



Policy Committee Meeting
April 17th, 2022

Judge Judy Warne	Chair of the Committee
Lt. Gale Johnson	HCSO
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Barbie Brashear	HCDVCC
Amy Johnson	HCDVCC
Bill Kelly	Mayor's Office
Chau Nguyen	HAWC
Maisha Colter	AVDA
Shannon Fowler	UH/Downtown
Alexa Aragonez	Mayor's Office

Judge Judy Warne, the Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

Judge Warne mentioned there might be some possible funding available to add some DV Impact Courts in Harris County. All 11 Regional Judges will be meeting to discuss how to divide up the pool of resources found, and we should know something by Memorial Day if/or how much Harris County will be getting and if it will go toward a DV Court.

Amy Johnson announced she is leaving HCDVCC, and everyone wished her luck.

Bill Kelly announced the Quarterly Report for the ARPA funds is out and can be reached by going to <https://www.houstontx.gov/arpa/public/documents/03.31.2022-ARPA-Quarterly-Report.pdf> Over 1900 victims have been by DART using these funds.

Amy Smith mentioned that HCDVCC's Deliberate Dialogue series on the Intersection of DV and Criminal Justice is continuing. In May the topic was Pre-Conviction, April Post-Conviction and on May 26th Ed Wells from the County Courts at Law will be one of the speakers. The speaker from the Felony Courts is to be determined. All past dialogues have been recorded and are on our website www.hcdvcc.org and you can register for the May 26th one as well. Amy also mentioned TCFV is holding a training on Issuing Bond Conditions in Family Violence Cases, and she has sent the invite to people who can distribute it to both Felony and Misdemeanor Judges. And finally, she announced that AVDA will be partnering with HCDVCC to do a Law Enforcement Training on May 25th. The class is almost full.

Judge Warne announced she has met with Judge Peake from the 257th Family Court and she is interested in participating in the Gun Surrender Program. Judge Warne also reached out to Judge Graves-Harrington, the Administrative Judge to set up a meeting with the other Judges, either formally or informally to talk about Gun Surrender and Family Violence. She will keep us updated on her progress.

Barbie Brashear asked, “How likely is the current policy of Protective Orders going to the Court of Continuing Jurisdiction going to stay in place?” Judge Warne stated she thought there will be a constant desire to reevaluate, but we might be in it for the long haul. Hopefully, if we get an Impact Court, even if it is only temporary, and it can show the Judges and Commissioner’s Court progress then it can be kept going. We need to relieve the pressure valve before a long-term fix can happen.

Barbie also announced HCDVCC are planning a Candidates Forum for the 280th Court in September. Details are still being worked out.

Judge Warne asked about taking a break for the Summer and the Committee agreed. No meetings in June or July. We will resume meeting in August.

Meeting adjourned and the next meeting will be on August 16th at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.