



Legal Services Committee
November 16th, 2023

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Javier Dominguez	Tahirih Justice Center
Deborah Alexis	HCDVCC
Celina Wells	KCM
Alexia Rauen	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors
Lt. John Klafka	HCSO
Amy Johnson-Duong	HCDA- Victim Services
Wykesha Dixon	BATP

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Deborah Alexis stated that there will be on cases on the 280th docket next week because of Thanksgiving. She also stated that starting early next year Judge Curvey will be responsible for the Family Courts Drug Court. It is uncertain how it will affect the PO docket. Alexia mentioned her clients are telling her that it takes 4 to 5 weeks to get a PO hearing. Deborah mentioned it might be because they are having trouble serving the Respondent.

Lt. John Klafka reported they have 2 open Victim Advocate positions and hope to start interviewing soon. He also mentioned the HSCO Human Trafficking Advocate is now part of the Victim Services Unit.

Alexia Rauen announced their Research grant is still open and they have had 15 interviews so far. They are hoping to revamp their criteria and marketing to attract more people.

Javier Dominguez announced that Tahirih is still not accepting new cases but is still doing referrals, advice, and counsel with victims. They are also looking for a new Executive Director for the Houston office.

Wykesha Dixon announced BATP has had some new people start so hopefully they will be regular attendees at this meeting again. They are also working on collaborations so they can build services to help both their res and non res clients. They also just held a Community Conversation and hope to continue to do so.

Celina Wells said KCM has slowed down a bit and is working on collaborations. KCM has several holiday programs going on that their clients will have access to. They have had a slight increase in Sexual Assault Hospital accompaniments, but DV has been stable. They currently have a 3 week wait for their English-speaking counseling services and a 3 month wait for their Spanish speaking counseling services.

Amy Smith announced HCDVCC moved their Community Advisory meeting to January.

Amy Johnson-Duong announced that 3 new felony courts have been created and they took cases from all the other courts to help alleviate the backlog in criminal cases.

The online PO training was discussed. Deborah announced because of the PO survey we will be going over basics and the training will be either 90 minutes or 2 hours. The details are still being worked out. The goal is to have the training on our website, so it is available to all they need training on PO's.

The CJ 102 training is still a work in progress and hopefully a date will be set in late January or early Feb. This will be in-person training so it can be interactive, but parts might be recorded for future use.

There will be no meeting in December and will continue to meet on ZOOM next year at the same time- the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 am. Amy Smith will send out the new ZOOM link in December.

Our next meeting will be January 18th, 2024 at 11:30 via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned.