Year End Message from LARRP Executive Director, Troy Vaughn

Seasons Greetings
LARRP and our Broader Reentry Family!

While this year has brought many challenges as we slowly emerge from the pandemic and support our families, it has also blessed us with many victories. We will be producing a more detailed and thorough annual report in early 2023, but here are a few highlights to celebrate:

Our General Meetings and Issue Committees continue to draw a large number of individuals and organizations, which speaks to the value of having a forum to share information, form partnerships and collaborations, and learn together. I am deeply appreciative of the leadership of our chairs, co-chairs, and staff to schedule, plan, and execute our meetings.

We had several legislative victories this year, from the passage of a bill we co-sponsored, **SB 731** (which allows for automatic and retroactive record expungement for Californian non-violent/non-sexual felons who have served their time), but also disappointments such as the failure of **SB 1262** (which would have made criminal convictions/background checks available online in a searchable format). LARRP continues to voice strong support for legislation that is just and fair to the reentry community and to oppose legislation that limits the opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to reintegrate back into their communities. You can read the year end state legislative report below.

Our policy team also worked on countless reentry-related issues at the County level, cooperating closely with the Board of Supervisors on the introduction and creation of the new Justice, Care and Opportunity Department, or JCOD, which seeks to be a one-stop-shop for justice and reentry related services. We also helped to rally the community in favor of keeping the county’s 211 information services line in the care of a local nonprofit instead of with a large corporation which has been privatizing government service centers. The advocacy by our Community, when called upon, was unprecedented.
of our chairs, co-chairs, and staff to schedule, plan, and lead these meaningful convenings.

In 2022, we launched a Community Safety Committee that spent the year exploring, understanding, and shaping an approach to address the drivers and consequences of gun, gang, and interpersonal violence. This Committee represents a prevention focus for LARRP, underscoring that part of reentry work is to ensure that no citizen is victimized. You can read the Committee update below.

As we close out 2022, I’m reflective of the year’s challenges and successes both within LA County and across the nation. Outside of any particular victory or setback, I’m struck by the determination and resilience of those of us who are in the work. Whether we are pushing forward innovative legislation, organizing against social challenges, or deepening and strengthening our organizations, the LARRP network is a consistently formidable force within LA County and across the state. I am humbled to serve you in this role and be part of the fabric that weaves together our reentry community. I look forward to what we accomplish together in 2023. For now, rest up: we have work ahead!

LARRP Committee Meetings

**Education Committee:**
December 1, 2022, 3:30 PM

Register Education

**Integrated Health Committee**
December 5, 2022, 2:00 pm

REGISTER Integrated Health

**featured LARRP Event**

**Increasing Fair Chance Hiring in Tech:**
County Fair Chance Update and Step into Tech Project Findings

Dec 12, 2022 12:30 PM

LARRP’s Employment Committee, in partnership with LA County’s new Justice Care and Opportunities Department, the new Department of Economic Opportunity as well as Unite LA, is hosting a two-part presentation for anyone serving system
On the heels of the November election, we have some amazing news to share with you all. Our work on LA County’s Measure A has paid off with over 70% of the voters this year saying “Yes,” giving the Board of Supervisors the tools to take swift action in the face of a Sheriff who is breaking the law. Your advocacy helped increase voter turnout to enact positive change in the community. This is an incredible testament to the power of our network and the desire of the public to see greater levels of accountability from our elected leaders and law enforcement. With Measure A now passed, and a new incoming LA County Sheriff, Robert Luna, we hope to see a new relationship with the Sheriff’s Department and law enforcement as a whole.

In addition to these efforts at the County level, this legislative cycle we saw 11 LARRP Priority Bills signed into law, thanks to the vibrant participation of the LARRP community! If you would like to see the state legislative work we engaged in this year, you can see our statewide legislative report below.

Now we are hard at work to understand the needs of the reentry community going into 2023 at the state level. You can reach out to Charles Vignola, our Public Policy and Community Engagement Manager at charles@lareentry.org with any legislative ideas or bills you are already working on that you would like LARRP to support in the 2023 legislative cycle.

We will continue to work on some of the policy goals from this year, including pursuing a ban the box bill for housing statewide, and to push for greater investments in reentry housing and workforce training.

The LARRP Employment Committee has focused on gaining better access to good and stable employment opportunities for those reentering back into our community. The Committee has tracked critical legislation to ensure members understood recent changes in policies regarding employment opportunities. The Committee hosted speakers from different political and advocacy organizations, including the National Employment Law Project, Center for Employment Opportunities, REDF, and the California Workforce Development Board, and the CDF Career Center.
Transfer Workshop that brings together all of the 4-year programs at UC (Underground Scholars) and CSU (Project Rebound) under one roof for the benefit of the reentry population. We are also working with LARRP leadership on a pilot program that visions a partnership between CDCR, employers, and the educational resources needed for workforce readiness, and we hosted a similar effort in partnership with the Employment Committee and Calbright College to provide workforce readiness training to the reentry population as part of a for-credit community college course from Calbright. Finally, we look forward to the next LEADERS cohort and a chance to work with them to move forward on all our partnership and policy goals.

The LARRP Housing Committee

The LARRP Housing Committee continues to work towards resource sharing for housing opportunities located in LA County. This March, the LARRP Housing Committee hosted a “Making the Connections” event in which different housing leaders in each SPA attended and hosted their own breakout rooms. Individuals from different SPA’s presented and shared general information regarding availability and resources within their communities. Breakout rooms were created to brainstorm collaboration efforts with one another through events and virtual gatherings. The event was a success, allowing organizations to share information with one another and open the door to future collaboration. The Housing Committee also hosted presenters from Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan’s office to educate members about federal funding and programs for reentry housing. The Housing Committee will continue to host experts and key stakeholders leading housing efforts within the reentry space and inform our members while collaborating with one another to expand housing opportunities for our returning citizens.

The LARRP Integrated Health Committee

The LARRP Integrated Health Committee

along with a deeper dive into Fair Chance efforts, and Homeless Hiring Tax Credit, among other legislative pieces. The Education Committee is open to all those providing or needing reentry employment services and ensures every member of the committee has a voice when working towards necessary policy change. The Employment Committee will continue to host presenters from the reentry employment sector and tackle the many barriers to full and meaningful employment of formerly incarcerated people.

Community Safety Committee Report

By Elder Joe Paul,
Vice President of Network Partnerships and Government Relations for LARRP

It is heartbreaking that I am writing a year-end summary on how LARRP is addressing community violence just days after a mass shooting in an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs. Sadly, in 2022, our nation averaged 11 mass shootings per week (according to the Gun Violence Archive website www.gunviolencearchive.org.) To date, gun violence has claimed nearly 40,000 lives: 21,000 from suicide and 18,000 from homicide, murder, unintentional firearm discharge, or defensive gun use. What these data do not capture is the impact of each death on families, friends, the community, and the nation. Surely, the exponential consequences of gun violence on trauma, physical and mental health, sense of safety, family stability, and economic security are too high to tabulate.

In 2022, LARRP launched a Community Safety Committee to address the upstream drivers and downstream impacts of violence in all of its forms (domestic, suicide, gun, and gang-related). Most notably, LARRP partnered with Centinela Youth Services, The Experience Christian Ministries, and 2nd Call to launch a Community Healing Collaborative that is focused on leveraging the faith community to address neighborhood and gang-related violence in Los Angeles’s Eastside. Funding from California Violence Intervention and Prevention (Cal-VIP) supported capacity building for faith leaders so that they can engage community members in healing dialogues, events, and services that prevent and mitigate violence.

As LARRP’s VP of Network Partnerships and Government Relations for LARRP, I am also using this platform to participate in dialogues and presentations focused on violence interruption and prevention. Most recently, I had the honor of joining Conor Houston, an Irish elected official who has a long commitment of advancing peace in Northern Ireland, to discuss their peace journey with Loyola Marymount University students.
The Integrated Health Committee has continued to push MAT within LA County facilities, addressing the many concerns and barriers surrounding it. Additional topics the Committee undertook included harm reduction for indigenous and First Nation communities, opioid response efforts, repercussions of COVID-19 on mental health, and access to mental health care for those reentering back into society. Each conversation has been intentional and thoughtful as the Committee brainstormed ideas to take action. NAMI, and other trailblazing organizations presented to the IH Committee throughout the year, educating members on recent events and/or changes in existing policies. The Integrated Health Committee also worked with the LARRP LEADERS creating health care policies for these individuals to focus their efforts on. The LEADERS, throughout monthly meetings, have been present and able to share their voices with different organizational leaders, recommending legislation, and impacting the community. The Integrated Health Committee plans to continue these thoughtful discussions going into 2023 with ongoing participation from groups across LA County.

In true LARRP fashion, over the past 12 months we collaborated with city, county, state, and community-based partners to explore, discover, and learn how violence in all of its forms happens and how we can harness our individual and collective strength to address it. This is no small task given the insidious and devastating nature of violence.

As we approach 2023, we are resolute in our commitment to bring our collective knowledge, talents, and resources to this important and urgent work. In this holiday season – a season in which all faith traditions emphasize peace, harmony, and community – we pray that our work advances so that victims of violence have not suffered in vain.

Joe Paul

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**L.E.A.D.E.R.S. Year End Update**

We are thrilled to report that we have received funding for Cohort #3 of the LARRP L.E.A.D.E.R.S. training Academy

We will be resuming Jan 2023!

We are looking for 12 individuals that want to make change in their community! please see the flyer attached for more information.

- Individuals passionate about being advocates, leaders, and change agents for their communities
- Individuals interested in working with the LARRP network to research and identify policy to initiate solutions.
- Individuals 18 years of age and older, with various backgrounds & identities within the lived experience population for this cohort.

**APPLY HERE**

Applications are due by January 9th, 2023

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This month, please check for news, Partner Events, Information and Opportunities on our [webpage](#).