

**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**5/19/2022**

**1. Welcome & Introductions: Emily Smith & Joshua Caspillan**

- a. Thank you to all for joining us on Zoom. The Immigrant Forum will be held virtually until further notice

**2. USCIS Updates: Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer, USCIS**

**a. San Francisco Field Office**

- Naturalization applicants living in Solano County, Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop, and Ripon will have interviews scheduled at the San Francisco Field Office.
- Interviews happening at the Application Support Center on Broadway Street, San Francisco
- Interviews happening on Saturdays at the USCIS office on Sansome Street, San Francisco
- Naturalization oath ceremonies occur Monday to Friday, and applicants may have an oath ceremony on the same day as their interview.

**b. San Jose Field Office**

- Naturalization applicants living in Hayward, Union City, Newark, and Fremont will have interviews scheduled at the San Jose Field Office.
- Naturalization oath ceremonies occur 2 Saturdays per month.

**c. Engagements, <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach>**

- DACA Renewal Online Filing, May 19 at 11am PST
- Asylum Overview by the San Francisco Asylum Office, May 24 at 11am PST
- USCIS Genealogy Program, May 25 at 11am PST
- US Passport Agency & USCIS, June 7 at 2pm PST
- Santa Clara's World Refugee Day, in-person presentation for New Arrivals, June 17 at 4pm, San Jose City Hall
- Naturalization presentations and other topics – many posted on our [Upcoming Local Engagements webpage](#)

**d. Immigration for Ukrainian Nationals**

- U.S. based sponsor for Ukrainian nationals by filing Form I-134 online, <https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine> (in English and Ukrainian)
  - o Sponsor has legal status
  - o Beneficiary: Ukrainian citizen and their non-Ukrainian family member resided in Ukraine immediately before the Russian invasion and were displaced
- TPS registration open from April 19, 2022 to October 19, 2023. Ukrainian nationals need to have continuously resided in the United States since April 11, 2022, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

- e. **Immigration for Afghan Nationals**, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals>
  - Immigration cases are expedited and moving quickly
  - TPS registration opens May 20, 2022 to November 20, 2023. Afghan nationals need to have continuously resided in the United States since March 15, 2022, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>
- f. **On May 4, Employment Authorization (work permit) Extension of Time from 180 days/6 months to 540 days/18 months**, <https://www.uscis.gov/eadautoextend> (in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and more languages)
  - For refugees, asylees and pending asylum applicants, TPS beneficiaries, pending adjustment of status applicants, spouses of H-1Bs
  - Apply for renewal before current work permit expires
- g. **USCIS is hiring**, <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/careers-at-uscis>
- h. Latest USCIS policy about non-citizens who accidentally register to vote: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual-updates/20210527-VoterRegistration.pdf>

### 3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, ILRC

- a. **Afghan TPS** issued today, to be published tomorrow
  - Eligible if residence since 3/15/2022
  - 18 month TPS through Nov. 20, 2023
- b. **Ukraine TPS**
- c. **Cameroon TPS (but can't apply yet)**
- d. **Immigration forms are out for comment**
  - I-765 work permit
  - N-400 naturalization application
  - ILRC will be commenting to try to shorten and streamline these forms to make it easier on applicants, legal workers, and adjudicators
- e. **Texas -- Operation Lone Star** is challenged in court for targeting black and brown immigrants
- f. **DM 22-06, Friend of Court Memo**
  - On May 5, 2022, the DOJ issued [DM 22-06](#), otherwise known as the "Friend of Court" memo, cancelling [PM 20-05](#).
  - The memo explains the role of Friend of the Court, noting the following:
    - o Although the Immigration Judge remains responsible for explaining courtroom procedures and the respondent's rights in immigration proceedings, the Friend of the Court can reinforce this information, seek clarification from the Immigration Judge at the respondent's request, or

alert the Immigration Judge if the Friend of the Court learns or believes that the respondent does not understand.

- The Friend of the Court can update the court regarding the status of any pro bono placement for the respondent's case. This information can also aid the court in making decisions about when the case can fairly proceed.
- The Friend of the Court can communicate to the court any special needs that the respondent may have with respect to the proceedings. For example, the Friend of the Court can inform the court when the judge might consider another language or dialect for interpretation to ensure or enhance the respondent's understanding of the proceedings.

#### **4. ASYLEE NAVIGATION & REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM FOR SAN MATEO COUNTY: Cristy Dieterich, Program Manager, Newcomers Health Program - SF Refugee Health Assessment Program – Sammi Truong, SF Newcomer**

- a. **Monthly New Asylee Orientations** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month -- 10am via Zoom
  - Cover many topics and live translation is available (Spanish)
  - Safe to join and ask questions – everything is anonymous
  - For more info: <https://sf-cairs.org/asylum-orientation/>
- b. **In-person New Asylee Resource Events** - tentative
  - Planning for July-Nov 2022 - one Friday per month at the SF Asylum Office
  - Great opportunity for outreach and linages for newly granted asylees
  - If interested to participate or learn more:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z8LVIj7OPUSaf9\\_MAjH3P5xJuQ1Xu6ZGlf5sbha0\\_QIUQ1Y2T0wzOVc1V1AxVFZCTIFOU1wMjRlRUNy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z8LVIj7OPUSaf9_MAjH3P5xJuQ1Xu6ZGlf5sbha0_QIUQ1Y2T0wzOVc1V1AxVFZCTIFOU1wMjRlRUNy4u)
- c. **Newcomers Health Program (NHP)** – Refugee Health Assessment Program for SF, San Mateo, and Marin Counties
  - Purpose: to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive health assessments/healthcare services to newly arrived/granted refugees and help prepare for the I-693 Medical Exam for adjustment of status
    - The assessment includes:
      - Screening and treating communicable diseases
      - Identifying chronic diseases and other conditions
      - Assessing immunization status of child/adults & provide vaccinations
      - Mental health screenings
      - Referrals to specialty care
  - NHP's patient population (newly granted status by US federal govt.)
    - Refugee, asylee, victim of trafficking, & special immigration visa holder
    - How to refer a client --

- NHP referral form:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z8LVij7OPUSaf9\\_MAJH3PwTWRI9jOeJHuqqOjHYHgRhUMEJDUzVBSki0SkVDMTNXODZSUTZGWUIGWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z8LVij7OPUSaf9_MAJH3PwTWRI9jOeJHuqqOjHYHgRhUMEJDUzVBSki0SkVDMTNXODZSUTZGWUIGWi4u)
- Call 628-206-8608
- Email: [newcomers.health@sfdph.org](mailto:newcomers.health@sfdph.org)

d. **Presenter's contact info:**

- [Sammi.Truong@sfdph.org](mailto:Sammi.Truong@sfdph.org), 628-206-8608
- [Cristy.Dieterich@sfdph.org](mailto:Cristy.Dieterich@sfdph.org), 628-206-7627

**5. June 3, 2022 Primary Election Voting: Who's Eligible to Vote, What's on the Ballot & Why Voting Matters: Sara O'Brien, Elections Specialist III, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office, County of San Mateo**

a. **Why voting matters:**

- Voters elect representatives and policies that can profoundly impact the present and the future
  - o i.e., Incorporating East Palo Alto under San Mateo County

b. **Who can Vote?**

- Citizen of US and resident of CA
- 18 years of age or older
- Not in prison for the conviction of a felony
- Not ruled mentally incompetent by a court
- 16 and 17 years old, can pre-register

c. **If you can't vote – you can still participate and have your voice heard**

- Attend public meetings
- Be active in your community (write letters, emails, or call your representatives)

d. **Upcoming Elections**

- Eligible voters that want their ballot mailed to them, they must register online by May 23
- Eligible voters can also register and vote the same day at any vote centers from May 24 through Election day
  - o **June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election** (County leaders, state leaders, and six school districts asking for funds)
    - Language assistance is available
      - i. In-Person Interpreters -- English, Spanish, Chinese, & Tagalog
      - ii. Telephone Interpreters – ALL LANGUAGES
  - o **November 8 Statewide General Election**

- e. **New Materials are available in different languages**
  - A New Citizen's Guide to Voting
  - Voting in CA
  - Local information to promote election awareness
  - State and County Voter Guides
  - League of Women Voters Easy Guide & Voter's Edge
- f. **Presenter's contact info:**
  - [sobrien@smcacre.org](mailto:sobrien@smcacre.org), 650-312-5269
  - smcvote.org

## 6. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates: Emily Smith

- a. Board of Supervisors meetings are fully translated in Spanish and people can request live interpretation if they plan on attending in person
- b. Immigrant Heritage Month
  - Hosting a series of events
    - o June 8 – Poem reading
- c. Casting call for SMC Welcoming Video campaign inspired by Welcoming America
- d. Waiting survey result from Gardner Center
  - Potentially by next meeting we will have preliminary results

## 7. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- a. **Karla Rodriguez, SMCOE**
  - Plans on creating a welcoming campaign regarding different resources such as mental health
  - SMCOE hosted a documentary film screening of [La máscara con la que vivimos](#) (The Mask You Live In) by The Representation Project on May 17th. The film explores how our culture's narrow definition of masculinity is harming our boys, men, and society at large and unveils what we can do about it
    - o Link to the film in English (available until Friday, May 27): <https://tinyurl.com/mvfh2c24>
- b. **Lily Quinonez, Family Liason**
  - This summer, org is conducting orientations for newcomers and their parents to help them become familiar with the internet and other computer-based applications such as email
- c. **Maria Rosas, KARA**
  - KARA provides grief counseling services in English and Spanish
    - o Provide services to everyone regardless of County affiliations
    - o New drop-in support group in Spanish for people experiencing difficult times
- d. **Shireen Malekafzali, SMC Equity Chief**

- OCA has created a Community Engagement Toolkit to help County staff think through inclusive community engagement and increase equitable community participation
- County's first ever Juneteenth flag raising ceremony on June 3rd 9am at County Center in RWC at flag pole
- BIPOC Experiences and Aspirations Webinar on March 25th at 6:30pm. Sign up here:  
[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=zC3v4AaghkuOaw2iQbhXQqaCgjBzBtKkYZt\\_kNO1zxUMUJJRIE5VTdHMDVVU0pYWUZFUUZMSEhBQy4u&web=1&wdLOR=c9689C1FB-D2EA-4E83-80B1-B742E37F79F7](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=zC3v4AaghkuOaw2iQbhXQqaCgjBzBtKkYZt_kNO1zxUMUJJRIE5VTdHMDVVU0pYWUZFUUZMSEhBQy4u&web=1&wdLOR=c9689C1FB-D2EA-4E83-80B1-B742E37F79F7)

e. **Cesar Meza-Esveile, Multicultural Institute**

- Virtual citizenship class (May 28)
- Domestic Worker Group in NFO – looking for more referrals
- Contact info: [cesar@mionline.org](mailto:cesar@mionline.org), 650-339-2794

f. **Sofia Robles, Abode Services**

- Housing programs for undocumented individuals and families
  - o Need to apply to CalWORKs directly
- Contact info: 650-270-5369

g. **Beatriz Sanchez, NFO Library**

- Summer learning program
  - o Children are entered into this program and are eligible to win \$1,000
  - o ESL classes are available in coordination with Canada College

h. **Esmeralda Gonzalez, CLSEPA**

- Free live scans are available – must have a government issued ID
- Contact info: 650-326-6440