

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
February 20th, 2020

1. **Welcome & Introductions-Immigrant Services Team**
 - a) The next forum will be held on 3/19 at new time from 10 am to 12 pm at Office of Education
 - b) There is a new section on our website dedicated to the immigrant forum where you can find all the agendas, minutes, and pertaining documents.
cmo.smcgov.org/immigrant-services

2. **USCIS Updates-Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services**
 - a) The final rule regarding the public charge came out last week. The updated information will be available early next week on the USCIS website.
 - b) Starting Monday, February 24, the new rule on public charge goes into effect. The rule applies to people applying for adjustment of status for a green card or admission to the United States (from abroad, generally). A new [Form I-944](#) (Declaration of Self-Sufficiency) will need to be filed with the Form I-485 adjustment of status, starting 2/24/20, for cases where public charge applies. The inadmissibility (the idea of being a public charge to the government) does not apply to several immigrant categories: VAWA, asylees, refugees, U-visa, T-visa, Special Immigrant Juveniles, Special Immigrant Visas (Afghan and Iraqi interpreters), NACARA, Lautenberg and others listed on the instructions for the Form I-944
 - c) If you have any questions regarding the public charge rule, you can call or email Nina Sachdev. USCIS is collecting the questions, and hopefully will have a question and answer page on the website. (Email: SFSJ.CommunityRelations@uscis.dhs.gov. Phone Number:415-243-6646)

3. **Legal Updates-Allison Kamhi, Supervising Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center**
 - a) There is now a final rule for Public Charge. There will be new forms and it will not be retroactive.
 - b) Also, proposed changes for both fee waivers and fee changes are not in effect.
 - c) A new trend that's been noticed is that every space on an application is filled out. There have been cases denied due to leaving a field on an application blank.
 - d) Q&A
Q: Are parents who are undocumented affected when they apply for a US child's benefits?
A: It could be considered in the big picture. It is not a negative factor by itself. The rule does not apply to the person who is eligible to receive it. The legal recipient of the benefits does not have a problem.

Q: Can families still apply for fee waivers?
A: The landscape is changing ever day. For those who are eligible, I would encourage them to go apply now.

Q: For DACA recipients, if they have family emergencies and need to leave the country, can they still reenter?

A: Advanced Parole is no longer an option for DACA recipients to leave and reenter legally. They will have to find another legal way to leave and reenter the country.

Q: Because of public charge rule, have you seen people are scared to apply for benefits? A: We are fortunate here in bay area. We have so many public education Campaigns to make sure people are aware of their rights. You can also connect with San Mateo County Office of Community Affairs. Our office is under county manager's office. We have monthly calls to have an update on the public charge policy. We have public charge information on our website and Hope from legal aid have also trained our staff on public charge. Our office has been the call center for public charge, and we are able to answer some basic public charge questions and will refer them to legal services for further questions.

4. Presentation: San Mateo County Human Trafficking Program-Pamela Estes, Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator San Mateo County of San Mateo (For more detailed information, please see PowerPoint located on [Immigrant Services Website](#))

- a) SMC Human Trafficking Program gives every stakeholder the opportunity to get involved, creates a network to identify victims, helps leverage individual efforts for the county, promote information sharing and collaboration, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12:30 -2pm Belmont Sports Complex
- b) The crime of human trafficking (definition)
 - i. Sex trafficking of minors
 - ii. Sex trafficking of adults
 - iii. Labor trafficking
- c) Trafficking victim's protection Act 2000
- d) Relief specific to immigrant community (benefits programs available: temporary assistance for needy families, refugee cash assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance program, women, infants and children....)
- e) The Crime of Human Trafficking: Who are victims?
 - i. Foreign nationals
 - ii. Native born
 - iii. All gender identities
 - iv. Adults
 - v. Children
- f) The crime of Human Trafficking: Who are Traffickers?
 - i. Diverse
 - ii. Individuals/Networks
 - iii. Manipulators/Exploiters

- g) The Crime of Human Trafficking: Supply & Demand Model: No demand, No Supply
- h) Human Trafficking Statistic state and local
 - i. CA 208: 4,395 + contacts, 1656 human trafficking cases
 - ii. San Mate County: 2015-2017, 103 victims served in the county, between April 2018 to-date: Over 100 victims identified
- i) Barriers to reporting the crime
 - i. Cultural differences
 - ii. Lack of awareness about resources
 - iii. Isolation
 - iv. Debt
 - v. Language
 - vi. Emotional attachment to trafficker
 - vii. Shame
 - viii. Fear, intimidation
 - ix. Distrust of law enforcement
 - x. Resources tied to trafficker
- j) Contact information for follow up questions or connections.
 - a) Pamela Estes, Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator
pestes@smcgov.org
 - b) John Vanek, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator jvanek@smcgov.org

5. Office of Community Affairs Updates: Jasmine Hartenstein

- a) Immigrants' gateway to resources booklet is available in English, Spanish & Chinese. You can complete the form on [our website](#) to obtain copies of the second edition of this great community resource
- b) March 7th citizenship Workshop hosted by Immigration Institute of the Bay Area at Woodside High School
- c) Census kick off event Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Community Space, 801 Jefferson Redwood city, on March 26th from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- d) Census posters in multiple languages available in the office. Feel free to request!

6. Agency Updates Roundtable

- a) Parent Café, a drop-in group for parents of children with mental health and behavioral problems happening in Half Moon Bay, Redwood City and South San Francisco
- b) Monthly meeting of Latino collaborative, first Tuesday of every month
- c) Census kick off events on April 1st!
 - a. City of Half Moon Bay
 - b. Puente 11am-12pm at Ides Hall
 - c. South San Francisco Public Library 4pm-5pm at the Library