



Policy Committee Meeting
February 18,2025

Judge Judy Warne	Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thomas Velez	Texas Advocacy Project
Shannon Fowler	UH Downtown
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Veronyka James	Office of County Administration
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Jacklyn Guerra	HAWC
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Lt. John Klafka	HCSO- Special Victims Division
Kelly Venci-Gonzalez	Harris Co. Juvenile Probation
Nusrat Ameen	DAYA
Makia Walls	KCM

Judge Judy Warne welcomed everyone.

Open Discussion around several bills pending in the Texas Legislature.

- SB 866 Judges Training- New wording has been considered for the bill filed last session requiring all Judges receive 1 hour of DV training. New wording would include a Judge being able to file an affidavit stating they do not hear DV cases so they can opt out of training. TAP is suggesting they include language around choosing between in person and virtual training. Judge Warne mentioned 2 problems with current bill is 1. 1st term Judges have too many training requirements and 2. Every Judges DV training hours were zeroed out and every Judge must start over.
- Amanda and Judge Warne mentioned several bills have been filed regarding Protective Orders including decentralizing where P.O.'s are filed and heard. Bills also filed include issues around affirmative findings and statute of limitations on the DV acts Judge Warne is meeting with TCFV on February 25th to discuss several P.O. Bills. Everyone is on the same page just using different language. The biggest concern is to make sure our P.O.

language can match what the Supreme Court ruled in Rahimi so nothing could void current P.O.'s .

- HB 498- Surrendering Firearms in certain P.O.'s Judge Warne suggested we table discussion on firearm bills until we find out if they will be grouped in the same committee as last session. Once that occurs and hearings are scheduled, we can move forward.
- HB 234- Extreme Protective Orders- once again several bills have been filed around Extreme or Red Flag Protective Orders. Not sure how far these will. Their main concern of the committee is not to call these Protective Orders because then they will get lost in the DV Protective Order statutes. Right now, there is not a mechanism in place on how or who will hear these orders. HB 162 was filed, and it states if any of the EPO bills are passed, and this bill is passed then this bill would prohibit the enforcement of any EPO's.
- HB 1824- Monitoring High Risk DV Offenders. Does not really define High Risk and does not mention using any risk assessment to determine high risk. Main concern is the wording around "threat of harm to victim" as a high-risk factor.
- HB 1863- changing the length of P. O's. Again, the concern is surrounding the Rahimi ruling and matching the Federal language around findings of DV and future danger. Not sure what is supporting future danger and the surrender of a firearm indefinitely, could be an issue that could be appealed up to the Supreme Court.
- SB 1120- the ability for a DV victim to confer on a plea.

Veronyka James asked if anyone has heard if a bill has been filed requiring juveniles to have state issued IDs with them while they travel to prevent them from being trafficked? No one had a response.

TCFV/TAASA Capitol Day is February 20th. Sonia Corrales said the biggest concerns to discuss with the Legislators are increasing the current appropriations. Right now, they are asking for \$31 million but with all the uncertainty surrounding funding we all need additional funding.

The Department of Justice including OVW has pulled down all the open solicitations and RFPs on their website.

The CDC/Department of Health has held up the RPE (primary prevention) funding.

The Texas Advocacy Project received a grant from the State Bar to film training videos they have finished filming, and the videos should be ready by March.

Judge Warne announced that Lt. Webster, Lt. Klafka, and Maisha Coulter helped her with a 2-hour training video on Resources. So far, the evaluations have been outstanding.

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

Below is a list of bills we either discussed or are about Domestic Violence.

SB 866 <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB00866>

HB 498 <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB498>

HB 162 <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB00162>

HB 1863 <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB01863>

SB 1120 <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB01120>

HB 956 – <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00956I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 1754 – <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01754I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 1824- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01824I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 1863 – <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01863I.pdf> - navpanes=0

SB 793 – <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB00793I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 234- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00234I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 368- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00368I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 396- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00396I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 478- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00478I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 498- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00498I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 655- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00655I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 711- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00711I.pdf> - navpanes=0

HB 893- <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00893I.pdf> - navpanes=0

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting Tuesday March 18th at 2:00 via ZOOM