



Legal Services Committee
March 17, 2022

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Amy Johnson	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Mary McFaden	D.A.'s Office- DVD
Shantel Davis	Family Ties
Jessica Howton	Tahirih Justice Center
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih Justice Center

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Thecia Jenkins and Amy Johnson provided a training update. The Sub-Committee has planned a series of trainings for advanced advocates on how to screen cases and make the most appropriate referral. The series will be titled- "Advanced Legal Advocacy Services- Protective Order Assessment and Referral". The first one will be on March 31st at 10:00 am and the speaker will be Leeja Thomas from the D.A.'s Office DVD. Amy Johnson and Jacklyn Guerra will be co-hosts and moderators of the training. The next one will be on April 28th with invited speakers from Lone Star Legal and AVDA. The last one will be on May 26th with invited speakers from TxFNE, Texas Legal Services and South Texas College of Law. Amy Johnson and Jacklyn Guerra will record a PO 101 video that can be viewed on demand since these trainings are for advanced advocates.

Tahirih has hired a Social Service Associate but is still looking for a Development person and a Policy person. The Crime Victim Working Group on Immigration is finalizing plans for a training geared toward Attorneys familiar with the UVisa. Representatives from HPD, HCSO and the D.A.'s Office will be presenting on their policies. Once the training has been finalized, they will send out the flyer for it.

Family Ties announced their Annual Bike Ride will be held on April 23rd.

Amy Smith announced HCDVCC's upcoming series of Deliberate Dialogues that will cover the Intersection of Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System. Each Dialogue will feature speakers from agencies on a topic and how their agency interacts with a DV case. The topics will be:

- March- Pre-Conviction
- April- Post Conviction

- May- Courts
- July- D.A.'s Office and Public Defender's Office
- Sept.- JAD and Commissioner's Court
- Oct- Wrap Up and Next Steps

The Dialogues will be on the last Thursday of the scheduled months from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. They are also hoping get speakers on the same topics to present at the Community Partner meetings on the second Thursday of the months at 2:30pm. Amy also mentioned that due to the results of the election Court Watch is going to on hold until January.

Barbara McInnis announced that Harris County Constable Pct 5 will host a Reception and Recognition Event in honor of Crime Victims' Rights Week on April 27th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The theme will be "Rights, Access and Equality for all Victims". It will be at Westpoint Church on I-10 and Westgreen Rd. She also mentioned her Investigators have been in talks with TxFNE to do forensic exams and interviews with their DV victims.

Next meeting February April 21st at 11:30 am via ZOOM