

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
12/16/2021

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: Vilaysay “Sai” Phavisith, Community Relations Officer, USCIS

- a. USCIS recently announced that it will automatically extend parole and employment authorization, if applicable, for parolees who timely applied for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) long-term resident status
 - This specific extension of parole applies only to current parolees who timely filed Form I-955, Application for CNMI Long-Term Resident Status, and Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and whose applications remain pending on Dec. 30, 2021
- b. USCIS is temporarily waiving the requirement that the civil surgeon sign Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, no more than 60 days before an applicant files an application for the underlying immigration benefit, until Sept. 30, 2022
- c. USCIS is rescinding a November 2020 policy memorandum requiring interviews of all petitioners filing Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
 - Effective immediately, USCIS will return to making case-by-case determinations on whether to interview Form I-730 petitioners
- d. USCIS is reminding the public that they offer immigration services that may help people affected by unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters, like the severe weather in Kentucky. The following measures may be available on a case-by-case basis upon request:
 - Changing a nonimmigrant status or extending a nonimmigrant stay for an individual currently in the United States. Failure to apply for the extension or change before expiration of your authorized period of admission may be excused if the delay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond your control
 - Re-parole of individuals previously granted parole by USCIS
 - Expedited processing of advance parole requests
 - Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate
 - Consideration of fee waiver requests due to an inability to pay
 - Flexibility for those who received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny but were unable to submit evidence or otherwise respond in a timely manner
 - Flexibility if you were unable to appear for a scheduled interview with USCIS
 - Expedited replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Documents, and Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94)

- Rescheduling a biometric services appointment
- <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>
- e. USCIS just released FY2021 data on major form types, including approvals, denials, and pending applications for citizenship, green cards, family petitions, U visas, and DACA
 - <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/immigration-and-citizenship-data>
- f. Upcoming T visa webinar on 1/27/22 from 11am-12:30pm. T visas are immigration relief options for those who are victims of sexual and labor trafficking and could eventually lead to a green card
 - Register: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCIS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSCIS_514

3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, Supervising Attorney, ILRC

- a. Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) reinstated pursuant to decision from the Fifth Circuit
 - This was Trump-era policy that caused asylum seekers to wait in Mexico until their immigration court hearing
 - It has been widely criticized because of the violence/deprivation immigrants have suffered as they wait for their court hearings
 - Biden rescinded the policy
 - His rescission was challenged in court, and unfortunately the administration was ordered to reinstate the program
- b. No update on potential parole program
 - Reconciliation bill is stalled and has not passed. Hopefully in the new year
- c. Biden administration issued Unified Regulatory Agenda, which is their agenda for what rules they want to pass next
 - Many things on there that might be of interest, including public charge, DACA, new fee rule, SIJS, etc.
- d. Reminder U visa bona fide determination process available – which is new policy whereby people who filed complete U visa petition and have done background check may be able to get work authorization and deferred action in the meantime
 - USCIS erroneously required fees or fee waivers for this process for the first few months this summer and now is issuing refunds

4. Restoring Families Links, a 140-year Red Cross service to reconnect immigrant families: Christine Medeiros, International Regional and Division

Lead, American Red Cross

- a. International Services
 - Origin – Henry Dunant and Clara Barton worked together to start the American Red Cross
- b. The Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement: humanity, impartial, neutral, independent (not part of the US government), voluntary, universal, unity

- c. Services provided: disaster services, service to the armed forces, international services, biomedical, health and safety training
- d. Christine Medeiros – directly restores families
 - Families lost at war or natural disasters
 - Tracing inquires, Red Cross Messages, Attestation, War and Travel Documents
- e. How clients may request help? Email the local office, or partner referral
 - Helpline is (844) 782-9441, online form
<https://redcross.org/reconnectingfamilies>
- f. Partner Outreach: immigrant services – asylees, refugees, migrants, immigrants, resettlement organizations, community centers, government, consulates, universities, hospitals, social justice and victim services
- g. How we can help – refer other organizations, apply online, or directly contact
Christine.medeiros@redcross.org

5. Children at the Border – Community and Hospital Responses: Daniela Rey-Ardila, Latinx Family Resource Program Manager, Stanford Children’s Health & Melanie Ramirez, Program Manager, Stanford Med School Office of Health Equity

- a. Objectives: Explore the needs of an increasing asylum-seeking migrant population. Describe protocol to better identify, screen, and support asylum seeking patients in the clinical setting. Discuss avenues to support asylum seekers transition from impatient to local community setting
- b. Nov 18’- March 20’: 60,000+ asylum seekers sent back to Mexico; March 2020- 22,000 waiting for COVID court hearing; June 21’- MPP Terminated; Dec 6th 21’- MPP reinstated
- c. After 2020, there was a spike in unaccompanied children crossing the border
- d. Pediatrics town hall: July 18, 2019 – from this town hall meeting Families at the Border was created. (a) Hospital response- care for migrants in a hospital and a (b) border response- support migrants at the Cal-Mex border
 - Border Team: identifying partners- refugee health alliance, templo shelter, Dra Psyche Calderon
 - Border Team: Leveraging Our Local Community to Support-(1) Clinical support- 7 medical trips. (2) Public health assessments. (3) Around \$35,000 of support, clinical, and public service. (4) COVID- early education, nutrition (5) COVID- virtual clinical education
 - Next hope- return to Tijuana, COVID permitting, expand mental health support, formalize institutional support
- e. ASYLUM LATINO INITIATIVE (ALI) – hopes to strengthen the IAP (inpatient asylum protocol) to create and implement an inpatient asylum protocol
- f. Case study: undocumented patients lead to limited healthcare access which leads to poor healthcare outcomes. MISSION- To create an **Impatient Asylum Protocol (IAP)** to identify, screen, and address the complex **healthcare needs of asylum seekers** coming from the southern US border

- g. Life in the US Packet (LIUS) packet given once Social Workers approves case
- h. Program Data: IAP was activated 72 times between July 2019- December 2022
- i. What's next? Assessing impact by evaluation the experience and outcome data of patients engaged in the protocol, develop a network of immigration lawyers for consults and referrals, expanding the protocol to the Emergency Department. Be able to be a guidance to physicians to help them better understand special circumstances and how to go about them, incorporating trained university student volunteers to provide coaching on the asylum process
- j. Challenges faced – only one partnership with legal organization for guidance to our teams, no intentional partnerships with community orgs for formal hand off to the community, medical record referral trigger is too general, but we do not want to burden families with questions

6. Help Finding Participants for Stanford Research on Citizenship: Tomás Jiménez, Professor, Department of Sociology, Director, Urban Studies, Stanford University

- a. Asking for support with finding participants for a citizenship survey
 - Speak with those who have had it, or just applied, and what they see as the barriers in applying for citizenship. How they view it as, something as instrumental? Or an emotional attachment? Is it something they do defensively?
- b. A set of questions that are open ended, over Zoom and then sent to analyze
- c. Help better understand how we may provide better support. Help to generate new ideas for other projects, leads to more research to help LPRs find better ramps to citizenship
 - Pay people \$45 for each interview
 - Schedule when it's convenient – interviews in English, Spanish, and Mandarin and are anonymous
- d. Can work together with organizations and be able to spread out flyers when the time comes

7. Office of Community Affairs Updates

- a. San Mateo County Sheriff no longer responding to ICE inmate transfer requests
- b. The Office of Community Affairs has been continuing our Spotlight Series event on the San Mateo County Facebook
- c. Immigrant Inclusion Strategic Plan survey is in progress
- d. Choose Local app being initiated throughout North Fair Oaks – working on a better approach to help usage

8. Agency Update Roundtable

- a. LIBRE: hiring – <https://www.legalaidsmc.org/job-opportunities>