

Lived Experience Project

Lifting the voices of individuals with Lived Experience to inform State and Local-level policy development.

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) received funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to increase capacity of those with lived experience, increase education and training opportunities, increase organizational and community awareness, and improve collaborative efforts and partners at the regional/ local-level.

Regional LEP Contracts (FY 2020-23)

In 2020, CCJBH through a competitive bidding process, awarded three-year contracts to the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Cal Voices (ACCESS Program), the Los Angeles Reentry Partners (LARRP), and the Transitions Clinic Network (TCN). These contractors engaged in a variety of project deliverables that focused on increasing the advocacy capacity of individuals with lived experience. Below is a summary of what each of the Regional LEP Contractors accomplished.

ARC

- Developed a workforce development department for the Sacramento Region.
- Provided career readiness workshops and opportunities to individuals with lived experience.
- Provided weekly policy and advocacy trainings as well as therapy sessions and life coaching for ARC members.
- Developed social media content and released publications.
- Fostered and developed collaborations with social services, education, employment, and justice-involved organizations and agencies.
- Hosted community events for ARC members.
- Participated in local Juvenile Justice subcommittee.
- Sent newsletters to people who are currently incarcerated.
- Conducted groups inside multiple facilities in greater Sacramento area.

Cal Voices

- Recruited 2-3 Ambassadors for Superior Region and 2-3 Ambassadors for Southern Region
- Developed and provided Ambassador Boot Camp trainings
- Facilitated Community Activation Advisory meetings
- Developed and disseminated a Community Needs Assessment Survey
- Developed and disseminated social media posts and quarterly email blasts
- Hosted community activation workshops
- Provided technical assistance and trainings to Ambassadors
- Developed a Peer Provider Toolkit, Voices of Opportunity Podcasts, and Priority Populations/Approaches Podcasts
- Participated in advocacy activities
- Provided Peer Provider workshops

LARRP

- Developed the L.E.A.D.E.R.S Academy.
- Engaged 24 individuals to participate and complete the LEADERS Academy.
- Provided leadership and advocacy training to LEADERS Academy cohorts.
- Organized and participated in community events, workshops, and forums.
- Developed and implemented educational and media campaigns to promote fair chance policies, address stigmas associated with reentry, and highlight success stories of individuals with lived experience.
- Established partnerships with educational institutions to provide free college courses to LEADERS Academy cohort members
- Provided skill development workshops.

TCN

- Developed a Site Advisory Committee.
- Developed and provided trainings for Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Enhanced and supported partnerships between CDCR and community-based services.
- Provided technical assistance and mentorship to CHWs with lived experience.
- Increased capacity of clinics to enhance their practices related to behavioral health.
- Developed testimonial videos to increase awareness of behavioral health issues affecting patients who are justice involved.

As part of the culmination process, during the [LEP Showcase](#), Contractors had the opportunity to present to CCJBH Councilmembers and stakeholders on their contract progress, highlight any successes, challenges, and lessons learned during the implementation of the LEP Contracts.

California State University of Sacramento Lived Experience Project

In 2019, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) contracted with the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), to determine how best to engage individuals with lived experience (LE) in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. The CSUS LE project design was a multi-phased approach and an iterative process upon which CCJBH continues to build. Through these efforts, CCJBH and CSUS collaborated to produce two reports: [Successful Approaches to Employing Individuals with Lived Experience in the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Fields](#) and [Solutions to Hiring Barriers for Individuals with Lived Experience to Work in the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Fields](#). As part of final phase of the project, CCJBH, in collaboration with CSUS, focused their efforts in understanding potential barriers to accessing Medi-Cal services among the behavioral health (BH) and justice involved (JI) population.

CCJBH reported through its Medi-Cal Utilization Project (MCUP) that individuals transitioning from incarceration (transitioning citizens) to the community who have identified mental health and/or substance use disorder(s) underutilize Medi-Cal behavioral health services within one year upon release. To better understand the reasons behind this underutilization, CCJBH worked with CSUS to host a series of listening sessions with members of the broad BH/JI population and providers who serve the BH/JI population. These efforts resulted in the report [Barriers to, and Strategies to Improve, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Services Utilization: A Lived Experience Session Report](#)

State and Local-Level LEP Contracts (FY 2024-25)

In 2024, through a competitive bidding process, CCJBH selected the following organizations as the LEP Local-level Contractors: Third Sector Capital Partners, Transitions Clinic Network (TCN), and Beyond Us and Them. Similarly, CCJBH established a contract with Root & Rebound, who served as the State-level LEP Contractor. The LEP Local-level and State LEP Contractors accomplished the following project deliverables:

Root & Rebound

- Provided lived experience expertise that helped inform the development of public comment recommendations.
- Identified best practices for supporting individuals transitioning from a carceral setting into their community.
- Identified and engaged “hidden network” providers.
- Developed a “Hidden Network” Provider List.

TCN

- Outreached and recruited individuals with lived experience to participate in the Lived Experience Speaker’s Bureau.
- Created a profile series highlighting members of the Lived Experience Speaker’s Bureau in the quarterly TCN newsletters.
- Provided 1:1 mentorship to Community Health Workers within TCN’s Bay Area clinics and monthly Fireside group sessions.

Third Sector Capital Partners

- Engaged over 20 community stakeholders located in Northern California.
- Outreached and Recruited individuals with lived experience to participate in the Champions Council.
- Provided training and capacity building opportunities to the Champions Council.
- Conducted listening sessions with individuals with lived experience.

Beyond Us and Them

- Hosted in-person and virtual meetings for community stakeholders and partner agencies.
- Provided a 5-part Trauma Informed webinar series.
- Provided on-going training and case management to individuals with lived experience.
- Developed a governance team composed of individuals with lived experience.