

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
7/22/2021

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. Legal Updates: Andrew Craycroft, ILRC

- a. DACA Ruling
 - Federal Judge Andrew Hanen from Texas found the DACA program invalid
 - Although the ruling technically seeks to invalidate the entire DACA program, DACA was partly stayed meaning new DACA applications are blocked, but current DACA recipients can continue to renew
 - Because initial DACA petitions just began again, there are over 80,000 pending petitions with USCIS
 - Biden Admin will appeal, but case may go to a circuit that hasn't had much success with the DACA program
 - USCIS has not yet released updated guidance but says that it will take steps to comply with ruling. Currently filed new DACA apps will remain pending during that time
- b. ICE Directive: Identification and Monitoring of Pregnant, Nursing, and Postpartum Individuals
 - ICE should not detain, arrest, or take into custody individuals known to be pregnant, postpartum, or nursing for an administrative violation of the immigration laws, unless release is prohibited by law or exceptional circumstances exist
 - Does not extend to decision to initiate removal proceedings
 - In case of detention, ICE is to ensure individuals are placed in appropriate setting and monitor their health as well as provide pre/post-natal care as well as health and mental health care
 - Policy states that restraint should only be used under extraordinary circumstances and never during labor or delivery. Individuals should never be restrained in a face-down position with four-point restraints, on their back, or in a restraint belt that constricts the area of the pregnancy
- c. Attorney General Garland issued a decision in [*Matter of Cruz-Valdez*](#) overruling the 2018 attorney general decision [*Matter of Castro-Tum*](#) and thereby restoring the authority of immigration judges to administratively close cases nationwide
 - The former decision had been used by the Trump Admin to strip immigration judges of their authority to administratively close cases, thereby forcing more cases to remain in the backlog and clog the immigration courts
 - By vacating the former decision, the Attorney General has restored a key tool used by immigration judges for decades to manage dockets and increase efficiency
 - Admin closure played an important role because of how removal proceedings are structured. A lot of relief is only available outside the immigration court

and takes time (whether it's SIJS requiring order from state juvenile court, or an application to USCIS which takes time to process or is subject to a waitlist like the U visa). Admin Closure has been a tool to, among other things, ensure that people who are eligible for status aren't deported while they're waiting for their case to process

d. Matter of A-B- vacatur

- CGRS announced that their client, Ms. A-B-, the woman at the center of the Trump administration's attack on asylum was granted asylum on July 14. Ms. A-B-, whose case was selected by AG Jeff Sessions for his ruling in Matter of A-B-, which is now vacated, finally won her case after years of being in limbo
- Although A-B- was vacated, as mentioned at the last legal update, there are still harmful barriers to gender-based asylum claims, notably last year's ~~Matter of A-C-A-A~~. ***Update*** The Attorney General vacated Matter of A-C-A-A- on July 26

e. Q/A

- Q: What does the new DACA ruling mean for new pending applications?
A: Applications are not being rejected or denied, they are "on hold"
Q: Have any of the initial DACA recipients from 2012 become U.S. Citizens?
A: Not through DACA itself, as there is no direct pathway, but perhaps through other avenues
Q: What are the next steps for the DACA program?
A: The new ruling will be appealed to the 5th Circuit, however the 5th Circuit has not been the friendliest with DACA; may go up to Supreme Court

3. Office of Community Affairs Updates

- Efforts are underway in finalizing the survey that will be distributed to immigrant residents as part of the San Mateo County Immigrant Integration and Inclusion Strategic Plan. Partners are still welcome to sign on as a Community Engagement Team <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G4GTeams>
- The mask mobile has shifted to assist residents with signing up for vaccine clinics in low vaccinated areas in Redwood City, NFO and East Palo Alto
- The Immigrant Services Provider Spotlight Series continue monthly – August will focus on education. All past Spotlight Series starting from November of 2020 can be found on our webpage <https://cmo.smcgov.org/community-engagement-efforts>

4. Office of U.S. Senator Alex Padilla Constituent Services Presentation: Zahra Hajee, Roberto Arteaga & Rimon Hossain, Office of U.S. Senator Alex Padilla

- See PowerPoint for information

5. Agency Update Roundtable

- Multicultural Institute:** Hiring a part-time position working with domestic workers in NFO; New Executive Director has been hired, Mirna Servantes, following Father Rigo's retirement

- b. **Red Cross:** Many in-person services have resumed as wildfire season approaches, including smoke detector installations. Also is conducting Hands-only CPR classes at Puente
- c. **CLSEPA:** Immigration consultations are still happening
- d. **Legal Aid Society:** August 10, 5:30-7pm is LIBRE Project's client forum to learn about immigration, housing, and public benefits
- e. **NEMS:** Pushing youth vaccinations; COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Line at 415-213-1971
- f. **Upwardly Global:** Hiring a Program Director for San Francisco
<https://www.idealists.org/en/nonprofit-job/50f5e67da1e64abcb2bf575c9112eae1-program-director-upwardly-global-inc-san-francisco>
- g. **SMCOE:** Hiring a Coordinator for English Learner Support Services
<https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1431099> ;
SMCOE is interested in promoting and partnering with community resources supporting undocumented and uninsured families and children via website, social media and text campaign with over 3k families with young children. Specially interested in mental and emotional health services. Please email krodriguez@smcoe.org ;
SMCOE Resources for immigrants: <https://www.smcoe.org/for-families/parent-resources/resources-for-immigrant-families.html>
- h. **BHRS:** The ACCESS line has delays – taking a few weeks before returning phone calls; if it's an emergency, call 911