

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
11/17/2022

1. Welcome & Introductions: 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. **Local Outreach:** <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-local-engagements>
 - i. **Nov. 17, 5pm** – Naturalization Session
 - ii. **Nov. 18, 5pm** – Immigration Options for Afghan Parolees
 - iii. **Nov. 29, 12pm** - Asylum Overview
 - iv. **Nov. 29, 5pm** – Immigration and Naturalization for Military Service Members
 - v. **Nov. 30th 4pm** – Naturalization Session in Spanish
- b. **National Outreach:** <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements>
 - i. **Dec. 7 11am** – Refugee Quarterly Stakeholder Engagement
 - ii. **Dec. 13, 11am** – Asylum Quarterly Stakeholder Engagement
- c. **Notes from previous National Engagements**
- d. **Recommendations for Paper Filing to Avoid Scanning Delays**
- e. **Online Filing for Affirmative Asylum** <https://www.uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room>
- f. **All USCIS News on** <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/all-news>
- g. **Recommendations for Paper Filing to Avoid Scanning Delays**
 - i. <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/recommendations-for-paper-filings-to-avoid-scanning-delays>
 - ii. Do not hole punch, staple, paper clip, send photos smaller than 4x6, etc.
- h. **Online Filing for Affirmative Asylum Cases**
 - i. Online filing for affirmative filings with USCIS
 - ii. More information on www.uscis.gov/I-589
- i. **Nov. 14 announcement about TPS and Related Documentation for Certain Beneficiaries of TPS**
 - i. <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/dhs-continues-temporary-protected-status-and-related-documentation-for-certain-beneficiaries-of-tps>
 - ii. TPS beneficiaries under the designations for El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Nepal, as well as the 2011 Haiti designation and the 2013 Sudan designation will retain their TPS while court orders remain in effect, provided they continue to meet all the individual requirements for TPS eligibility. The automatic extension of TPS-related documentation includes specified Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) through June 30, 2024.
- j. **Oct. 31 DACA Final Rule became effective**
 - i. <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/dhs-begins-limited-implementation-of-daca-under-final-rule>
 - ii. USCIS is adjudicating DACA renewals, but not initial DACA filings based on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas

- k. **Oct. 24 announced USCIS Extends COVID-19 Related Flexibilities**
 - i. Requests issued between March 1, 2020 and Jan. 24, 2023
 - ii. <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-extends-covid-19-related-flexibilities-0>
- l. **Oct. 21 announced Designation of Ethiopia for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**
 - i. 18 months of TPS status
 - ii. <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>
- m. **Oct. 20 announced Expedited EADs for Healthcare and Childcare Workers**
 - i. If your initial Employment Authorization (Form I-765) has been pending for over 90 days, you can request expedited processing
 - ii. To determine whether you are a qualifying healthcare worker, see this DHS advisory memorandum ("[Healthcare / Public Health](#)" section, pages 7-9) (PDF). To determine whether you are a qualifying childcare worker, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [Standard Occupational Classification \(SOC\)](#) code 39-9011, which includes workers who "attend to children at schools, businesses, private households, and childcare institutions" and "perform a variety of tasks, such as dressing, feeding, bathing, and overseeing play." (Note that this definition does not include preschool teachers or teaching assistants.)
 - iii. Call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833) to request expedited processing
 - iv. Call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833) to request expedited processing

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

- a. **Dist. Court Vacates Title 42 - Huisha-Huisha v. Mayorkas**
 - i. DC district court invalidates Title 42. Big win! Louisiana case held that the termination was unlawful – that doesn't apply here because DC court found that the Title 42 program itself is unlawful. ACLU is not opposing the government's stay request, so expulsions may not stop immediately. DOJ requested 5 weeks, which take us to 12/21
- b. **New COVID extension policy Oct. 24, 2022:**
 - i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is extending certain COVID-19-related flexibilities through Jan. 24, 2023, to assist applicants, petitioners, and requestors
 - ii. Under these flexibilities, USCIS considers a response received within 60 calendar days after the due date set forth in the following requests or notices before taking any action, if the request or notice was issued between March 1, 2020, and Jan. 24, 2023, inclusive
- c. **ORR Issues Field Guidance for UACs in Need of Reproductive Health Care**
 - i. On November 10, 2022, ORR issued a revised version of field guidance relating to unaccompanied children who request reproductive health care. The guidance confirms that ORR staff and care providers must not prevent an unaccompanied child ("UC") from accessing legal abortion related services and

that ORR staff and care providers must make all reasonable efforts to facilitate access to these services if requested by the UC

- d. **AB 2195**
 - i. Drug nuisance bill
 - ii. Client charged with any sales/possession, DA can offer nuisance as infraction, misdemeanor, or felony PC 370.2
 - iii. Great because have a drug plea that won't make someone inadmissible or deportable
 - iv. Not just for noncitizens – cleaning up draconian war-on-drugs consequences
- e. **AB 2169**
 - i. 2016 CA passed complete defense to trafficking, vacatur if could show conviction was a direct result of trafficking
 - ii. Similar defense and vacatur for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation
 - iii. Serious felonies included
 - iv. Violent felonies not, but coercion and duress are always defenses
- f. **Racial Justice Act**
 - i. Another way to vacate convictions, based on racial animus or bias
- g. **AB 1766**
 - i. State IDs for all
 - ii. Set to go into effect July 1, 2027

4. Social Justice Collaborative: Celebrating Ten Years of Empowerment – Abigail Esquivias, Community Partnerships and Advocacy Director, SJC

- a. **Intro**
 - i. Celebrating 10-year anniversary
 - ii. **Mission:** to ensure low-income immigrants are provided with direct legal services with little to no cost
 - iii. **2500 Mayan Mam speakers served**
 - iv. Represent clients in Central and Northern California
 - 1. **Goal to expand to southern California**
 - v. **Specialize in Deportation Defense**
 - vi. **Affirmative Representation**
 - 1. Represent 100% of eligible children pro bono
 - vii. **Remote clinics**
 - 1. Have online comprehensive training prior to clinic and CLE credits available
 - 2. Represented over 2200 people pro bono and over 2000 minors pro bono

5. San Mateo County Libraries – Community Learning Overview: Araceli Efigenio, Community Program Specialist, San Mateo County Libraries

- a. **Programs**
 - i. Free tutoring for adults

1. One-On-One help with reading and writing
 - a. Read books and the news
 - b. Improve at work
 - c. Pass a test
 - d. Read with your kids and more!
- ii. Free In-person ESL classes starting Dec. 5th
 1. Register: <https://smcl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>
 2. Led by certified teachers
 3. Millbrae location
 - a. Every Monday 6:15PM to 7:45PM
 4. North Fair Oaks location
 - a. Every Monday 5:30PM to 7PM
- iii. English Conversation Clubs
 1. Offered at 6 locations
 2. Tues/Thursday also offered online
 3. **Looking for volunteers and participants!**
- iv. Career Online high school
 1. Free
 2. Get a GED online
- v. Cell Ed
 1. Set of lessons to learn English
- vi. North Fair Oaks Library
 1. Citizenship Learning Circle
 2. Leamos
 3. Free Immigration Presentation by The Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
 - a. Sat., Jan. 28th 11AM to 12PM
- vii. **Free Immigration Workshops at Half Moon Bay Library and North Fair Oaks Library**
 1. **Half Moon Bay:**
 - a. Sunday, Dec. 4th 10AM to 2PM
 2. **North Fair Oaks Library**
 - a. Sunday Jan. 29th 10AM to 2PM
- b. **Looking for AmeriCorps Members to serve at libraries**

6. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates

- a. **United Against Hate Week**
 - i. Proclamation for United Against Hate
- b. **Farmworkers Advisory Commission**
 - i. Had first meeting on Nov. 16th
- c. **Truth Act. Forum**
- d. **Last Immigrant Forum December**
- e. **Certified Welcoming**
 - i. Certified Welcoming presentation at December's Immigrant Forum

7. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- a. **Multicultural Institute**
 - i. Offer a virtual afterschool program SMC
 - ii. GED in Spanish virtual
 - iii. Raffle to support program
 - iv. NFO DEC. 21ST Navidad: Gift giveaway for day labor workers
- b. **Sequoia Union High School District**
 - i. Continue with new parent project and been given computers
- c. **KARA**
 - i. **Recently had workshop on Navegando los dias festivos**
 - ii. **Dec. 8th at 7pm (1.5 hours)**
 - 1. Will be hosting a hybrid (in person and online) service open to everyone. There will be live music and culminate in a special candle lighting ceremony to honor loved ones who have died
 - 2. For those joining online: <https://kara-grief-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYldOmgqTooHdGMHoZfkrEtndqOorfQjSkB>