



Legal Services Committee
February 20, 2025

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Calvin Ford	Bay Area Turning Point
Alejandra Alvarado	HCDVCC
Thomas Velez	Texas Advocacy Project
Sarah Bryan	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors
Jacklyn Guerra	HAWC
Jessica Howton-Stool	Houston Volunteer Lawyers
Meagen Belovsky	South Texas College of Law

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

Amy Smith gave an update on several bills pending in the Texas Legislature. For a complete list of bills and discussion please go to www.hcdvcc.org and review the Policy Meeting notes from February 18, 2025.

Meagen Belovsky mentioned they are partnering with the 280th District Court on a Pro-Se Project to assist pro-se applicants in court. As of now, a video is being discussed.

Jacklyn Guerra asked if anyone else was having issues with advocates being able to accompany clients into Family Court Associate Judges' Courtrooms for hearings. It was discussed by those present that things are tending to be trending to making more accommodations for respondents and many survivors are noticing. The merits of a Court watch program were debated and Amy mentioned MOMS Demand Action are interested in observing in the Family Courts, including the 280th.

Alejandra Alvarado mentioned that DVCC lost their Protective Court Advocate, but the High-Risk Team Advocates are taking turns to be in court Monday, Tuesday and Fridays. The D. A's office has advocates the other two days.

Amy Smith announced HCDVCC will be hosting Understanding the Intersection of Brain Injury and Intimate Partner Violence: Strategies for Improving Brain Health with Dr. Eve Valera on April 29th from 9:00 to Noon. More information can be found on our website www.hcdvcc.org

Jessica Howton-Stool mentioned an additional bill to watch HB 1554- relating to use public money in the provision of legal services for individuals unlawfully present in the United States.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting Thursday March 20th at 11:30 via ZOOM.