

NEWSLETTER

Q & A

Leandru Willie

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After being incarcerated, you decided to join the Native American Reentry Services (NARS) HEAL for Reentry Program to support soon-to-be-released individuals. Why was advocating on behalf of those who are incarcerated important to you?

For me, I didn't start with advocating on behalf of others. After being released in 2015, continuing my path of sobriety and being able to connect with other Natives on the same path was crucial to my success. In doing so, I was able to maintain my support system from inside and then back into the community. It was not until I earned my Associate of Arts degree at Pierce College that I realized how underrepresented Native communities are, which ultimately became my motivation. Advocating for those that are incarcerated is important for a couple of reasons. First, it is their right to have access to all spiritual and religious practices. Second, access and the ability to practice one's spirituality can create change on a deeper level.

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Healing Old and New Wounds: Indigenous Mental Health, Culturally Responsive Treatment, and the Criminal Justice System

By Raquel Anakalea, JD, Bishop Paiute and Kanaka Maoli

November is Native American Heritage Month, offering an opportunity to highlight the history and growth of programs serving Indigenous folks with mental and substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system. Accounting for less than 2 percent of the national population, Indigenous people in the United States represent between 2.5 and 3.2 percent of federal prison populations. In local and state jails, the estimated prevalence rate of incarceration among Indigenous people is 401 per 100,000, which is more than twice the rate of incarceration among White individuals at 187 per 100,000. (Though starkly disparate in this frame of reference, the incarceration rate among Indigenous people is not the most extremely disproportionate; for Black people, the rate is 592 per 100,000).

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The National Sobering Collaborative on Sobering Centers

Program Spotlight: The National Sobering Collaborative on Sobering Centers

The National Sobering Collaborative is a non-profit organization committed to supporting the formation and sustainability of sobering centers for the care of individuals experiencing harmful, hazardous, or disordered substance use. Sobering centers reduce the unnecessary use of jails and emergency departments and provide a low-barrier, compassionate service to people who use substances. It's a promising approach to reducing potential harms from intoxication, including injuries, driving under the influence, justice involvement, and suicide.

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Resource Spotlight

- [Child Support and Reentry: A Report from the National Institute of Justice](#)
- [Bridging the Gap: A Practitioner's Guide to Harm Reduction in Drug Courts](#)
- [Impact of a Prison Therapeutic Diversion Unit on Mental and Behavioral Health Outcomes](#)
- [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and the Justice Systems](#)

Flashback on First Responder Programs



[Naloxone and First Responders](#) | July 2020



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[Shortening the Duration of Untreated Psychosis: Implications for Law Enforcement and the Sequential Intercept Model at Intercepts 0-1](#) | March 2019