



Legal Services Committee  
September 15, 2022

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Alexia Rauch	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors (AIS)
Norma Martinez	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Jessica Howton	Tahirih Justice Center
Katisha Chaney	BATP
Leeja Thomas	HCDA's Office -DVD
Shantel Davis	Family Ties
Mary McFaden	HCDA's Office- DVD
Kapriva Hutchinson	HCDA's Office- DVD
Jacklyn Guerra	HAWC
Kristi Wheelless	The Bridge

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Mary McFaden and Leeja Thomas gave us an update on the D.A.'s Office DVD. The Caseworkers will be moving soon into 1200 Congress. They will be hosting an Open House and tour on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> and then an event at the Mecca Theater Downtown on 10/25. Mekisha Walker will be the speaker.

Katisha Chaney gave an update on Bay Area Turning Point. They are hosting a luncheon in Chambers County for providers in that area. They are also in the middle of Sexual Assault Training.

Jacklyn Guerra gave an update on HAWC. They will be out of their Waugh Building by October. They are currently seeing people in a hybrid format. Still doing accompaniments but also seeing people out in the community at the Mexican Consulate, at the Sunnyside Community Center, and in Magnolia. Short term goals for the agency are to move out and get settled in temporary spaces with most working remote unit they can expand the shelter and include office space in the new shelter.

Kristi Wheelless gave an update on The Bridge. They are in full swing with DVAM preparations including 2 Fall Festivals. One will be at Lee College on October 20<sup>th</sup>. They received a new grant from the United Way and will be out in the community. Advocates will be at the Shape Community Center, ALMA, and Baker Ripley once a week. They continue to support the DV High Risk Team in Pasadena and are still working with the Harris County SART. They are building a new child care facility. It will be their own building with extended Child Care for their clients as well as expanded children's services.

Alexia Rauch gave an update on AIS. They received an OVW Legal Access Grant that will allow them to expand their services. They are working primarily with survivors seeking VAWA, UVISAs, and TVISAS.

Norma Martinez reported that both DV High Risk Teams are continuing to work with clients and the Teams continue to help as many survivors as they can.

Amy Smith gave an update on HCDVCC. DVCC is continuing its Deliberate Dialogue series. The next one will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm featuring the Harris County Office on Justice and Safety. You can register here. <https://www.hcdvcc.org/deliberate-dialogues/>

Also DVCC will host a Candidate Forum for the 280<sup>th</sup> District Court (the Protective Order Court) on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the Forum will be from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm. It will be at the Church at Bethel's Family 12660 Sandpiper Drive, Houston, 77035.

AVDA, DAYA and HCDVCC are hosting Faith and Family Violence: Survivors Stories. An Interfaith training on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to noon at Dress for Success Houston 3310 Eastside, Houston 77098. A virtual option will also be available. This year's Vigil will also be virtual. It will be available to all after October 27<sup>th</sup>.

All Legal Services Committee notes are on the HCDVCC website. They can be found here <https://www.hcdvcc.org/committees/legal/>

Shantel Davis gave an update on Family Ties. They are in the process of opening their new facility. It will feature 12 bedrooms and bathrooms for Youth.

Jessica Howton gave an update on Tahirih. They have been juggling unexpected leave with their staff this summer. They are still trying to fill vacancies and they are still not taking full cases but are available for advice, training and counseling. Their Gala will be in October.

Jessica Howton 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. Dates are still being determined. More information to come as soon as it is available keep checking the HCDVCC website [www.hcdvcc.org](http://www.hcdvcc.org) for that information.

The next meeting will be October 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am via ZOOM.