



Legal Services Committee
October 17, 2024

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Norma Martinez	HCDVCC
Fanesha Washington	HCDVCC
Stefanie Hayes	HCDVCC
Thomas Velz	Texas Advocacy Project
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Mayumi Waddy	MOMS Demand Action

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Norma Martinez reported on the “Know Your Rights” Event hosted by Commissioner Lesley Briones’s Office.

Thomas Velz stated TAP is working to create materials and trainings for attorneys to help people filing Pro Se Protective Orders. They are working on a timeline for this project.

Mayumi Waddy stated she visited some counties northwest of Houston to learn about their domestic violence issues. She also mentioned the D.A.’s Office has launched a Crime Dashboard <https://app.dao.hctx.net/publicdata/#dash> that states there are 15,000 outstanding DV cases in Harris County. Amy mentioned according to the DPS Crime Report there were 53,575 calls for service to Law Enforcement for DV incidents in Harris County in 2023. Mayumi mentioned that it looks like MOMS Demand Action is proposing Firearm Relinquishment on their Texas Legislative Agenda.

Stefanie Hayes asked about teenagers getting P. O’s or Restraining Orders. Thomas stated the Code is extremely broad and they can go anywhere to get one without parent’s permission but when the Respondent is served, they must serve their parents. There are also issues with the enforcement of the order around if they can even sign for it and if the parents are responsible. Fanesha Washington said in the 280th the Judge will ask for both sets of parents to be there and she will often add the entire household to the P.O.

Thecia Jenkins announced State Rep. Jolanda Jones is holding an event at TSU today in honor of DVAM. Thecia also mentioned Stefanie is continuing her community outreach work with young adults. She also

mentioned they will be doing training in the Refugee Community in 2025. Thecia will be headed to TCFV's Policy Committee next week where their Final Legislative Agenda will be revealed. She will also confirm February 20th will be their Capitol Day to meet with the Legislature. Mayumi announced Moms Demand Action's Legislative Day will be on February 27th.

Amy mentioned that the Inter Faith Dialogue was successful as well as the Candle Vigil. They were both held on October 10th. She also mentioned HCDVCC interviewed the D.A. Candidates, and the interviews can be found on our website <https://www.hcdvcc.org/da-interviews/> She also mentioned early voting starts Monday October 21st.

The committee decided to cancel the November meeting since several people will be unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned.

Our next meeting will be December 19th. at 11:30 via ZOOM. Remember we are meeting on ZOOM, not Teams so log on to the ZOOM link in the body of the email.