

**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**10/20/2022**

**1. Welcome & Introductions: Emily Smith & Jennifer Llamas**

- 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. Engagements**

- i. Local outreach - <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-local-engagements>
  - 1. Oct. 19, 4pm – Asylum Overview
  - 2. Oct. 20, 5pm – Naturalization Information in Spanish
  - 3. Oct. 22, 10am – Naturalization Information
  - 4. Oct. 26, 4pm – Naturalization Information
  - 5. Oct. 29, 10am – Immigration Options for Afghan Parolees
- ii. National outreach - <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements>

- b. **Oct. 19 announced Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exception, for Naturalization Updated to Remove Barriers to Naturalization for Applicants with Disabilities** (<https://www.uscis.gov/n-648>). Based on public comments, revisions include:

- i. Telehealth appointments allowed
- ii. Removing redundant questions
- iii. Remove question about how disability affects the applicant’s daily life
- iv. Removes date of diagnosis, description of severity of each disability, whether the medical professional has a pre-existing relationship with the applicant
- v. Includes an option about the need for the oath waiver process

- c. **Oct. 18 announced Process for Venezuelans to receive Humanitarian Parole** - <https://www.uscis.gov/venezuela>

- i. The process is similar to the Uniting for Ukraine online I-134 process
- ii. Supporters in the United States fill out the online I-134 to show they can financially support a national of Venezuela
- iii. There is a cap of 24,000 Venezuelan beneficiaries right now.

- d. **Sept. 29 announced USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Recipients**

- i. \$20 million in grants to 66 organizations in 25 dates, including IIBA in San Francisco (Congratulations!)
- ii. <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/civic-integration/learn-about-the-citizenship-and-integration-grant-program/fy-2022-grant-recipients>

**3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, Legal Program Director, ILRC**

**a. DACA Update:**

- i. On October 5, 2022 the Fifth Circuit released its opinion regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. In focusing on the 2012 Napolitano Memorandum that created DACA, the court found that the memo was unlawful. However, because the Biden administration created a new DACA final rule that

is set to go into effect on October 31, 2022, the court gave the case back to the lower district court to assess whether the DACA rule is also unlawful.

**ii. Main Takeaways**

1. The litigation is ongoing, and we are now waiting for the District Court to issue a decision on the DACA Final Rule.
2. DACA recipients can continue to submit their renewals and advance parole requests while the litigation continues
3. USCIS has taken the position that they cannot approve applications from persons who have never had DACA or whose DACA has expired for a year or more until the litigation is resolved.
4. Because the final rule is set to take place on October 31, 2022, the Fifth Circuit is urging the lower court to act as soon as possible.
5. It is still unclear what will happen if the district court does not reach a decision before the final rule goes into effect.

**b. Fee Rule Update**

- i. New fee rule expected in early November

**c. Venezuelan Parole/Title 42 Extension - DHS Announcement**

- i. Allows for parole for 24,000 - must have a sponsor
- ii. No parole for those who:
  1. have been ordered removed from the United States in the previous five years;
  2. have crossed without authorization between ports of entry after the date of announcement;
  3. have irregularly entered Mexico or Panama after the date of announcement, or are a permanent resident or dual national of any country other than Venezuela, or currently hold refugee status in any country; or
  4. have not completed vaccinations and other public health requirements.
- iii. Title 42 expulsions of Venezuelans began 10/12 – this means Venezuelan asylum seekers turned away at border
- iv. ILRC press release: <https://www.ilrc.org/biden-administration-must-treat-all-asylum-seekers-border-equally>

**4. Food4All - No Exceptions. No Exclusions: Betzabel Estudillo, Senior Advocate, Nourish CA**

- a. Food4All is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to increasing the health and wellbeing of Californians with low-income by increasing their access to food.
- b. Research and Data:
  - i. 45% of undocumented Californians are currently experiencing food insecurity
  - ii. Young immigrants have highest rates of food insecurity: 64% of undocumented children (nearly 2/3) are affected by food insecurity.  
<https://nourishca.org/food4all-briefs>
- c. SNAP / CalFresh. Every 1\$ spent = \$1.54 economic activity
- d. CFAP (California Food Assistance Program) – created in response to welfare reform. Operates in tandem with CalFresh.
  - i. Currently serves 35,000 people

- ii. Eligible recipients: “qualified” immigrants, lawful temporary residents, victims of trafficking, U visa/interim relief applicants and U visa holders
- e. Most recent win: SB187 Food4All for 55+ included in the state budget in 2022. Implementation TBD.
  - i. CA first in nation to provide food assistance to undocumented immigrants.
- f. Also, successful campaign to expand MediCAL to all statuses (Health4All)
  - i. Medical will be provided to everyone in January 2024
- g. Nourish California partners closely with CA Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
- h. Food4All coalition
  - i. 150 individual contacts
  - ii. 115 member organizations including anti-hunger, anti-poverty, immigrant rights, and other organizations
  - iii. 9 mini-grant partners subgranted by Nourish California
  - iv. Monthly meetings and yearly retreat
- i. Will be doing more advocacy to expand Food4All in 2023. Join Food4All coalition here: <https://nourishca.org/get-involved/state-legislative-advocacy/food4all/>
- j. More information:
  - i. [www.Act.nourishca.org](http://www.Act.nourishca.org)
  - ii. Contact: Betzabel Estudillo [betzabel@nourishca.org](mailto:betzabel@nourishca.org)

## **5. Youth and Family Services from Redwood City Police Department: Jennifer Martinez, Juvenile and Family Services Specialist, Redwood City Police Department**

- a. San Mateo County Tattoo Removal Program
  - i. Created in 1996. Created to remove tattoos of those who had been in gangs.
  - ii. Expanded to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.
  - iii. Referral Process: <https://www.redwoodcity.org/home/showpublisheddocument/24806/637840568662100000>
  - iv. Application requirements
    1. Any age starting at 10 years old (under 18 must have guardian consent)
    2. Complete 20 hours of community service
    3. Attend school, volunteering, and/or working/seeking employment
    4. Agree to background check
  - v. Committed to accuracy, confidentiality and security of personal information.
  - vi. All applicants must complete an application form found on the FCPD and PAL websites and submit it to the Juvenile Specialist via email, fax, mailing it, or dropping it off in person at the PD.
  - vii. Types of tattoos removed: visible, violence-related, anything that poses threat to safety
  - viii. Tattoo removal is free of charge, thanks to volunteer trained medical professionals. Currently looking for more staff.
  - ix. Data:
    1. 2,200 Participants since 1996
    2. 1,000 volunteer hours
    3. 25,000 of community service hours completed by participants

- x. Number of visits required for tattoo removal depends on a variety of factors. Some may be removed in as few as 2 sessions and some may take several more.
- b. Additional Programs:
  - i. Family Intervention (status offenses, such as truancy, running away from home, etc)
  - ii. Truancy Abatement Program
  - iii. Diversion
  - iv. Parent Project 2023
  - v. Internship Program 2023
  - vi. Liaison with the Community and Schools
    - 1. Presentations on Bullying awareness
    - 2. Educating parents on gangs
- c. Contact:
  - i. Jennifer Martinez, Juvenile and Family Services Specialist
  - ii. [jmartinez@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jmartinez@redwoodcity.org) , 650-780-7195

## 6. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates

- a. **United Against Hate Week (Nov. 13-19)**
  - i. Website is published: <https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/united-against-hate-week-2022>
    - 1. Film Screening of Who's Next at San Mateo downtown library
    - 2. Resources for Victims of Crimes and How to Report a Hate Crime (offered in English & Spanish)
  - ii. "San Mateo County Stands United Against" hate posters are available for download or in hard copy! Contact us if you would like a hard copy
- b. **Certified Welcoming**
  - i. County of San Mateo is part of a pilot to receive a tier designation as part of the [Certified Welcoming](#) program
  - ii. We are currently collecting evidence of welcoming practices throughout the county and may be reaching out for support!
- c. **Resource Guides**
  - i. We are currently updating the [Immigrant's Guide to Resources](#); a new version will be available in early 2023 in English, Spanish & Chinese.
- d. **Farmworker Advisory Commission**
  - i. The first meeting of the new [Farmworker Advisory Commission](#) will take place on November 16, 2022 at the Half Moon Bay Library. Community members are invited to attend the meeting and an opening reception.

## 7. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- b. **Maria Rosas, KARA**
  - i. Still accepting enrollments for virtual drop-in support group for Spanish-speaking clients that have had any kind of loss.
  - ii. New support group for adults who have lost a child. Also for Spanish-speaking community. The group will be in person, starting 10/20. Also may have a virtual group starting next week.

- iii. In process of preparing a virtual event for the holidays for people who have experienced loss. <https://kara-grief.org>

**c. Yolanda Ramirez, CFA**

- i. SMC has been awarded crisis care mobile grant.
  - 1. Currently in assessment phase to identify the needs/gaps.
  - 2. Planning to design new crisis response model for youth under 24 in SMC.
  - 3. Next session Oct. 28 from 10-11:30. Anyone can attend to provide input. First 20 to join who are community members/clients BHRS will receive stipend.
  - 4. Another session will occur in Spanish, tentatively Nov. 9 but not confirmed.
- ii. Sana, Sana event
  - 1. This Saturday, 10/22 at Cunha School in HMB 11am-3pm
  - 2. Guest speaker, food, workshops/information about healthy habits, dance/music, activities for children
  - 3. Entire event in Spanish with English interpretation
- iii. Parent Cafes in Spanish
  - 1. Coastside and RWC, will resume in November

**d. Karla Rodriguez, SMCOE**

- i. Cannabis Summit Webinar Series: The Impact of Cannabis on Youth What Should You Know? Cannabis and tobacco industry disproportionately targets immigrant communities. To learn more and register:  
<https://CannabisImpactOnYouth.eventbrite.com>
  - 1. 11/1 – Health Impacts
  - 2. 11/17 – Legalities
  - 3. 3/2 – Youth Panel
  - 4. 3/16 – Brain Development and Academics
  - 5. 4/20 – Lessons Learned

**e. Lilly Quinonez, Sequoia HS District**

- i. Parent project for newcomer families, for parents who are completely new to the country. Helping them acclimate to school and community. Held at Sequoia District office.

**f. Stephanie Perez, Catholic Charities**

- i. Transitioning to new position; will be new attendee from Catholic Charities.