# San Mateo County Immigrant Forum

**Meeting Notes**

**8/17/2023**

1. **Welcome & Introductions: Sarah Feldman**
	1. Thank you to all for joining us on Zoom. The Immigrant Forum will be held virtually until further notice.
2. **Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, Legal Program Director, ILRC**
	1. California AB1261
		1. This is a proposed bill to strengthen access to certifications for survivors of crime, which is necessary to apply for certain visa.
		2. Hearing is scheduled for Aug 31st, 2023.
	2. Asylum Litigation
		1. As of July 25th, 2023, a federal judge issued a decision blocking the asylum rule implemented by the Biden administration which allows immigration officials to deny asylum to immigrants arriving at the US Mexico border due to not applying for an appointment by the CBP One App or seeking asylum in a county they went through on their way to the southern US border. The government appealed the ruling, and the Ninth Circuit stayed the district court’s decision, which means the rule is currently in effect.
		2. The process of applying for humanitarian protection has become less accessible for those who did not or could not get an appointment through the app.
		3. More information can be found [here](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10146/circumvention-of-lawful-pathways#:~:text=The%20rule%20encourages%20migrants%20to,exploit%20migrants%20for%20financial%20gain.).
3. **USCIS Updates: Jesse Castro, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, USCIS**
4. Text messaging info
	1. USCIS issued text messages before doing call backs from their call center to alleviate and help clients plan for the call beforehand.
	2. Response has been great, and clients appreciate the text so that they can plan to receive the call.
5. Family Reunification Process
	1. Family reunification parole (FRP) processes are by invitation only to certain petitioners who filled an approved Form I-130 on behalf of a principal beneficiary who is a national of Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, or Honduras and their immediate family members.
	2. More information can he found [here](https://www.uscis.gov/FRP).
6. **Adult-Education, College, Career, Educational Leadership (ACCEL): Dr. Ka’Ryn Holder-Jackson, Executive Director, ACCEL**
	1. Introduction
		1. Organized in 2015.
		2. ACCEL is for “Adult, College, Career, and Educational Leadership.”
		3. Mission statement: Improve education and career outcomes of adult learners in College, Careers and Community.
		4. Vision statement: To help students get from where they are to where they want to be by creating pathways to success.
		5. Core principles: student centered, transparency of process, innovation and promising practices, capacity building, collaborative learning and stakeholders’ relationships/collaboration.
		6. Funded by California Adult Education Program or CAEP.
		7. They are 1 out of 71 consortia in California.
	2. Programs:
		1. Programs for Immigrates
			1. English as a Second Language classes
		2. Adult Basics/Adult Secondary Education
			1. High School Diploma/GED
		3. Workforce Preparation
			1. Career Technical Education Programs
			2. Skills in demand
			3. High employment potential
		4. Pre-Apprenticeship Training
		5. Programs for Adults
			1. Designed to develop knowledge skills.
			2. Assist Elementary & Secondary children/youth succeed academically in school.
		6. Program for Adults with Disabilities
	3. Consortia Members:
		1. Adult schools: Jefferson adult education, SSF Adult education, San Mateo adult and career education, La Costa adult education and Sequoia adult school.
		2. Workforce & additional education members: Nova Job Works and San Mateo County office of Education.
		3. Community College: Skyline College, College of San Mateo and Cañada College.
	4. Consortium Structure:
		1. See slide deck.
	5. Strategic Focus:
		1. CAEP Program Areas: Programs for Immigrants, Adult basic/adult Secondary education, Workforce preparation-apprenticeship training, programs for adults, programs for adults with disabilities.
		2. ACCELS Program areas: Programs for Immigrants, HSD/GED/HSE and Career technical education (CTE).
	6. Data
		1. There are 6,598 families in SMC that live below federal poverty line (FPL).
		2. There are 4,318 families that live below the FPL.
		3. Some stats: individuals with lower educational achievement more likely to work in low wage jobs.
		4. Nearly 30% of low wage workers in SMC are between ages 25-64 years of age.
		5. 1/3 of low wage workers in SMC reside in households whose income is below the 200% FPL.
	7. Focus: Career Training Programs in Medical/Healthcare and Business and Technology.
	8. Future: Strategic Planning and letter of intent to apply.
	9. Questions? Contact:
		* 1. Dr. Ka’Ryn Holder Jackson
			2. Email – kholderjackson@smuhsd.org
			3. Office: 650-558-2111
			4. Slide deck



* + 1. Stay connected:
			1. Website: [Adult Education in San Mateo County | ACCEL New Future (newfuturesanmateo.com)](https://newfuturesanmateo.com/)
1. **Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates**
	1. We have been in full force of Measure K listening sessions and outreach for Measure K surveys this month.
		1. To find a Measure K listening session in all County districts, please visit this [link](https://www.smcgov.org/media/144987/download?inline=).
	2. Welcoming Week planning is in pending approval stage. Please look out for any flyers or information regarding Welcoming Week from Immigrant Services. Welcoming week this year is from September 8th-17th.
2. **Agency Update Roundtable**
	1. Maria Rosas – KARA
		1. Virtual drop-in support group in Spanish every other Thursday for any loss till September 7, 2023, from 6 pm – 7:30 pm
		2. For more information contact Maria Rosas at 650-313-2485, text 408-320-9033, or email maria@kara-grief.org
			1. To sign up, click [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOYlVTUrEKyIdt8T7vjc20YLJpoMURl76-_daptaQxzm8ptg/viewform).