**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum Meeting Minutes**

**February 15, 2024**

**In Attendance:**

1. Sarah Dewitt-Feldman, Immigrant Services
2. Carolina Salinas, Immigrant Services
3. Alison Kamhi, ILRC
4. Vilaysay “Sai” Phavisith, USCIS
5. Cara Galvis, Job Train
6. Ari Garcia, Puente
7. Sylvia Navarro, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County- LIBRE Project
8. Vanessa Castillo, CORA
9. Jill Hofmann, Red Cross
10. Abdul Azim Zaher, California Department of Social Services
11. Lizeth, Puente
12. Rita Krone, CDSS
13. Kathy C
14. Madisyn Coniglio, JobTrain NFO
15. Arlyn Gorriceta, JobTrain
16. Alyson Suzuki, Co-chair CHI/Unitedly
17. Carla L Vasquez
18. Maria Rosa Ramirez, Kara
19. Emely Garcia, Catholic Charities SF/Outreach
20. Kristina Cox
21. Lizet G. Palma
22. Nazia “Naz” Ali, CDSS/RPB
23. Jessica Rangel-Torres, Family Health Services-CCS
24. Tamara Tarver, HACSM
25. Glen Olson, IIBA
26. Patricia Cervantes, Second Harvest
27. Maria Hernandez, Catholic Charities SF
28. Carla
29. Yolanda Ramirez, BHRS
30. Cristy Dieterich, SF DPH
31. Kelly Younger, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
32. Gabriela Rosales, Community Worker CCS
33. Lilly Quinones, Sequoia Union High School District
34. Marisol Escaler, District 3
35. Pablo Baeza Breinbaur, Oasis Legal Services
36. Rosanne Hitchcock, SSF Unified School District
37. Jessi Ren, Co-chair CHI
38. Shireen Malekafzali, Office of Equity

**Welcome and Introductions**: Sarah Dewitt-Feldman

* 2024 forums to be held from 10:00am-12:00pm virtually (for now) on the following dates: 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21 and 12/19
* Survey to help us improve and work on meaningful programming for 2024.

[Immigrant Forum Feedback - Google Forms](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12jrlpp4w2tycWWXhyRx8BAafF1gVEKj6Dzz884mT-xY/edit)

**Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) Updates:** Alison Kamhi, ILRC

**Final Fee Rule:**

* Fees have not changed since 2016.
* Will be increasing as of April 1st, 2024! More information about the fee changes can be found [here](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/02-24%20Practice%20Alert-USCIS%20publishes%20final%20fee%20rule_final1.pdf).
* Good news about the fee increases: there will be fee exemptions for those who are; survivors of crime, applying for work permit, applying for green card(s), is a family member of those who are survivors, applying for a T-visa or asylum.
* Free webinar to understand the fee rule, to register click [here](https://store.ilrc.org/webinars/uscis-fee-rule-updates-and-changes)

**Public Charge information**:

* Medi-Cal and Public Charge information can be found [here](https://www.ilrc.org/resources/community-alert-2024-medi-cal-expansion-public-charge)

**DACA Information**:

* DACA-no new processing will take place, applications can be filed but will not be processed at this time, for more information on DACA, please click [here](https://www.ilrc.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions-daca)

**Resources from ILRC**:

* For more information that ILRC has to offer visit [here](https://linktr.ee/the_ILRC)

**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Updates**: Sai Phavisith, USCIS

* Virtual public presentation, every Thursday, on how to apply for asylum, how to apply for Temporary Protected Status, how to sponsor family members, and US Citizenship. If an organization is interested in hosting one just for your organization/community, please let reach out to Sai by email at: [Vilaysay.Phavisith@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Vilaysay.Phavisith@uscis.dhs.gov)
* On February 22, there will be a national webinar on the new fee changes. Click [here](https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements/uscis-issues-final-rule-to-adjust-certain-immigration-and-naturalization-fees) for more information and to register.
* Extension and Redesignation of Syria for Temporary Protected Status, Palestinian deferred deportations, and Hong Kong deferred deportations can be found on the SMC Immigrant Services website, click [here](https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/news-updates)
* USCIS Changes Fee Payment Process for Filing In-Person: New process for most applicants, petitioners, and requestors, and their attorneys and accredited representatives to pay for certain benefit request forms by mail or remotely instead of in person at a field office. Under the new process, applicants may mail either a check or Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions, to the field office with their benefit request. Applicants, petitioners, and requestors, and their attorneys and accredited representatives should carefully read the filing instructions to ensure that their benefit request form can be submitted by mail or remotely and that they are filing at the correct location. Any incorrect filings to the applicant, who must then resubmit their filing to the correct office. By eliminating the need for an office appointment, this new process should save time and money for anyone who must pay these fees. An exception to the new process is emergency advance parole (EAP) requests. Applicants submitting Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with an EAP request must still make an appointment with the USCIS Contact Center, apply in person with their package (completed form and supporting documentation), and pay the application fee (if applicable) by credit card with Form G-1450 or check at the field office.
* USCIS Issues Final Rule to Adjust Certain Immigration and Naturalization Fees: Today, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a final rule to adjust certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees for the first time since 2016. The final rule will allow USCIS to recover a greater share of its operating costs and support more timely processing of new applications. The new fees under the final rule will go into effect on April 1, 2024. USCIS encourages stakeholders to visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/frequently-asked-questions-on-the-uscis-fee-rule) page on its website to view a full list of the revised forms that will go into effect on April 1, 2024, along with the new fees. USCIS will accept prior editions of most forms during a grace period from April 1, 2024, through June 3, 2024. During this grace period, USCIS will accept both previous and new editions of certain forms, filed with the correct fee. There will be no grace period for the following new forms, however, because they must be revised with a new fee calculation. Filers should click the [this link](https://www.uscis.gov/forms/all-forms) to access a preview version of each new form edition before the April 1, 2024, effective date. New forms: Form I-129, Form I-129 CW, Form I-140, Form I-600A, Form I-600. USCIS will use the postmark date of a filing to determine which form version and fees are correct but will use the receipt date for purposes of any regulatory or statutory filing deadlines.
* Flyers added here: [Public Charge flyers](https://pifcoalition.org/publiccharge2022) created by a partnering CBO, in 10 different languages. Attached flyers for Webinars with links to register.

**Chinese Community Mental Health Initiative:** Jessie Ren, Co-Chair

* Please see slides attached.
* For more information on Unitedly, please visit [here](https://www.unitedly.org/) . Their powerful video to understand the importance of language and cultural access can be seen [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7Shun80hLM&t=2s)

**Immigrant Services updates: Carolina Salinas**

* In person Mixer 2024! Save the date for 3/21 10am-12pm in Belmont, more information will be sent out soon!
* East Palo Alto Farmers Market every Wednesday starting on April 10th from 830-12. Please see flyer for more information. If you would like to have a table for outreach, please email us to connect you with Isabel, market manager.

**Agency Updates:**

* **Kara**: year-round grief groups, please see flyers attached for more information.
* **Behavioral Health Services (BHRS):** Parent Café in Spanish 2/28 from 4pm-5:30pm in Half Moon Bay, please see flyer for more information.
* **SMC African American Community Initiative**: will be hosting their Free Black History Month celebration this Saturday in EPA, please see flyer for more information.
* **SMC Health**: will be hosting their Café para Padres, please see flyer attached and spread the word to parents interested.
* **IM4HI**: Learn more about [Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity](https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/) and the [New Anchor](https://newanchor.org/) program for hosting refugees and asylum seekers.