



Judge Greg Mathis speaks at JCOD's Father's Day CARE Event

Over 2,000 People Celebrate at JCOD's Father's Day CARE Event!

On June 9, JCOD hosted a special event called Father's Day CARE: "Celebrating Advocacy, Resiliency, and Empathy" to honor justice-involved fathers and their families. Throughout the day, over 2,000 people gathered at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Community Center where they enjoyed live entertainment, family games, free lunch, arts and crafts, resource booths and giveaways.

The event highlighted the importance of fatherhood for those involved in the reentry process and provided a day to honor fathers to connect with their children, families, and community in a supportive environment. Guest speakers included JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) and Judge Greg Mathis, who shared his journey and

offered words of inspiration and personal growth.

Over 50 resource booths hosted by various agencies participated in the event and offered valuable information on housing, mental health services, educational opportunities along with expungement services and workshops.

You can view the Father's Day CARE event recap video [here](#) and check out upcoming events and learn more about JCOD programs at jcod.lacounty.gov.



JCOD Launches Warm Landing Place to Support Justice-Involved Individuals

JCOD celebrated a soft launch for the Warm Landing Place (WLP) program on June 10, that connects individuals released from jail immediate access to essential services. This innovative program is strategically positioned at the Inmate Reception Center inside the Twin Towers Correctional Facility, staffed by JCOD team members.

JCOD team members engage with individuals, who have been released from jail, as they prepare to leave the downtown jails complex, offering essential resources including interim housing, food, transportation, and hygiene essentials, aiming to prevent homelessness, relapse, and recidivism during this crucial transitional period.

The WLP program is working on opening a dedicated 29-bed emergency housing

facility this Fall to further support justice-involved individuals. JCOD has also purchased a lot within walking distance from the downtown jails complex. This property after construction will become the permanent hub for WLP reentry services and emergency housing.



Staff Spotlight

Ruth Bell - Justice Program Senior Analyst



Ruth has been working with LA County since 2013, where she got her start with the Department of Public Health (DPH) in the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. She worked at DPH up until she joined JCOD in January of this year.

At JCOD, Ruth serves as a Justice Program Senior Analyst. She works with the CFCI team and manages JCOD's third-party-administrator contract with Amity

Foundation. Ruth was drawn to work at JCOD because of its mission that helps people live their best lives and because the very name, Justice, Care and Opportunities, sounds like an affirmation statement of values.

Ruth finds interacting with community-based organizations at JCOD's Incubation Academy events the most fulfilling part of her job. She says it's in part because of the energy and the positivity in the room which inspires her to go the extra mile to improve someone's life.

"Working at JCOD has been a blessing for me. I'm learning so much and being supported. I love the team I work with and I'm looking forward to the road ahead. We are agile and creative, and innovation is celebrated here."

Originally from Jamaica, Ruth is the eldest of three siblings. She is a proud boy mom, and she has a 1-year-old Aussie Doodle named Pumpkin. Ruth earned her Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Finance from Florida State University and her Master's degree in Exercise Science and Public Health from Georgia State University.



Organization Spotlight



Darlene Burke (seated)

Ten Toes In is a JCOD partner organization and CFCI Care Grantee, and was founded on February 8th, 2014. This transformative mentorship and domestic violence prevention program which supports, educates and empowers couples during and after incarceration.

The inspiration behind Ten Toes In has a compelling story. Founder Darlene Burke explains, "I was inspired by my romantic relationship with my best friend of over 38 years. I have known him since he was 12 years old. We grew up in the same neighborhood in South Central, Los Angeles. He was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to LIFE in prison. During his incarceration, our friendship grew into a BEAUTIFUL love story. I searched for a support group for women who were involved with incarcerated men. However, I was unable to find one. On February 8th, myself and other ladies in relationships with incarcerated men started meeting at my house and going to dinner to discuss our UNIQUE relationships. In June of 2014, we hosted our first Evening of Empowerment at the Holiday Inn in Torrance. The ladies spoke about their experiences with their incarcerated Partners and we invited

leaders spoke about their experiences with their incarcerated partners and we invited two Brothers to discuss their Reentry Journey and experience 'behind the wall'.

Darlene describes the most difficult aspect of running Ten Toes In is treating it like a business instead of just a passion project. The organization is her baby and she didn't think about creating infrastructure for something she was doing purely out of love. She advises other non-profit leaders to do their research and have a strategic plan before launching.

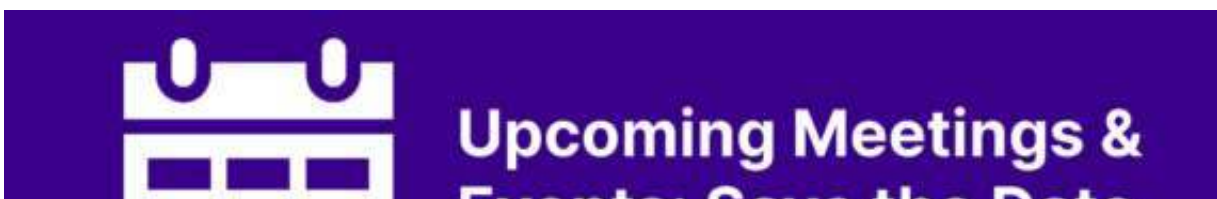
Darlene describes receiving a Care Grant as "a phenomenal moment for Ten Toes In because we had been operating with restricted funds for so long! The Care Grant helped Ten Toes In move to the next level!"



Darlene Burke (center) with couples from Ten Toes In

One moment Darlene will always remember is when Ten Toes In hosted a graduation ceremony at Avenal State Prison. "The former Warden, Rosemary Ndoh, allowed Ten Toes In to bring in pizza, Subway sandwiches, chips, fruit, drinks and a graduation cake. However, the pivotal moment was when the D.J. played, 'Always and Forever' by Heatwave and the couples were allowed to slow dance. As I watched them, tears filled my eyes because they were able to feel FREE and enjoy that moment with other couples."

For more information about Ten Toes In, visit TenToesIn.org.





**JCOD's Public Convening - Department of Mental Health's
Alternative Crisis Response - Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 9am-
10am**

The next Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) public convening meeting will be Wednesday, July 17th from 9 am – 10:00 am.

View the agenda [here](#).

You can join the public convening in Microsoft Teams or via phone:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 252 798 644 16

Passcode: t3JKNi

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

**CFCI Advisory Committee Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 2024, 4pm-
6pm**

Agenda and supporting documentation will be provided at a later date.

Meeting Location:

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381-B

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

To participate via computer or smart phone: [Click Here For Access](#)

To participate via telephone only: Dial-In: +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 861 0182

866 678 1477

Follow us on social media: @LACJCOD

Questions or comments? Email us at: jcod@lacounty.gov

Or visit us on the web: jcod.lacounty.gov

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)

You received this email because you subscribed to the *Justice, Care and Opportunities Department* mailing list to receive notices about the County's new central agency unifying LA County's efforts to serve vulnerable justice-impacted people and communities.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [County of Los Angeles](#).

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [County of Los Angeles](#).