



Legal Services Committee  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Jessica Rushing	HCDVCC
Norma Martinez	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Jessica Howton	Tahirih Justice Center
Celina Wells	KCM- Crisis Center
Katisha Chaney	BATP

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back from summer break.

Celina Wells gave an update on Katy Christian Ministries Crisis Center- they are finally almost fully staffed it has seemed like they have had a revolving door of staff members since March. They just hired a DV advocate and 2 part time counselors, one is bilingual. They are gearing up for their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala on September 15<sup>th</sup> and their Silent Witness event in October.

Katisha Chaney gave an update on Bay Area Turning Point. They too are almost fully staffed. They recently hired someone for their Resale Shop who also does the transportation for the shelter residents so a regular schedule should be up and running soon. Their Prevention and Outreach Team are looking forward to going back into the schools this year.

Jessica Howton gave an update on Tahirih. They have been juggling unexpected leave with their staff this summer. They are currently in the interviewing stage of hiring a new Staff Attorney. They are still not taking full cases but are available for advice and counseling.

Jessica Howton and Thecia Jenkins gave an update on the Legal Services next trainings. A 3-part series on everything an advocate might want to know about working with an immigrant survivor and helping them navigate all the systems that would entail. Looking at Thursdays in Sept and Oct from 10:30 to noon. More information to come as soon as it is available.

Thecia Jenkins gave an update on her trainings for Probation Officers and the Coalition for the Homeless. Both agencies have invited her back for 2023. She also announced HCDVCC received a grant from the Allstate Foundation to Pilot the Expect Respect Primary Prevention Curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It is 24-week program. For more information <https://www.safeaustin.org/our-services/prevention-and->

[education/expect-respect/](#) HCDVCC also has launched another Pilot Program for a Speaker's Bureau to help survivors tell their stories and learn basic advocacy. HCDVCC is partnering with DAYA and AVDA for an Interfaith Summit on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to noon. Survivors from our Speaker's Bureau will share their stories and what they wished their faith community could have done to help them. She also announced HCDVCC is partnering with the Texas Nurse's Association and TxFNE for a nurse's training on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thecia Jenkins announced that DAYA will be compiling the calendar for DVAM and you can send your events to

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuWevFjr8EICQfchtUS0rceAVmQscC1r8TzJ7QTouZ5vPvkQ/viewform> to be included on the calendar

Amy Smith announced HCDVCC's is continuing their series of Deliberate Dialogues that will cover the Intersection of Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System. All the previous dialogues have been recorded and can be found here <https://www.hcdvcc.org/deliberate-dialogues/>. She also announced that the Harris County High Risk Team won the Purple Ribbon Award from Domestic Violence Shelters .org

Thecia announced that the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session will start in January and that TCFV and TAASA sponsor a Capital Day usually the week of Valentine's Day. Advocates from all over Texas march to the Capital and hold a press conference and then meet with their representatives in the afternoon.

The next meeting will be September 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am via ZOOM