



Policy Committee Meeting  
February 20, 2024

Judge Judy Warne	Committee Chair
Barbie Brashear	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Lt. John Klafka	HCSO
Amanda Otter	Texas Advocacy Project
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Jackie Guerra	HAWC
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Rebecca Council	HCDVCC
Shannon Fowler	UH Downtown
Veronyka James	Office of County Administration

Judge Judy Warne welcomed everyone and did introductions. She gave an update on the Family Law Foundation's request to the Texas Center for the Judiciary to survey the judges about the new standard on protective orders and the concerns around it. One - the concerns around Protective Orders, the change of the burden that you no longer have to prove that domestic violence is likely to continue in the future. Two - there are a lot of filings to gain ground in custody cases. Three- they will be used against victims because the definition of domestic violence is so broad. She did an informal survey at the Family Justice Conference, by simply walking around. There were 197 judges there and talking to them informally about the issues they have seen. Only one county expressed some concern and said they have seen a slight increase but for most there has not been a huge increase of protective orders.

Sonia thought there could be a shared survey for survivors in different programs about their experience in the next 6 months, years etc. Barbie mentioned that we have a court advocate in court that can do it with the people there too. They will work on the survey, framing the questions, etc. and Veronyka and Shannon will help with the research.

Judge Warne asked Lt Webster if there is a link between the post-September 1st change in the burden of for PO's and she said that that in general the numbers were up but not necessarily because of the change. Barbie is going to follow up with Nidia from HCDVCC to have her look into it.

News from organizations:

Lt Webster talked about the cars being tracked and then having protective orders saying that. The tracking must be disabled by the owner of the car. This also includes other tracking devices like "Find my phone", "Apple Tags", etc.

Sonia talked about the Public Policy Committee for the Texas Council on Family Violence. They sent out a survey (the deadline to send them in was the 18<sup>th</sup>). She will provide feedback when she gets it.

Lt. Klafka talked about their Smart911 program. He mentioned that you can upload a copy of the Protective Orders and create a safe word for emergencies.

Rebecca mentioned the Legal Services Training on HCDVCC's TEACHABLE platform. Thecia talked about the Informational sessions for Expert Witness Training. Barbie mentioned the need for a DV docket in the court system. She also thinks there are opportunities for us to look at some of the data that is going to be coming out. She wanted to make sure everyone was in the loop.

Judge Warne thanked everyone for everything they do!

Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting is on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 via ZOOM.