



Policy Committee Meeting
February 21, 2023

Judge Judy Warne	Committee Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Deputy Oscar Cisneros	HCSO
Lt. Julie Pleasant	HPD- Victim Services
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Maisha Colter	AVDA
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Carvana Cloud	Empowered Survivor
Shannon Fowler	UH/Downtown
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Darcy Padgett	Busy Bee
Damayra Moore	Busy Bee

Judge Judy Warne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Judge Warne announced the Committee Assignments are up for the Texas Senate but the House has not made the announcement about their committee assignments yet.

We discussed the implications of the 5th Circuit Decision that came down that stated a person under a protective order cannot be prohibited from possessing a firearm. Judge Warne is hopeful that we can get creative in the current session to get some bills passed to address this issue. Two bills are pending, one is about gun surrender and the other is around not allowing people with a criminal conviction from possessing a firearm. They have not added under a protective order yet. Several organizations are searching for a legislator to take up this cause. The DOJ is still trying to decide how to appeal this decision. Judge Warne suggested to allow Family Courts to make additional findings to create something to get around this ruling. Our Safe Surrender Program has always been a voluntary program and if the Respondent still wants to surrender their gun they can. Other options are being explored including having the applicant ask to store guns since Texas is a Community Property State.

Amanda Elkanick stated that the TAP attorneys are continuing to proceed around the State to ask for surrender using the Texas Law. TAP is working with National Partners to respond to the 5th Circuit decision. This might be a good opportunity to tweak the PO language.

Sonia Corrales and Thecia Jenkins talked about the success of Capitol Day in Austin over 250 from around the State attended. TCFV/TAASA are following these bills:

HB 698- Virtual PO hearings bill

HB 1796- Update Chapter 51 of the Human Resources code on the definition of family violence including adding dating violence.

Making sure to keep \$88 million needed for funding

Updating the stalking statute- of the people who could potentially be killed about 85% have reported being stalked.

The handout they received can be retrieved here:



OneDrive_2023-02-1
4.zip

Amanda also mentioned that TAP is working on a bill on Termination of Parental Rights for Sex Offenders and following the Annisa Hope led bill on education for Judges.

Busy Bee announced they are looking to partner with a school district about human trafficking education. Thecia mentioned SB 9 that passed last legislative session and Maisha has said it has been difficult to implement because of the opt in feature.

Thecia mentioned another bill that could be filed about putting counselors and social workers in all schools.

Judge Warne brought up about starting to meet in person. It was decided to continue on ZOOM until after we break for the summer.

Our next meeting March 21st at 2:00 via ZOOM.