from Joe Paul, LARRP Vice President of Network Partnerships & Government Relations

As part of our launch of the Community Safety Committee, LARRP spent April at events that were focused on calls for accountability and transparency to the issue of gun violence:

- April 5: LA District Attorney Black Clergy Press Conference to address rising homicide rates in LA County
- April 8-9: A convening on gun violence and gang intervention sponsored by CA State Assemblymember Mike Gipson
- April 19: A call with Governor Newsom to discuss violent crime intervention and prevention funding for small organizations
In 2020, the death of George Floyd launched an unprecedented demand for policy reforms and transparency in law enforcement. Communities, citizens, and activists united in a strategic and sustained call to divert law enforcement funding toward community prevention and intervention programs.

We marched for George Floyd, but can we stand for the hundreds of neighbors who are dying each day from unnecessary gun violence? Can we bring the same energy that mobilized calls for police reform to the communities where folks are dying at unprecedented rates?

At the same time, gun violence and homicides have spiked in LA County: between 2019 and 2021. This pattern is a recipe for disaster as we head toward the summer months which typically witness spikes in gun violence. These crimes disproportionately impact the Black community: while African-Americans make up 14% of the population, they represent more than half of the victims of gun violence (FBI). In fact, gun violence is the leading cause of death for Black males ages 15-34 years (Centers for Disease Control).

As I listened to the testimonies and stories of crime victims – mothers who have lost sons, men who survived gunshot wounds, fathers who regret scarring their families and communities with violence – I was reminded that there is no room for polarizing politics or opinions when it comes to death. To make our communities safer, we must apply the same passion, pressure, and purpose directed at police reforms to the communities that are suffering from gun violence. As LARRP delves deeper into issues of community safety, it is becoming clear that there is no reentry or reform for murder: a life lost is another purpose that will never be revealed. Thus we must find a way to work actively to stem the tide of this tragedy.

LARRP L.E.A.D.E.R.S. Academy Update

Every week, the LEADERS of the Training Academy attend their scheduled committee meetings, divided into Education, Integrated Health, and Employment. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings and along with their advocacy efforts, they attend scheduled workshops, such as Public Speaking, Policy, and Life Coaching. This is intended to focus on their Leadership development skills; practical tools that are applicable to everyday life of a LEADER.

Public Speaking Workshops - On Friday April 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm our first Public Speaking Workshop began with cohort #2. This workshop is led by Professor Lucretia Wright from Riverside City College.

Life coaching Workshops ended - The LEADERS ended their 6th and last workshop, and now have the opportunity to have a life coach assigned to them if they want to continue with this work.

More LARRP Updates

Last week the LARRP Outreach team was involved in two events:

The Expungement Clinic at Paving the Way in Lancaster on Tuesday, April 12th,
The LARRP team held an expungement clinic at Paving the Way.

Resource & Wellness Fair at CSU Northridge on Thursday, April 14th
The LARRP team hosted a table providing DOORS small organizations awareness.
The LARRP team held an expungement clinic at Paving the Way Foundation in Lancaster. We worked with the PTW staff and the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office to help 13 individuals receive expungements. Every individual expressed their gratitude and happiness regarding the clinic. The event was catered by Gourmet Paper Plates and we were able to provide both food, drinks, and expungements - how exciting! This process was smooth and a wonderful experience traveling up to our Antelope Valley family.

The LARRP team hosted a table providing DOORS referrals, snacks, drinks, and LARRP swag. The team was able to network with several agencies in the Los Angeles and regional areas, conversations were had about future partnerships and collaborations as well as brainstorming of additional resources. The team was able to spread the word regarding LARRP membership and committees, each visitor seemed interested and excited - especially for the LARRP swag!

UC San Diego
Seeks a Research Engagement Manager

Extended Deadline: Mon 5/9/2022

MORE INFO

Whole Systems Leaning
Looking for an Operations Manager and Outreach Intern

More Jobs! Updated Constantly on our Website!

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

- CRDF Project Manager - We are seeking a manager for an innovative program that has been running for over a year, in partnership with A New Way of Life, helping women at the Lynwood jail, both pre and post release, receive vocational training, reentry support and job placement services.
- Director - We’re looking for a dynamic leader for our LA office, overseeing all staff, programs and operations.
- Job Developer / Business Account Manager - we’re hiring two of these roles - a key position that helps prepare program participants and engages with employers to help participants get placed in a job.
- Intake Specialist - the primary person handling our community outreach, referrals, and welcoming participants into the program.

Community Events

Listening Sessions for CFCI Funding
Amity Foundation invites you to attend its Listening Sessions regarding the upcoming funding opportunities under the Care First, Community Investment and Non-Care First, Community Investment funding.

LISTENING SESSION 5: May 11 5:00pm-7:00pm PT
- Career/Education Pathway Programs/Programas de Orientación Profesional/Educativa
- Youth Specific Housing Intervention/Intervención de Vivienda Específica para Jóvenes
- Grants to Justice-Focused Community-Based Organizations/Subvenciones a Organizaciones Comunitarias Centradas en la Justicia

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
DOORS Spring 2022 Food Drive-Drop off Event

Drop off Dates:
May 2, 2022- May 6, 2022
8 am-5 pm
(Open for drop off 8 am-1 pm)
3965 Vermont Ave. 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90037
(323) 730-4442

(Closed for drop off from 12 pm-1 pm)

Any questions feel free to contact evelyn@lareentry.org

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.

Upcoming Meetings of the Probation Oversight Commission

- Thursday, May 12, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Commission Meeting)
- Thursday, May 26, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Commission Meeting)

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
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

In the NEWS

Featured News Item

This month’s featured story is a three part series from the LA Times about Homelessness in Los Angeles By Heidi Marston, the former head of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) who resigned last month.

The Homelessness Crisis: A Monster of Our Own Making

The Medium, April 25, 2022, By Heidi Marston

Some of the quotes:

- But in 2020, 205 people in Los Angeles County found housing that resolved their homelessness every day — while at the same time, 225 people fell into homelessness on the same day.
- Amongst our lowest-compensated employees, 91% are people of color. Many have lived experience of homelessness, and some have been recipients of services that LAHSA and our non-profit partners administer. The employees of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority should not make so little that they qualify for homeless services themselves.

READ MORE

More news....

Critics of plan to relocate youths from L.A. juvenile hall increasingly vocal before May 1 move

LA Times, By Libor Jany, April 30, 2

READ MORE

The American women and children we all conveniently forget

KCRW, Hosted by Robert Scheer Apr. 29, 2022

Interview with Jorja Leap

On this week’s “Scheer Intelligence,” Scheer joined fellow Angeleno Jorja Leap to discuss the Superpredator Myth and how the courts are beginning to see the light.

The Superpredator Myth Did a Lot of Damage. Courts Are Beginning to See the Light.

NYTimes Guest Essay, By James Forman Jr. and Kayla Vinson, April 20, 2022

READ MORE
Leap joins fellow Angeleno Robert Scheer to discuss California’s female prison population and the scholar’s must-read new book, “Entry Lessons: The Stories of Women Fighting for Their Place, Their Children, and Their Futures After Incarceration.” Focusing not just on what happens in jails and prisons but what occurs upon reentry, Leap reports with a keenly humanitarian perspective on how these women’s trials and tribulations can often be as difficult if not more so once they’re free.

LISTEN

Justice Highlights Within LA County’s First Proposed 2022-23 Budget

Witness LA, April 27, 2022, by Taylor Walker

READ MORE

Balancing Public Safety with Reforms

This is not a zero-sum game.

This budget reflects a commitment to closing Men’s Central Jail and protecting the rights of those who are incarcerated
- $15.3 million to support compliance with a federal consent decree regarding the treatment of individuals with mental illness in County jails

It also reflects a commitment to public safety
- $12.3 million in new funding for additional LASD Academy classes, supporting the recruitment and training of a new generation of deputies
- Complements existing investments in CFCS, MET and HOST teams, and a new Justice, Care and Opportunities Department

READ MORE

California inmate overdoses plummet under drug program

By Don Thompson Associated Press, April 26, 2022

The nation’s largest medication-assisted treatment program for addicted prison inmates has reduced a surge in drug overdose deaths and hospitalizations plaguing California’s prison system

READ MORE

CA Police Data Shows ‘Tough-on-Crime’ Counties Experience Higher Crime

The Crime Report, By Andrea Cipriano, April 4, 2022

California has been in the spotlight in recent weeks for its battle handling crime spikes, and most recently their Sacramento battle recovering from a devastating mass
The president also commuted the sentences of 75 others for nonviolent, drug-related convictions. The White House announced the clemencies Tuesday as it launched a series of job training and reentry programs for those in prison or recently released.

READ MORE

Editorial: Release California from the prison of over-incarceration

By The Times Editorial Board, April 13, 2022

READ THE EDITORIAL

Is it fair to blame Gascón alone for L.A.’s violent crime surge? Here’s what the data show

LA Times, By James Queally, April 1, 2022

...an analysis of the L.A. County district attorney’s office filing rates, homicide solve rates and crime statistics paints a far more complicated picture of the surge in violence than the one some of Gascón’s enemies have sketched.

READ MORE

REPORTS

High Road Labor Market Analysis: Behavioral Health Services Sector

The Worker Education and Resource Center (WERC) just released this report which identifies a Peer Workforce & Trauma-Informed Practices as important to meeting behavioral health needs in Los Angeles. A new labor market analysis of the behavioral health services sector by WERC identifies peer workforce and trauma-informed practices as important to meeting behavioral health needs in Los Angeles. The analysis offers concrete recommendations for both increasing access to quality jobs for workers with high barriers to employment and addressing critical worker shortages in the sector.

The Executive Summary

Full Report

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like “free" "personalized" “complimentary” or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"
Beyond the Count

Prison Policy Initiative, April 13, 2022
This new Report uses demographic data to show the social disadvantage of people locked up in state prisons. People in prisons have endured disadvantage and poverty all the way back to childhood, the Prison Policy Initiative’s new report shows.

READ THE REPORT

Diversion Programs, Explained

Vera Institute of Justice, April 28, 2022, By Akhi Johnson and Mustafa Ali-Smith
Diversion is a broad term referring to “exit ramps” that move people away from the criminal legal system, offering an alternative to arrest, prosecution, and a life behind bars. Although incarceration was historically believed to improve public safety, research suggests that it is ineffective in doing so and has a minimal impact, if any, on reducing crime. Instead, diversion programs target the underlying problems that led to the criminalized behavior in the first place.

READ MORE