



Policy Committee Meeting
May 16th, 2023

Judge Judy Warne	Committee Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Deputy Oscar Cisneros	HCSO
Maisha Colter	AVDA
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Julie Marinucci	MOMS Demand Action
Celina Wells	KCM
Sydney Mike-Mayer	Texas Advocacy Project
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Nidia Cantu	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC

Judge Judy Warne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She just sent out the latest spreadsheet. First family violence bill signed by the Governor was SB1325 about HHSC creating a notice to give to victims of rights and resources in English and Spanish.

Thecia Jenkins mentioned HCDVCC hosted a fantastic training on Stalking, and she is currently reviewing all the legislation mentioned in that training.

Deputy Oscar Cisneros discussed the Gun Surrender Program. Judge Curvey has issued an order for the HCSO to return a gun to a respondent with an active Protective Order as a direct result of the Rahimi Case. Judge Warne emphasized the Department of Justice has taken the case to the Supreme Court and they gave the defendant in the case until May 23rd to respond to the filing. Maisha Colter mentioned the ABA is holding a Townhall on the Opinion on May 18th and you can sign up for it on the ABA website. Judge Warne mentioned the Legislature has not done anything around the gun issue and it does not look like any bills will pass this session.

Celina Wells mentioned that KCM has been extremely busy, and their services have increased 100% with new clients and hospital accompaniments. She also mentioned that on the last TCFV Listserv, the EDs were talking about housing and how difficult it has been to get clients released from their leases regardless of the laws in place. It is taking a long time to resolve the issues. She also mentioned there is not a wait

list for their English-speaking counseling services but there is about a 3 month wait for Spanish speaking counseling.

Aarian Tipton announced the Texas Advocacy Project has a six-week virtual support group designed to offer caregivers of children a space to process complex feelings and learn effective parenting strategies.

Amanda Elkanick announced the Texas Advocacy Project has an opening for a Managing Attorney. She and Sydney Mike-Mayer talked about two bills they are watching SB578/HB2360 that was passed and sent to the Governor that will remove the victim's county from a PO. And SB 885 is moving which would allow a Lifetime PO to be grounds for terminating parental rights. Also passed was a proclamation for Carolyn Mosely who was instrumental in getting HB121 passed years ago around Parole issues for DV cases. The Texas Appleseed Project's Bill -HB4641 has passed out of the House, and it would allow victims of coerced debt to take legal action to resolve their debt.

Katharina mentioned HB 20 (Major impact for immigrants. Creates new immigration police under DPS that reports directly to the Governor. Can deputize any citizen that does not have a felony conviction) has been defeated in the House but some of that language in that Bill was included in HB 7 which is still pending.

Our next meeting will be June 20th via ZOOM to wrap up the Session and we will be taking off July and August.

Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting is on June 20th at 2:00 via ZOOM.