

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
8/18/2022

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. Aug. 24, 5:30pm – Overview of Petitioning for Relatives using Form I-130
 - 2. Aug. 30, 6pm – Naturalization Session in Mandarin
 - 3. Sept will have more presentations about Affirmative Asylum, Options for Afghans, and Naturalization Sessions.
 - 4. *If you would like another topic or an in-person session, please let me know!*
- ii. National outreach: <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements>
 - 1. Aug. 25, 11am Pacific time - Military Resources
 - 2. Aug. 31, 10am – Setting up a Mock Interview Program (I'm presenting)
 - 3. Aug. 31, 11am – Refugee Processing Quarterly Engagement
 - 4. Sept. 1, 12pm – Operation Allies Welcome and Ongoing Support for Afghan Nationals

b. Operations Allies Welcome (OAW) – Afghan arrivals

- i. Effective July 20, 2022, Afghan nationals seeking a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) must file Form DS-157, Petition for Special Immigrant Classification for Afghan SIV Applicants, with the Department of State (DOS) when applying for Chief of Mission (COM) approval. This replaces the previous two-step process where Afghan nationals must first seek COM approval from DOS and then apply for SIV classification by filing Form I-360 with USCIS. For more information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immg-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html>
- ii. During Operation Allies Welcome, many Afghans who arrived as part of the evacuation efforts were paroled into the United States and applied for and received an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Certain EADs with a validity period of less than 2 years are now being automatically extended to align with the parole period shown on the beneficiary's Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record. Affected beneficiaries will receive an I-797C, Notice of Action, indicating that DHS is extending that individual's EAD to align with the parole period shown on their Form I 94. More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals>

c. Uniting for Ukraine

- i. Aug. 10 Announcement: All beneficiaries aged 6 months or more must indicate that they received 1 dose of the COVID19 vaccine to receive the travel authorization to enter the United States as a parolee in their online account under the vaccine attestations. After arrival in the United States, they must indicate in their online account that they completed or will be fully vaccinated within 90 days of arrival or within 90 days of reaching the eligible age for vaccination, unless they are eligible for an exception. (No documents need to be uploaded.) More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/updated-covid-19-vaccination-requirements-for-uniting-for-ukraine-parolees>

d. Parolees filing for Employment Authorization Online

- i. July 28 Announcement: Certain parolees can now file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, online. Most individuals paroled into the United States for urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit purposes under INA 212(d)(5) are eligible to seek employment authorization under category (c)(11). *However, applicants seeking a waiver of the filing fee or those eligible for a fee exemption, such as Afghan nationals paroled through Operation Allies Welcome and filing an initial Form I-765, must continue to submit Form I-765 by mail.* More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/parolees-can-now-file-form-i-765-online>

e. Delays for Receipt Notices of Asylum Applications

- i. July 28 Announcement: USCIS is currently experiencing delays in issuing receipts for Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal. Due to these delays, you may not receive a receipt notice in a timely manner after you properly file your Form I-589. *For purposes of the asylum one-year filing deadline, affirmative asylum interview scheduling priorities, and Employment Authorization Document eligibility based on a pending asylum application, your filing date will still be the date that we received your properly filed Form I-589 (not the date we processed it).* If you do not receive your receipt notice in a timely manner, **please do not submit multiple Forms I-589**, as this may further delay your case. More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/information-on-form-i-589-intake-and-processing-delays>

f. COVID19 Flexibilities for Responding to Information Requests Extended to Oct. 23, 2022

- i. July 25 Announcement: Certain COVID-19-related flexibilities are extended through Oct. 23, 2022, to assist applicants, petitioners, and requestors. Under these flexibilities, USCIS considers a response received within 60 calendar days after the due date set forth in the requests or notices (such as RFEs and NOIDs) before taking any action, if the request or notice was issued between March 1, 2020, and Oct. 23, 2022 (date on the top of the letter). This policy is not written

on the RFE, NOID or other request or notice from USCIS. It is only indicated on this webpage: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-extends-covid-19-related-flexibilities>

- g. Interview Requirement Change for Family Based Green Card Cases in the United States**
 - i. Applicants in the United States that applied for a green card based on a petition from a family member (aka family-based adjustment of status using Form I-485) will no longer be automatically scheduled for an interview. Instead, their case will be assessed to determine if an interview is required. The change provides a more efficient method to adjudicate applications, particularly when there is no need for an applicant to present themselves in person, while maintaining program integrity, devoting interview resources to applications where an interview is necessary to verify or obtain additional information about the applicant to determine adjustment of status eligibility.

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

- a. Climate Bill passes without any anti-immigrant amendments!**
- b. CBP Warns of Scammers Posing as U.S. Border Patrol Agents and CBP Officers**
 - i. On August 10, 2022, CBP released a warning on its website, regarding a [telephone scam](#) targeting residents nationwide. Individuals who receive calls receive a pre-recorded message, stating that “a box of drugs and money being shipped has your (callers) name on it and it has been intercepted.” The callers are then instructed to press #1 to speak with a CBP officer/agent. CBP is urging anyone who receives these calls to report them to the Federal Trade Commission online at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft/identity-theft-report).
- c. District Court Vacates Injunction that Required Biden to Re-Implement MPP**
 - i. In accordance with the U.S. Supreme Court’s 6/30/22 ruling in [Biden v. Texas](#), on 8/8/22, U.S. District Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk of the Northern District of Texas vacated the permanent injunction issued on 8/13/21 that had required DHS to reimplement the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) in good faith. [DHS issued a statement](#) welcoming the decision and stating that it will end MPP in a quick and orderly manner. According to DHS, individuals are no longer being newly enrolled in MPP, and individuals currently in MPP in Mexico will be disenrolled when they return for their next scheduled court date.
- d. SF City Attorney’s Office Sues Leonard Lacayo**
 - i. On Thursday, August 11, 2022, the SF City Attorney’s Office [announced](#) that it had filed a motion to extend an injunction against the notario Leonard Lacayo, in order to prohibit him from offering legal services to the immigrant community. Even though Lacayo had already been enjoined from providing legal services, in accordance with a [settlement agreement reached in 2017](#), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reported that over 400 immigration applications and petitions had been filed with Lacayo’s business address post-

injunction. Aside from extending the injunction, the City Attorney is also seeking penalties, fees and access to the business's transaction records.

e. A Pathway to Lawful Permanent Residence for Afghan Evacuees—Bipartisan Legislation Introduced

- i. [Bipartisan legislation](#) has been introduced in both houses of U.S. Congress to establish a path to lawful permanent residence for thousands of Afghan evacuees admitted to the United States on humanitarian parole, which typically only lasts for up to two years. The legislation would permit those evacuees to apply for lawful permanent residence, provided that they submit to additional background checks. The bill, introduced on August 9, 2022, would also expand eligibility for Special Immigration Visas (SIVs) beyond Afghans who worked for the U.S. government to those who fought alongside U.S. forces as commandoes and air force personnel, and to women who served in special counterterrorism teams.

4. Stanford Asylum Collaborative: Julia Mancini, Doctoral Student in Clinical Psychology & Max Clary, MD Candidate

- a. Group of Stanford Medical School faculty and medical/clinical psychology students whose goal is to provide medical evaluations.
- b. Evaluations conducted with faculty member and student. Faculty member will sign off on evaluation.
- c. Semi-structured interview
 - i. History of client
 - ii. Potential symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, depression
- d. Almost all asylum seekers need to undergo psychological assessment as part of their case. Increases chances of winning case.
- e. 90% of applicants with psychological evaluation win their cases
- f. Fill out [Intake Form](#) to request service from Stanford Asylum Collaborative
 - i. Intake form goes through secure network
 - ii. Evaluation will schedule within 1-2 weeks
 - iii. Evaluations take about 2 hours (psychological evaluations via Zoom)
 - iv. After evaluation, letter will be received in about 3 weeks
- g. Language: capacity for Spanish language interpretation. No other interpretation provided.

5. The Hidden Dream: Shiksha Sneha, Executive Director and Co-Founder

- a. Visa dreamer: brought to US at a young age on a dependent visa.
- b. When they turn 21 their visa expires. Either they must switch to a different visa (which is challenging), get deported, or become undocumented
- c. 200,000 visa dreamers (primarily come from India, China, Philippines and Mexico)
- d. Challenges:
 - i. Do not qualify for in-state tuition
 - ii. Not eligible for financial aid
 - iii. No work permit

- iv. Restricted from some colleges and areas of study
- v. Cannot leave an abusive household situation
- vi. Cannot travel
- vii. Difficulty obtaining DL and IDs
- viii. At 21 face deportation
- e. The Hidden Dream resources
 - i. Dependent Visa Survival Guide
 - ii. Scholarship list without immigration requirements
 - iii. Fundraising to give out scholarships
 - iv. Partner with Mpower to create a dependent visa fund
 - v. College Mentorship Circle and College Workshops
 - vi. Job referral network and career mentorship circle
 - vii. Mental health resources

6. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates

- a. **Farmworker Advisory Commission**
 - i. Recruitment window has been extended until Sept. 2
 - ii. Applications/flyers can be found here: www.farmworkercommission.org
- b. **Welcoming Week:** www.tinyurl.com/SMCwelcome2022
 - i. Drop-in Immigration Law Clinics (in-person): Saturday 9/17 in NFO and Sunday 9/18 in HMB
 - ii. Summit on 9/15 at 1pm
 - iii. No Immigrant Forum 9/15
- c. **Outreach Team**
 - i. Small business grants
 - ii. Middlefield Road Improvement Project outreach

7. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- b. **Maria Rosas, KARA**
 - i. Regional Conference
 - ii. Grupo Familiar Fall 2022
- c. **Cesar Meza-Esveile, Multicultural Institute**
 - i. Offering virtual citizenship classes.
 - ii. Raffle for Giants game
 - iii. Virtual Mentorship program for kids
- d. **Karla Rodriguez, SMCOE**
 - i. Will be promoting the events that county is hosting for Welcoming Week
 - ii. Will be providing tips for helping students feel welcome at schools
- e. **Sylvia Navarro, LIBRE Project**
 - i. Going on maternity leave for next 6 months
- f. **Rita Krone, CDSS Refugee Programs Bureau**
 - i. The Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) is continuing our biweekly Ukrainian Statewide Community Convenings (USCC), which provide a space for Ukrainian community and faith-based organizations, sponsor families, and government

agencies to share information and collectively address the challenges of the present and future arrival of Ukrainian evacuees to California. Our next convening is scheduled for Wednesday August 31st at 11am. You can register for the Convenings at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-mspj8pHdWlp6an4ZR28uGWwtP7mhp2> . Any questions can be addressed to RPBTTAU@dss.ca.gov