

LARRP March 2022 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!

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Take the POLICY SURVEY!

Message from Troy Vaughn * LARRP Committee Meetings * Grounding us In Our Space * March Spotlight * Member Newswire * Policy 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



Over the last decade, I have dedicated my personal and professional talents toward making a positive change in the lives of all returning citizens; and my commitment and passion has not changed. If anything, the decisions that surround local and state

government have fueled my resolve to continue fighting to ensure that everyone across the State and Nation has the benefit of the great work we've done here in Los Angeles.

Driven by my commitment to help our most underserved communities, I am eager to build upon the momentum LARRP has created. As an outgrowth of our work, we have made some strategic internal moves that will move us toward achieving our strategic priorities for 2022 and beyond.

1. Advocate for budgetary actions that support reentry organizations and demonstrate a sustained commitment to successful reentry and reintegration across the State,
2. Advance fair hiring and housing practices for formerly incarcerated applicants,
3. Advocate for a State Office of Reentry that will be committed to developing and implementing solutions to successful reentry and reintegration efforts throughout the State, and
4. Replace wasteful prison spending with more effective solutions that focus on addressing community needs before incarceration.

We know that strong interventions must address health, employment, housing, skill development, mentorship, and social networks. These factors together have the most significant impact on reentry success.

Julyanna Mendez has been promoted to **Director of Programs and Operations** and will now work closely with me advancing and overseeing our core programs. **Joe Paul has been promoted to Vice President of Government Relations and Strategic Community Partnership.** Joe's primary focus will be to work closely with our regional committees and connecting our efforts to government priorities and funding opportunities.

In addition to the internal changes, given that the government programs and community-based organizations often have different priorities in their reentry services; we believe that the two should work together. Each organization will compliment each other's strengths and help fill in their gaps to facilitate successful reentry. To this end, LARRP has joined other network organizations across the state to form a Statewide Reentry Council called the Re-Entry Providers Association of California (REPAC). REPAC is a c-4 entity that intends to,

Based on the LARRP model, REPAC will be a community-based council of network leaders that encourage systemic change by educating, facilitating, and promoting public safety through effective reentry and reintegration of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

There is no denying that this moment in time has been incredibly challenging for all of us, especially our brothers and sisters returning home without a true roadmap. Your support has never been more critical to fulfilling our mission. I am confident that with you by our side, LARRP will continue to thrive and emerge from this moment in time stronger than ever.

In Solidarity,
Onward and Upward,

Troy

LARRP Committee Meetings

Education Committee:

March 3rd, 2022
4:00 pm

[Register Education](#)

Integrated Health Committee

March 7, 2022
1:00 PM

Agenda:

- LEADERS Academy
- NAMI: Navigating Mental Health Care in CDCR: The Basics
- Updates/ Discussion:
 - Jail release
 - Agency Updates/ Covid 19
 - Resource Sharing

[REGISTER Integrated Health](#)

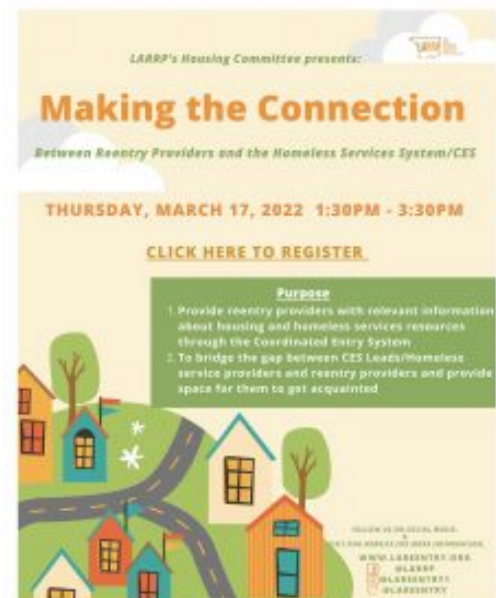
Employment Committee

March 16th, 2022
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

[Register Employment](#)

Housing Committee Special Meeting, Making the Connection!

March 17th, 2022
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM



Agenda:

- Introduction & Purpose: Introductions and Purpose of Meeting
- Meredith Berkson, Director, Systems and Planning LAHSA: CES/Homeless Services, Lack of Inclusion for System Impacted
- 8 CES Singles Lead Agencies:

Services/nuances for Region

- Breakout Rooms: SPA, Bridging the Gap

February 2022 General Meeting

March 17th, 2022

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

[REGISTER - General Meeting](#)

- Wrap Up & Next Steps: Discussion about Future

[Register Housing](#)

[LARRP Meeting Archives](#)

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 Raymond Gonzales



Raymond Gonzales in his own words

I'm currently working with the Employment Committee. I chose this committee because it's one of the main struggles I had after my release. Even after graduating from UCLA I struggled to find a stable job. Now I want to help change that for the people coming home who want nothing more than to turn their lives around and support themselves and their families.

So far the Leadership Academy has provided me the opportunity to find my voice. For too long I kept this part of my past hidden and the Leadership Academy has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and really embrace my experience with the criminal justice system.

I applied to this years cohort because I knew that I wanted to grow and help cultivate a more inclusive community. I also saw all the great things LARRP was doing for the reentry community and I just wanted an opportunity to be part of that movement.

February Spotlight Update on Violence Prevention

LARRP Community Safety Committee

Escalating violence is a rising threat to our community as well as to the criminal justice reform work we are dedicated to. Thus during LARRP's annual retreat in December, it was decided to formalize a Community Safety Committee. This Committee, spearheaded by LARRP's Vice President of Network Partnerships & Government Relations, Joe Paul, is a county wide collaborative

effort. We are bringing together government agencies such as LA's Office of Violence Prevention, Community Organizations, violence intervention specialists, law enforcement, faith

**Presentation by Kelly Fischer, Program Manager,
L.A. County Department of Public Health (DPH),
Office of Violence Prevention (ODR)**

**Presented at the LARRP General Meeting
February 2022**



intervention specialists, law enforcement, faith based partners, victim advocacy organizations and others, in order to address this crisis with a multi-disciplinary approach.

One of our first steps has been to inform ourselves on the work that is being done in the space. Thus the update on violence prevention at our February General meeting.



Member Newswire Ronnie's House

Ronnie's House aims to advance economic equity and social justice through Reentry work, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership; Ronnie's House opened the first business accelerator in Long Beach in 2019, supporting over 400 businesses to date. In 2020 Ronnie's hosted the Reentry and Cannabis round tables during the City of Long Beach's Racial Reconciliation initiative, which advanced policy on Cannabis Equity and moved Reentry to the forefront.

Justice Impacted individuals can access support through a 24-hour day hotline (855-530 keys), Reentry coaches on-demand, or by visiting www.reentrykeys.com to access 4800 resources across LA County.

LAARP Members can search for their profile [HERE](#), claim it, or sign up and begin sharing their resources with our Justice Impacted community, the probation department and other service providers.

JUSTICE IMPACTED?
Have a great idea for a merchandising line?
Join Rising Entrepreneurs Academy and Launch Your T-shirt or Merchandising Business.
\$2,500 in Prizes for Best Ideas **BEGINS MARCH 15TH**
5 Sessions. 2 Hours Per Session.
Signup www.risingentrepreneurs.org
or call 1-855-530-Keys



Shirin Senegal started Ronnie's House to carry on her husband Ronnie's legacy, who she lost to gun violence.

LARRP Policy

Hello LARRP network!

February was a very exciting month for policy, and we are ready to unveil some of the new key work we are engaged in.

The major piece of legislation that we are co-sponsoring

We need your help on this bill to show the state that this support is needed! You can fill this form out with your

information to be connected to our coalition and ensure you have an active and involved role in promoting and lobbying for this bill.

The major piece of legislation that we are co-sponsoring, **Isaac Bryan's AB 1816**, was officially introduced to the Assembly Floor. This bill, dubbed the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program, is a continuation of last year's AB 328.

This bill will set aside \$200 million over the next 5 years to create housing and workforce training programs specifically for the reentry community. This will include permanent supportive housing, grants and rental assistance, and other forms of direct support for folks to get back on their feet.

To learn more about this bill, you can [click here](#) to watch Isaac Bryan's press conference from last week. [Click here](#) to watch Troy Vaughn speak and [Click here](#) to watch Joe Paul, They and other key community leaders and state representatives spoke passionately about the need for this bill and how vital it will be to the fight to decarcerate.

[Support Form AB1816](#)

For the month of March, LARRP's policy team is working to select the priority bills we will be advocating for in the 2022 legislative year. This process involves community input, so if you come to LARRP meetings, make sure to give your thoughts as bills are discussed. If you have any questions, or if you are aware of any key bills or other pieces of legislation that you would like to bring to our attention, please email Charles Vignola at Charles@lareentry.org.

[TEXT AB 1816](#)

[Take the Policy Survey](#)

Jobs, Opportunities and Information

Below is one of the many new employment opportunities you will find on our website:



New job opportunities at Volunteers of America, Los Angeles

- ADULT SERVICES | SANTA ANA, CA

[More info or APPLY](#)

- Case Manager Generalist Supportive Services for Veteran Families

[More info or APPLY](#)

- Case Manager Generalist Unserved Child and Youth Advocacy

[More info or APPLY](#)

Below is only one example of the various Opportunities we are constantly posting on our website as we come across them.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Los Angeles County has embarked on a sweeping effort to address longstanding inequities and transform underserved communities. Starting now and continuing through December 2024, a wide range of service providers and vendors will be needed to achieve these objectives. Visit our website, which will be updated regularly with information about solicitations and contracting opportunities.

[More Info](#)

[More Jobs! Updated Constantly on our Website!](#)

[More New Opportunities and Information](#)

Community Events

[Upcoming Events Added Everyday!](#)

Los Angeles County
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services
Economic and Workforce Development Branch

MOVING THE COUNTY



MOVING THE COUNTY WORKFORCE SYSTEM FORWARD

2022 Stakeholder Forums

Help Shape LA County's Future

Our new WDACS Economic and Workforce Development Branch is hosting five public virtual stakeholder input sessions 2/17 through 3/2 - and you're invited!

The schedule for all five forums and their topics are as follows:

- **Hybrid Service Delivery**

Tuesday, March 1st - 9:00am to 11:00am

- **Opportunity Populations**

Wednesday, March 2nd - 9:00am to 11:00am

Share your thoughts on how strengthen our workforce system.

To learn more and register, [CLICK HERE](#)



Presented by: LARRP AND THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE PRESENTS

EXPUNGEMENT Clinic

Tuesday, March 15th 2022
10 am - 1 pm
LARRP Office 724 N La Brea Ave
Inglewood, CA 90302

Food will be provided!

Registration is required.
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Must register by 03/02/22 (Extended!) 12:00pm

Please advise, this clinic is a two part, in-person contact. It is required that you obtain a wet signature for part one, part two requires coming into the LARRP office for the expungement event.

Identification required (just one):
1 Identification Card
2 Driver's License
3 Passport

Criminal Record

Expungement Clinic

Tuesday, March 15th 2022 10 am - 1 pm
LARRP Office 724 N La Brea Ave Inglewood, CA 90302

MUST REGISTER by 03/02/22

Helena Hansen MD, PhD

"Beyond Magic Bullets: Race as Determinant of Opioid Crisis"

Tuesday March 8th, 12pm

Register at:
<https://bit.ly/hansenlunchlearn>

Funding kindly made possible through
California DHCS, SORS

March Lunch & Learn: Beyond Magic Bullets: Race as Determinant of Opioid Crisis

Wednesday March 8th, 12:00 PM

A leading expert on structural racism & structural competency, Dr Helena Hansen will be presenting on white race as a social determinant of the opioid crisis. Her talk will begin to answer the question of how the current "opioid crisis" became white. Interviews and observations of addiction scientists, pharmaceutical executives, policy makers, physicians and patients point to a convergence of hidden racial ideology in neuroscience, biotechnology development, drug regulation, marketing and media that has led to the current symbolism.

REGISTER



OFF OF JOB SKILLS DEPARTMENT OF
CANNABIS REGULATION

GROW 2022 CANNABIS CAREER FAIR

2-Day Event
March 18th Day-1: Virtual Educational Programming
March 19th Day-2: Live
Los Angeles Trade Tech College
400 W. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA

10 AM - 2 PM (DAY 1 & 2)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
TIMEKA DREW
Founder & CEO of Biko & VP of Licensing & Compliance for Exco
Job Seeker, RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/grow22employers>
LA Business, RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/grow22employers>

Job Readiness

- Wellness Education & Certification
- Open Q & A with HR Experts
- Job Readiness Webinars

Opportunities

- Job Seeker Support Booth (applications, resume, and interview support)
- On-site Interviews and Network with Employers

Expert Panel

- Industry Experts
- Operators/Employers
- Analysts

*Covid Requirements: All attendees must wear a mask at all times and provide proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test 72 hours prior to event to gain entry into Career Fair.

GROW 2022 Career Fair March 19, 2022

The Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) requires licensed cannabis businesses to hire local, transitional, and equity workers. To support



A unique collaboration of the California Association of Nonprofits, Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties, the League of California Community Foundations,

Budgets and Bills: An inside look at the 2022 California legislative session

Mar 8, 2022 10:00 AM

What does 2022 have in store for public policy in California?

As we enter the third year of the COVID pandemic, relief and stimulus funds continue to flow from state and federal coffers. New redistricting lines are reshaping legislatures as lawmakers introduce bills that will impact the social sector.

The 2022 legislative session is in full swing, and the Governor's proposed budget outlines new investments to respond to many of the pressing issues Californians face and nonprofits address, including housing, behavioral health, early childhood education, emergency response, and many others. The budget includes more resources for the CA Small Business (and Nonprofit) COVID-19 Relief Grant Program and for a new Office of Community Partnerships. What do the legislative session and the proposed budget mean for California's social sector?

[REGISTER](#)

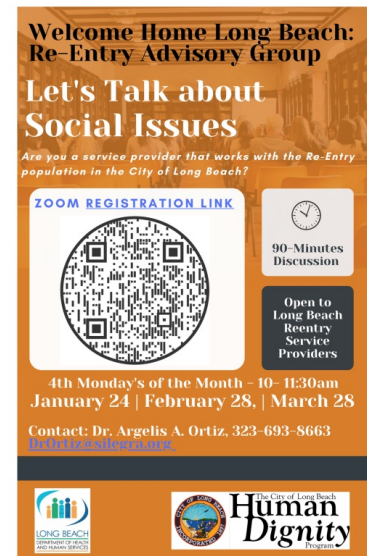
local, transitional, and equity workers. To support these efforts, DCR will be hosting its second GROW 2022 Career Fair on March 19, 2022, at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC).

If you are interested in working in the cannabis industry or ancillary businesses, please RSVP as a Job Seeker (survey takes a minute) and you will be contacted with more information.

[RSVP as a Job Seeker](#)

Participation in the GROW 2022 Career Fair will allow licensed cannabis and ancillary businesses in the City of LA to meet and interview job seekers, including those identified as social equity, transitional, and local workers.

[RSVP as an Employer](#)



Welcome Home Long Beach: Re-Entry Advisory Group
Let's Talk about Social Issues
Are you a service provider that works with the Re-Entry population in the City of Long Beach?

[ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK](#)

90-Minutes Discussion

Open to Long Beach Reentry Service Providers

4th Monday's of the Month - 10-11:30am
 January 24 | February 28, | March 28

Contact: Dr. Argelis A. Ortiz, 323-693-8663
drortiz@abwta.org

LONG BEACH
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City of Long Beach
Human Dignity
 A Division of

(Click Flier to download)

In the NEWS

Featured News Item

It's not ALL bad news this month for Criminal Justice Reform, but these articles make it obvious we need to be vigilant about the huge backlash building and the elements that are fueling it!

They Wanted to Roll Back Tough-on-Crime Policies. Then Violent Crime Surged.

NYTimes, Feb. 18, 2022, By Astead W. Herndon

With violent crime rates rising and elections looming, progressive prosecutors are facing resistance to their



plans to roll back stricter crime policies of the 1990s.

[READ MORE](#)



More news....



How a single case challenged the LA prosecutor’s reform agenda: ‘Nobody is happy’

The Guardian, February 26, 2022 by Sam Levin

The developments show how media coverage of horrific crimes can help derail criminal justice reform

[READ MORE](#)



California lawmakers want to reverse Prop 47; ‘make crime illegal again’

FOX News, By Louis Casiano, February 16, 2022C

As crime continues to concern communities throughout California, Republican state leaders are making efforts to repeal a much-debated measure critics say has emboldened criminals and tied the hands of law enforcement.

[READ MORE](#)



Gate Money” Bill Would Significantly Increase Assistance For Californians Returning Home From Prison

WitnessLA, February 23, 2022 by Taylor Walker

In California, people leaving prison each receive \$200 as a release allowance, known as “gate money.”... This post release allowance has not been increased since 1973. Furthermore, if that \$200 of 1973 gate money is adjusted for inflation, it represents approximately \$30.49 in 2022 dollars.

With these and related issues in mind, California lawmakers now have the opportunity to significantly raise the amount of the state’s release money to \$2,589, a rise that is based on California’s cost of living.

Op-Ed: Voters wanted big change from Measure J. Why hasn’t L.A. seen it yet?

LA Times by Megan Castillo and Bamby Salcedo, Feb. 7, 2022

More than 2 million voters cast ballots in November 2020 to provide historic support for Measure J — an innovative measure to dedicate at least 10% of Los Angeles County’s locally generated unrestricted funding toward community investments such as youth and small business development, job training, housing services and alternatives to incarceration, with the goal to reduce the impact of racial and economic injustice.

It is now 2022. What has happened since then? In short, not much for the communities the measure was meant to serve.

[READ MORE](#)



The new bill, SB 1304, authored by CA Senator Sydney Kamlager (D – Los Angeles), will now soon be scheduled to be heard by to appropriate legislative committees.

[READ MORE](#)



LA DA Gascón Ends Ban On Seeking Life Without Parole For Some Defendants

The LAist By Frank Stoltze, Feb 18, 2022

In his second significant policy reversal this week, Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón said Friday he would consider seeking life without the possibility of parole for some criminal defendants.

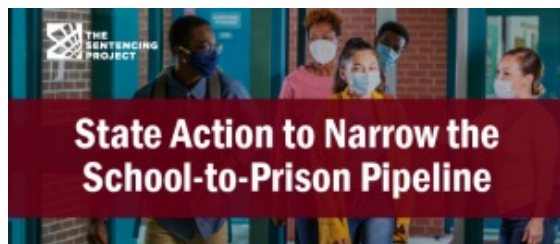
[READ MORE](#)

California crime story: The numbers, explained

CalMatters by Nigel Duara, February 3, 2022

Getting a handle on California crime statistics is tricky business, as inconsistent reporting and short-term snapshots can obscure real trends. Crime statistics are a loaded weapon. They can be pointed in any direction, to mean anything: To law enforcement, rising crime usually means police departments need more officers, or that prison sentences aren't high enough to deter crime. To criminal justice reform advocates, the same statistics might show that, in context, crime is down, and long-term legislative changes to the criminal code are working.

[READ MORE](#)



State Action to Narrow the School-to-Prison Pipeline

The Sentencing Project, Feb. 09, 2022 by Richard Mendel

Thanks to a \$122 billion infusion of federal funds for public education included in the March 2021 American Rescue Plan, schools and communities have the opportunity to invest vast resources in effective new approaches to close the school-to-prison pipeline. The Sentencing Project has examined the plans submitted by every state for use of these federal funds.

[READ MORE](#)



Santa Clara County Considered Building a Mental Health Facility Instead of a New Jail. It Chose the Jail

KQED by Adhiti Bandlamudi, Feb 2, 2022

Santa Clara County moved forward last week with plans for a new jail, a move sharply criticized by opponents who for years have urged officials to use the funds for a mental health treatment center instead.

[READ or LISTEN](#)

REPORTS

“High Road Labor Market Analysis: Behavioral Health Services Sector” (2021)

The Worker Education and Resource Center (WERC)

HIGH ROAD
LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS:

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.

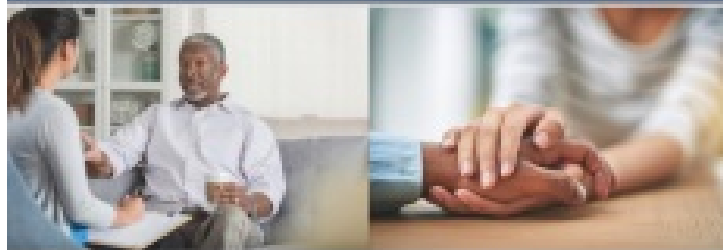
A new labor market analysis of the behavioral health services sector by WERC identifies peer workforce and trauma-informed practices as important to meeting behavioral health needs in Los Angeles. The analysis offers concrete recommendations for both increasing access to quality jobs for workers with high barriers to employment and addressing critical worker shortages in the sector.

[The Executive Summary](#)

[Full Report](#)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTOR IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2021



PREPARED BY:



worker education & resource center, inc.