



Policy Committee Meeting
April 16, 2024

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Lt. John Klafka	HCSO
Rebecca Council	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	UH Downtown
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project

Amy Smith called the meeting to order and reported Judge Warne was unable to make it today. Amy reminded everyone that Judge Warne is helping to put together a Statewide training for Judges in compliance with the latest statutory changes. She is working on available community and state resources for counseling and other aid to victims and offenders. She is looking for a generic list of resources since this will be for all Judges in the State. If anyone has any suggestions for these resources send them to Amy and she will get them to Judge Warne. Amy also reported that Judge Warne wanted to let everyone know there has been no work on Rahimi from the Supreme Court. She also wanted to let everyone know that the standardized Protective Order forms are ready and being circulated.

Lt. John Klafka stated they have lost the Investigator they just got for the Sexual Assault Unit and are still waiting to replace that investigator as well as another new investigator and supervisor. Eventually they hope to have 6 Sex Crimes Investigators and hopefully by the end of this year they will have 10. They are currently using 2 deputies who are on loan and 2 advocates to reach out to all the back log victims in Sexual Assault cases. They are letting them know they are aware of their case and an investigator will be in contact when they become available. They are working with cases that are 2 to 3 years old.

Aarian Tipton reported that she is facilitating a Bi-weekly support group for black women for the Texas Advocacy Project starting May 1st. It is closed for now and only opened for their clients. TAP has hired 2 new attorneys.

Thecia Jenkins announced the next meeting of the Roundtable Discussion on DV in the Black Community will be one May 21st. She also stated a Roundtable on DV in the Latina Community is in the early planning stages. She also announced that TCFV's Legislative Committee is meeting on May 3rd she will have an update at the next meeting. Thecia also mentioned the DVCC's Voice of Freedom were excited about going back to Austin to help on DV bills. She will be inviting Alicia Nuzzie to a meeting to help coach them on how to do that.

Lt. Klafka mentioned that there should be stiffer penalties for Violations of Protective Orders and some clarification on the Stalking Statue in regard to tracking devices. The problem is knowing who put a device on something and how to track to the person who do it. He also stated that there have been unintended consequences to the bill that says PO's have to be entered in in 24 hours. It is next to impossible for it to happen in large counties because of the lack of personnel. The State needs to provide funding to help with this. Maybe step-down funding for 1 to 3 years to get help to hire personnel so they can keep up with the demand.

Amy Smith mentioned she attended a training on the ABC's of ISD Police Departments and it was mentioned that HPD had a Pilot Program with HISD called "Handle with Care". This program alerts a school if a student had the police at their house the night before for any reason. This alerts the school to check in with the student and "handle them with care" to make sure they are okay. She also mentioned that the Legal Services Committee is working a follow-up training to the CJ 101 trained they held last year.

Amy thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting is on May 21st at 2:00 via ZOOM.