



Policy Committee Meeting
September 20, 2022

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Sgt. John Klafka	HCSO
Celina Wells	KCM
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Nidia Cantu	HCDVCC
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Barbie Brashear	HCDVCC
Maisha Coulter	AVDA
Jackie Pontello	HGAC
Eileen Duo	Hope Pyx Global

Amy Smith welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Judge Warne is on vacation and unable to attend the meeting.

Amy Smith reported that Judge Warne has completed a draft of the one pager reference sheet for the Judges. Amy will send it out for feedback. Amy also announced HCDVCC is hosting a Candidate Forum for the 280th District Court (PO Court) on October 4th at 7:00 at The Family of Bethal's Place Church. An announcement will be sent out as soon as it is finalized. Amy also announced that HCDVCC's next Deliberate Dialogue will be on September 29th at 6:30 with the Harris County Office of Justice and Safety. To register you can go to the HCDVCC website. And finally HCDVCC, AVDA, and DAYA will host Faith and Family Violence: Survivor's Stories on October 27th from 10 am to noon at Dress for Success.

Sonia Corrales is the Co-Chair of TCFV's Policy Committee, Thecia Jenkins and Maisha Coulter are also on the committee. The Committee's Proposed Legislative Agenda includes:

- updating Chapter 51 of the Human Resources Code to update the definition of family violence
- Codifying the PO statute to add a Section C to have the right to request a virtual hearing
- Funding is a high priority- maintaining the \$78.5 million as a base and adding the Exceptional funding of \$6.5 million for a total of \$85 million. Also included is \$3.5 million for BIPP funding.
- Still discussing how to address the firearm issue. Could include adding language around proof of firearm surrender and uniformity around the process to surrender.

Amy Smith also mentioned she participated in an interview for a study UTMB, UTSA and Rutgers University is doing on guns and protective orders.

Katharina Dechert gave an update on the enhanced Library Card that can be used for identification purposes. A petition is circulating and she is asking for help with advocacy with local law enforcement, landlords, and schools to accept these cards as IDs. Harris County Public Library can send out a mobile unit to help get people cards. She also said to send her an email if you would like more information and to get involved Katharina Dechert- Katharinad@tahirih.org

Lt. Kira Webster wanted to thank everyone for all their hard work in getting survivors help and to move forward.

Sgt. John Klafka said activity has picked up with the Gun Surrender Program and has been collecting a lot of guns. One respondent surrendered 20 guns. All orders but 1 are coming from the 280th. That one was from the 247th.

Jackie Pontello reported that the HGAC is getting close to awarding for the VOCA/VAWA grants. They are intending to file some legislation around trying to start tracking Elder Abuse cases like Child Abuse cases. The Office of Violence Against Women is getting ready to release money specific for Elder Abuse.

Celina Wells reported that Katy Christian Ministries should be fully staffed by the end of the week and just had a successful gala. They are preparing for their Silent Witness Event on October 27th at 6:00 pm.

Eileen Dau introduced herself, she is a Board Member of Texas Human Trafficking. They are hosting a Virtual Conference on October 20-21st. You can find more information at <http://www.hopepyxglobal.org/international-book-awards.html> or contact her at HopePyxGlobal@gmail.com

Meeting adjourned and the next meeting will be on October 18th at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.