

**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**3/18/2021**

**1. Welcome & Introductions – Immigrant Services Team**

- 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**

- a. Public Charge final rule from August 2019 is no longer being applied as of March 9, 2021
  - USCIS is following the previous 1999 guidance about public charge
  - See <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/public-charge>
- b. TPS has been designated for [Venezuela](#) and Burma. It was also extended for Syria
  - See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>
- c. USCIS has reverted to the previous 2008 civics test
  - Naturalization applicants at their interviews will be answering questions from 2008 civics test; the new 2020 test is gone
  - See <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>
- d. Biometrics are being reused for certain applications and certain applicants
  - An applicant will receive a letter that their biometrics are being reused and they do not need to go to the Application Support Center for a biometrics appointment
  - This is happening often for naturalization applicants
  - The biometrics fee is not refunded even if the biometrics are reused because the biometrics fee covers more than just collection; it also pays for biometric processing and background checks
- e. There is about a 6-week delay for the Lockbox to send receipt notices
  - This will not change the receipt date
  - See <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-lockbox-updates>
- f. There are webinars every Wednesday at 4pm on various immigration topics

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

- a. BIA Appellate Procedures Rule
  - Rule governing many aspects of immigration court and appellate procedure, known as the "Death to Due Process Rule," was blocked by a court in the Northern District of California
- b. There is a surge of unaccompanied minors at the border
  - Moffett Field in Mountain View, CA is under consideration to house minors temporarily in the barracks
  - There are many environmental concerns with Moffett Field (NASA site)
  - Moffett Field is also federal land, so while it may be an easy solution logistically to house kids, it will be out of jurisdiction of the state
  - SIREN in San Jose has protested, and ILRC wants a more humane solution – release kids to guardians
  - Red Cross has been supplying phones/shelters

- More about Moffett Field:  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/local/article/Moffett-Field-in-Mountain-View-may-be-used-as-16016637.php>

c. Q/A

Q: How many unaccompanied minors are at the border?

A: There were 9,457 unaccompanied minors detained at the border in February.

Q: Are the minors at the border arriving alone, or are they being separated?

A: CDC closed its borders due to COVID-19 to all, *except* for unaccompanied minors for humanitarian reasons. Because of this, adults are being left behind. Red Cross is helping in reunification efforts.

Q: Does it matter how a person entered the US in order to qualify for Venezuelan TPS?

A: It does not matter how a person entered the country. Legal Aid is working with low-income Venezuelan residents in San Mateo County to help them apply.

#### 4. Office of Community Affairs Updates

- The Community Crew continues to distribute masks 4 times a week to high COVID-19 positivity rate locations
  - Follow @SMC\_CommAffairs on IG/Twitter to see all locations
- The Immigrant Services team continues to host the monthly virtual Provider Spotlight Series every second Wednesday of the month at 5pm on the County of San Mateo's Facebook
  - April will cover immigration
- The Immigrant Services team is currently mapping out the Gateways for Growth Steering Committee and Subcommittee framework
  - Will reach out to Immigrant Forum soon
- Canvassing efforts are taking place weekly in different cities/towns in San Mateo County to help spread the word on local pop-up neighborhood vaccination sites
  - To be added to the canvassing volunteer list, please email [jllamas@smcgov.org](mailto:jllamas@smcgov.org) or fill out this form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9zhvQHcQDSAahnTUDM-vLz6cFpvLaUW6B1bIPtN6lij-MuQ/viewform>
- To be added to the weekly Communications Calendar our office creates for COVID-19 related posts and graphics, email [mgosch@smcgov.org](mailto:mgosch@smcgov.org)
- Our office is seeking people to participate in our COVID-19 Community Campaign and send us videos relaying any topics related to COVID (i.e. testing, face coverings, vaccine, social distancing, etc.)

#### 5. Agency Update Roundtable

- Catholic Charities:** Initial DACA consultations are held every first Wednesday of the month. For consultations, please call 415-972-1372 or visit <https://www.catholiccharitiessf.org/what-we-do/immigration/center.html>
- SF Refugee Health:** New asylee orientations (<http://sf-cairs.org/asylum-orientation/>) have moved to a virtual platform every first Tuesday of the month – while meant for new asylees, it's open to all immigrants as the information presented includes such items as how to get healthcare and CalFresh and also a Q/A; Health Services for

those with Asylum status within 8 months and MediCal in SM within 30 days, referral form for Refugee Health Assessment <https://tinyurl.com/SF-Ref-Health>

- c. **Latino Collaborative:** Save-the-date: *Sana, Sana, Colita de Rana* virtual event Wednesday, March 31 from 4-6pm
- d. **CLSEPA:** Visit [www.youarecommunity.org](http://www.youarecommunity.org) for info on tenant protections, including a link to the new state COVID-19 rental assistance, or go to [https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/covid\\_rr/index\\_esp.html](https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/covid_rr/index_esp.html)
- e. **Puente:** Helping people apply for the new state COVID-19 rental assistance – people can apply for state rental assistance even if they already received assistance from local core agency. Tenant can apply for up to 25% of back-owed rent between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020. Tenant + landlord can apply for up to 80% (this means landlord agrees and will forgive remaining 20%)
- f. **Legal Aid:** For Immigration help (U visa, VAWA, DACA, SIJ and TPS for Venezuelans), call the LIBRE hotline at Legal Aid 650-517-8936 – please note callers will hear classical music instead of a ring tone when they call (looking into that); Immigrant Relief Fund: still accepting applications – one application per household, may change that in future
- g. **ILRC:** Hiring: <https://www.ilrc.org/working-at-the-ilrc-old>