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LARRP Committee Meetings

Integrated Health Committee
August 1, 2022
2:00 PM
REGISTER Integrated Health

Education Committee:
August 4, 2022
4:00 PM
Register Education

LARRP General Meeting
Sept. 15, 2022, 10:00 am
AUGUST MEETING CANCELLED!
Please click here to access all resources discussed in the July meeting.
REGISTER - General Meeting

Employment Committee
September 21, 2022
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Register Employment

Housing Committee
September 15, 2022
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Register Housing

URGENT Policy Action Alert!
BOS Meeting Tuesday August 2nd

"Hello Supervisor (Insert Supervisor), my name is
The most important issue at hand for the Board of Supervisors is an upcoming vote on August 2 pertaining to 211, the County’s Information and Referral Services support number.

211 offers 24/7 live caller support to anyone who needs it, helping refer folks to mental health support, emergency services, and other community-based services to help those in most immediate need.

The LA County CEO and CIO have pushed for the 211 contract to be awarded to Deloitte, a for-profit company, with the promise that costs will be cut for the county and that greater levels of data will be available for the county to work with. You can read about the motion here, motion 11 on the agenda.

Deloitte has contracted with many state agencies across the county to provide automated phone support instead of live individuals who answer incoming calls, and that has lead to numerous lawsuits and complaints. Deloitte is not a community-run organization whose primary interest is the health and wellbeing of the county’s citizens, and when they have taken over call centers, automation has meant it is more difficult access to live support.

LARRP has worked throughout the years to support and expand 211, and we are at a crossroads where that progress is threatened. We are asking you to help us in our fight to protect 211 as a community organization by calling your Supervisor, and voicing your concerns to their office. A script is available below, but feel free to add any individual or organizational experience you have with either Deloitte or 211.

We are also asking you to submit letters of support to the Board through the public comment website, and by emailing if to your office directly. Here is the template letter that can be easily customized and modified to reflect your organization and the work you do. It can be uploaded to the public comment portal here, opposing motion 11.

Template Letter - Save 211

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LA Times Editorial

“Sometimes we get calls from people who are not able to speak, people who really need assistance. I had a call that I answered “Thank you for calling 211...there was no answer on the other end, after a bit I heard a voice say ‘bear with me, I have suffered a stroke and I have difficulty speaking.’ A bit would not have recognized this and this person would not have gotten assistance they were calling for.”

- 211 STAFF

August Spotlight

County Justice Work

In this month’s spotlight story we wanted to remind members of the broad spectrum of justice and reentry work, along with the carceral system, operating at the County level here in Los Angeles. As you may know, LA County is the largest County in the country, and larger than 40 US states, with a $40 Billion annual budget. We have the largest jail in the world, under the largest Sheriff’s Department in the country, taking up $3.6 Billion a year in taxpayer dollars. We also spend far more on the DA’s office than we do on the Public Defender. But LA County is also an emerging leader in spending on reentry services, behavioral health, diversion, alternatives to incarceration, and other decarceration strategies. While you may be familiar with County entities that go way back like ODR (2014) or initiatives like ATI (2019), you need to be aware that there are new County agencies coming on line, like JCOD, which we go into below, and new initiatives like MCJ Closure.
One of the most significant changes in the county adult reentry apparatus was the creation of a new department specifically dedicated to housing groups like the Office of Diversion and Reentry. This new department, named the Justice, Care and Opportunity Department, or JCOD, was chartered on Tuesday, March 1 of this year in a 4-1 vote. This department’s creation was spearheaded by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who has also been a leader in creating Alternatives to Incarceration and the push to close Men’s Central Jail.

JCOD seeks to streamline the often convoluted process of seeking support from the county. Currently, ODR, ATI, and other offices are all separate and when an individual is referred from one office to another, it involves the movement of documents and support systems, and there can be inconsistencies in what information is passed on and how the departments share information and support.

With the JCOD coming online, the goal is to make sure all resources and infrastructure are shared equally under one umbrella to ensure that when an individual needs assistance, they are not being shoveled from agency to agency, and that the support will all be centralized. The other benefit of this move is that ODR no longer faces an immediate budget shortfall that at one point threatened their ability to continue operating at the current scale. The hope is that going forward, the new JCOD department will have consistent and increasing funding to help actualize the Care First, Jail Last position of the county.

While this department makes some very impactful changes, one concern is that it will actually split up ODR into two, with the portion going to the JCOD focused on diversion and reentry services, but the medical health staff of the original office will stay at the Department of Health Services to provide more specified mental health and clinical support.

We have yet to see how ODR will function in its new, less clinical role, but the hope is that with a dedicated department working on justice issues, the budget shortfalls will no longer occur, and both the medical and social care sides can be funded fully and separately as opposed to together where the risk of cannibalizing one side to support the other was present.

Sheriff Oversight and Accountability

LARRP has joined a large coalition spearheaded by the ACLU to push the Board of Supervisors to place a Charter Amendment ballot measure on the November 8th ballot to provide greater levels of civilian oversight for the LA County Sheriff. As you may have seen, Alex Villanueva, the current elected County Sheriff, has used his powers to avoid accountability, obfuscate the waters around enforcement of mandates and other laws, and delayed decarceration pushes that the Board has supported. This work to allow the Board to hold the Sheriff accountable is one of the most important issues we are working on, and you can help by connecting to the Check the Sheriff Coalition and taking action at www.checkthesheriff.com/action. The final vote by the BOS will be this Tuesday August 2nd, and you can see Tuesday’s meeting agenda here, and the ordinance with the ballot measure language is Item 32 (see here) and the corresponding resolution is Item 33 (see here).

County Commissions, Workgroups, Task Forces, and other Bodies

LARRP members serve on a wide array of County bodies that provide oversight and advice on different components of the carceral and justice systems, including:

- The Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Office
- Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) Advisory Committee
- Jail Population Review Council
- MCJ Closure Implementation Team (JCIT)
- ODR (Office of Diversion and Reentry) Permanent Steering Committee
- Probation Oversight Commission PSRT (Public Safety Realignment Team)
- Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

There are also a number of other key issues being raised and worked on by the Board of Supervisors and County staff that support the work we here at LARRP are focused on, and we would like to highlight some of these issues for you to be aware of. We here at LARRP provide input on almost every Board meeting when justice-related motions arise, and while you receive many emails from us asking you to
CFCI (Care First Community Investment)  
The Care First Community Investment Advisory Board  

CFCI represents the current “Measure J Reimagine LA Advisory Committee”, which is a 24 member board whose responsibility it is to oversee the recommendations and implementation of Measure J. This 2020 voter approved ballot measure promised to set aside up to 10% of all locally generated unrestricted funding for alternatives to incarceration and addressing the disproportionate impact of racial injustice through community investments such as youth development, job training, small business development, supportive housing services and diversion. This investment has yet to be fully realized, but the CFCI has put forth ample documentation on their recommendations and proposals for how the funding should be spent, and what investments would best further the will of the voters, which can all be found here.

Stay tuned for deeper dives into some of these efforts in future LARRP Newsletters and General Meetings!

Community Safety Blog

When Is Time Done?

By Pastor Joe Paul,  
V.P. of Network Partnerships and Government Relations  
The Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership

August 1, 2022

Thirty-five years ago, I committed a crime: I was involved in the murder of a young black man – a casualty of the crack epidemic. I too, as a young black man, was a victim of this era: easy money, ambition, and a lack of direction was a dangerous combination, especially in 1980s South Los Angeles.

I remember the surreal experience of my arrest: I was cocky enough to think I could beat the case. I did not know that the detectives had seen a thousand me's and had heard enough BS stories to see through mine. The blinding light of consequence turned on when I saw my grandfather – the gentle, quiet man who used to talk about faith with me over morning coffee - cry in a gray, indifferent police interview room. The illusion of dodging the charges was gone: I felt the swelling panic of consequences. I remember closing my eyes and swearing – with everything in me – that I would NEVER be here again…NEVER do this again…NEVER put anyone in this position again. I determined, in that moment, to redeem myself and the legacy of my grandparents through good

But here’s the catch: the desire for redemption is an unquenchable thirst. I never feel a moment of being “done”: each phone call, each need, each person asking for help wakes me up and moves me to act. I am a karmic Sisyphus who is continuously carrying the load up the mountain. I am a debtor and debtors never get to rest.

Thirty-five years after my crime, I was invited, as a a clergy partner of the Live Free gun violence initiative, to the White House to join President Biden and a group of national leaders to celebrate a historic gun bill that is remarkable not because it goes far enough but because it is the first bill to unstick a policy cemented in party politics. Finally, the blood crying out from the streets has been heard and we have realized that we can, in fact, move an inch toward a rational gun policy.

I was overjoyed to attend, both for the historic moment and because invitations into elite and powerful spaces make me feel like maybe I’ve done was I was supposed to do…maybe now my redemption is complete. Yet, it was not to be: the secret service read my life on a small computer screen and concluded that I was too dangerous to be in the room. The crime overshadowed 35 years of good works; in an instance, I was once again the young black man who felt the gut-punch of shame and consequence.

In America, when is time really done? The 5th Amendment of the Constitution specifically bans double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime): “…nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.” When I committed my crime, I accepted my sentence as just and appropriate.

As the saying goes, if you do the crime, you do the time. I didn’t know that, for felons, the time is never done: every job application, every license, every security screening would require me to talk about my crime and justify my rehabilitation. How often do other citizens have to relive
have done my best over these last 35 years: I’ve become a Pastor, consistently served my church, dedicated my life to nonprofit reentry, workforce, and violence prevention work, and raised a beautiful family with three successful children. My work has been honored by politicians, I have advised leaders, and have helped thousands of individuals returning home from custody.

My crime was not trivial: it was serious, permanent, and a breach of the social compact. But I ask, in this era of criminal justice reform, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and community-based violence interruption, whose voice matters? Who is invited to the table? LARRP’s philosophy of social justice is that those closest to the problem HAVE to be at the table where decisions are made. For me, and four other committed community leaders from across the country (all black, I might note), we were denied this justice. Our voices that carry the whole story of pain, compassion, understanding, reflection, AND redemption, were silenced. When is time done?

LARRP in Action

LARRP LEADERS

The LARRP Leaders in partnership with Cal State LA, hosted an event to honor the former Lt. Governor Mervyn M. Dymally who advocated for better prison conditions. His mission focused on highlighting the voice of the voiceless. For the past year the LARRP Leaders have been working with Cal state LA to record the impact of the criminal justice system on individuals and to make sure they are recorded into history. We have started with recording the LARRP leaders, highlighting the strong women we have on our team. Their impact will be in the CaL State LAs Library and this is just the beginning of them making history.

CCJBH mental health awareness Lunch-Learn

Jane Bond and LARRP staff, Anthony Garcia were asked to present this event on May18, 2022. Speaking to reentry professionals from across the state, they highlighted the importance of having individuals with lived experience speak to these issues, emphasizing the challenges mental health challenges in reentry and the importance of a support system in order for lived experienced individuals to succeed in programs.

SAVE THE DATE!

LARRP LEADERS Graduation! August 18, 2022 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

We invite everyone to attend and show support to these amazing LEADERS who have achieved a great accomplishment in completing the LEADERS Training Academy Cohort #2.

LARRP Community Engagement Highlights

LARRP Program Specialist, Kaitlin Martins, and System Navigator, Anna Paz, traveled down to
Orange County to attend the UC Irvine Prison to University Conference: ALIGN in Higher Ed.

Co-Chair of the LARRP Education committee, Paul Seeman, was there to network with students and professors from Underground Scholars, Project Rebound, and many more!

Jobs, Opportunities and Information

Opportunities and Information

County Department of Health Services (DHS)

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) has released a Work Order Solicitation for Providing Opportunities for Women in Reentry (POWR) Programming (No. SHSMA-WOS_ODR-020) available for current Supportive and/or Housing Services Master Agreement contractors. Responses are due by Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. Pacific Time.

More Funding Opportunities? BECOME A MEMBER

Jobs

Reform LA Jails

is looking for:

- Executive Director [More info]
- Campaign Coordinator "Cancel the Contract" [More Info]

Advancement Project California

is currently looking for folks who want to create a more racially and economically just California where everyone can thrive. Apply to one of our four open positions today!

- Administrative Associate, Administrative Team
- Legislative Advocate, Government Relations
- Research & Policy Analyst, Equity in Community Investments
- Staff Accountant

First Step Job Openings

Apply Online

Behavioral Health Specialist for the LGBTQ+ Community, New opportunity at UCLA Extension

Launches in Fall

2022!

Justice involved individuals encourages to apply!

(Also seeking Instructors)

More Info: Contact Us: (310) 206-4149/
customprograms@uclaextension.edu/
uclaextension.edu/bhhs
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.

Community Events

Community Events

Upcoming Meetings of the Probation Oversight Commission

Commission Meetings (Register Here)

- August 11, 2022
- September 8, 2022

Town Halls (Register Here)

- August 24, 2022
- September 28

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Great MAT Symposium

August 13, 2022, 10:00 am to 1:00

Tarzana Treatment Centers College (TTCC) proudly presents a new Summer Mini-Conference Series for social service and healthcare professionals. The conference series is designed to provide continuing education and best practices to behavioral health organizations related to patient success, data, and innovative treatment methods.

REGISTER

STEP INTO TECH: A Pathway Forward

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022 10 a.m.

Sponsored by LARRP and Partners

Interested in a career in tech? Join us to learn about UNITE-LA’s Step into Tech: A Pathway Forward program.

REGISTER

The Great MAT Symposium

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REGISTER
Second Chance Hiring and Racial Justice Workshop
Unlocking Opportunities for Returning Citizens

LARRP's Joe Paul will be a featured speaker!

Tuesday, August 16, 2022
1:00PM - 4:20PM EDT

Register

LARRP LEADERS Graduation!
August 18, 2022 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

Funding Climate & Racial Justice in the Inland Empire and Central Valley

Join our Equity in Community Investments team on August 31st at 10 am as they share budget advocacy and power-building strategies to support public funding for Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the Inland Empire and Central Valley.

Learn More and Register

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECESS

The next Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) Advisory Committee Meeting is:

September 15 AT 4 P.M.

Click Here for Access

Upcoming Events Added on the Website Everyday!
Editorial: Don’t leave 211 callers hanging

By The LA Times Editorial Board, July 19, 2022

Los Angeles County supervisors are preparing to turn the operation and management of a key resource information service over to a firm that took on a similar job for the state Employment Development Department early in the pandemic, when business closures and layoffs were rampant — and did it poorly.

Deloitte’s proposal relies on automation of 211 calls. Even if the consulting firm has worked out whatever kinks led it to mishandle so many state EDD calls, automation may not be the right approach to a service that historically has relied on the human touch for successfully linking callers to services.

We agree! @211LA have been long time partners of LARRP, helping navigate people exiting incarceration to our reentry community services. We don’t want big data handling our most vulnerable. This is a people to people business not a computer to people business!

Op-Ed: An L.A. program helps people get mental health care instead of jail time. Why not expand it?

LA Times, By James Bianco, July 18, 2022

As a mental health court judge, I work every day with people who are homeless and have serious mental illness. My cases involve people from all over Los Angeles County. The people you see living on the streets in your community are the people in my courtroom.

Editorial: The false promise of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s CARE courts

By The Times Editorial Board, July 26, 2022

New Police Accountability Laws Up Demands On State Agencies

Cal Matters, July 26, 2022 by Nigel Duara and Byrhonda Lyons

New state laws on police accountability are testing the limits of several agencies, including the Department of Justice, which say they need more resources for these new duties.
Where People in Prison Come From:
The geography of mass incarceration

Prison Policy Initiative, July 2022

What communities do people who are incarcerated come from? It's a simple question, with huge implications, that until recently was impossible to answer. However, thanks to recent reforms to end prison gerrymandering in more than a dozen states, the data is finally available to answer it. We partnered with organizations in each of these states to collect this data, and we're making it available to advocates, researchers, organizers, journalists, and others. Our hope is that they'll use it to better understand how mass incarceration harms communities and correlates with other measures of community well-being.

Voting in Jails: Advocacy Strategies to #UnlocktheVote

The Sentencing Project, July 27, 2022

Every year, hundreds of thousands of eligible incarcerated voters are unable to cast their ballot due to misinformation, institutional bureaucracy and de-prioritization among government officials. This advocacy brief highlights strategies to improve ballot access for incarcerated people who are legally eligible to vote.

READ MORE
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