



Legal Services Committee  
February 16, 2023

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Nidia Cantu	HCDVCC
Jessica Howton	Tahirih Justice Center
Alexia Rauen	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors
Jessica Poe	Pearland Police Dept.
Deborah Alexis	HCDVCC
Demika Warren	HCDVCC
Alejandra Alvarado	HCDVCC

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also noted that several people were at TCFV/TAASA's Capitol Day.

Jessica Howton updated us on the 3-part training on Helping Immigrant Survivors:

Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 – Noon

Session 1: Immigration Landscape (Karla Perez, Senior Staff Attorney & Corina Azpurua, Legal Advocate and BIA Accredited Representative)

- Immigration 101
- Immigration Safety Planning
- Notario Fraud and what to do about it.
- CPS & Mandated reporting
- FOIAs

Session 1 Facebook Live (15-20 min) (Spanish) summarizing the important points directly for survivors.

Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – Noon

Session 2: Immigration Relief (Isabel, Social Services Program Manager + Attorney)

- Tahirih forms of relief & issue spotting eligibility
- Evidence that advocates can help collect.
  - Letters of support, FOIAs, etc.
- Inadmissibilities / don't make promises.
- (Connects to) unauthorized practice of law.
- (Connects to) notario fraud & how to avoid it.
- DACA/TPS/other benefits

Session 2 Facebook Live (15-20 min) (Spanish) summarizing the important points directly for survivors.

Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – Noon

Session 3: Community building & resources, Survivors as advocates (Alondra, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator & Laura Hernandez, Social Services Advocate) Public charge

- Benefits eligibility
- Social services
- community resources
- Grassroots organizing & empowerment.

Session 3 Facebook Live (15-20 min) (Spanish) summarizing the important points directly for survivors. Eventbrite links are being created and should be in our next newsletter.

Amy Smith and Nidia Cantu talked about the Texas Advocacy Project's Townhall on the recent 5<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals ruling in regards to the surrender of guns with a Protective Order. Both Amy and Nidia were a little more hopefully about the outcome of some PO's. TAP was asked to create a 2-minute video to sum up the ruling for agencies. Not sure if that will occur.

Deborah Alexis discussed her new position as the Advocate in the 280<sup>th</sup> Court. She is providing support to the applicants in the Court at the Judge's request. She will provide support, safety information, and resources. She said the new Judge is more neutral and, in the middle, than previous judges. The Judge does not like prewritten statements she prefers to hear things directly from the parties. She also prefers applicants to remember specific dates when the violence occurred. So far things seem to be going well. As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, all P.O.'s are going back to the 280<sup>th</sup>. No news on how that will affect the policies at the D.A.'s Office at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled on the same day as Part 2 of the Immigration training so we will not meet. Our next meeting will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned.