



Policy Committee Meeting
May 21, 2024

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Jacklyn Guerra	HAWC
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Celina Lilly	Fresh Spirit
Veronyka James	Office of County Administration
Shannon Fowler	U of H/Downton

Amy Smith called the meeting to order and reported Judge Warne was unable to make it today. Amy reported that Judge Warne wanted to let everyone know there is still no word on Rahimi from the Supreme Court.

Sonia Corrales reported that the TCFV Policy Committee sent out a survey and received over 200 responses from around the State. They received about 70 different issues for the Policy Committee could address in the next Legislative Session. They have narrowed it down to about 10 to 15 items. The Committee is setting up ZOOM meetings to get feedback of these issues. Thecia and/or Sonia will send out the link to this Committee so they can join those meetings. The TCFV Policy Committee will meet again in June to set the agenda and the TCFV should pass it in August. Some of the issues that will be addressed are Prevention/Survivor Rights- including adding Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence to the prevention requirements. Also included are Criminal Legal Assistance, Risk Assessments, and transfer of firearm issues. They are letting go of virtual hearings for Protective Orders and offender accountability by enhancing punishments. There are 5 members of the Policy Committee from Harris County including Thecia Jenkins, Maisha Colter, and Nusrat Ameen.

Sonia and Jacklyn Guerra reported that HAWC lost power at their campus during the storm but had a generator that keep the place up and running. The power was restored in a few days. They are finishing construction on the new shelter by the end of the year and are looking to move clients over in the first quarter of next year. They received split funding for Transitional Housing and Rapid ReHousing so some clients will be moved into Transitional Housing at the Shelter. They will then need new funding to open the additional beds and hire additional staff.

Lt. Kira Webster wanted to let everyone know how much she appreciated everyone on the committee and everything they do. We do not have enough resources to help everyone, and she is glad to have the connections to get someone help.

Celina Lilly announced that Fresh Spirit is in the process of trying to hire another counselor to assist Dr. Conte. They have had several clients with difficult cases and a lot of issues. They have recently hired a Case Manager who has hit the ground running.

Katharina Dechert announced there is no update on SB 4. Congress is looking at a Bill HR 7909 Violence Against Women by Undocumented People. This is a new way to deport charged or convicted people of DV. It could also affect survivors who are charged with DV.

Thecia Jenkins announced HCDVCC is hosting a Thrive Summit for Survivors on June 8th. Voices of Freedom will have a panel discussion, a speaker will talk about Economic Empowerment and then there will be a focus group discussing the Criminal Justice System.

Amy Smith announced the HCDVCC's Community Advisory Committee will meet on May 31st at 8:30 at the Baker Ripley Central Campus.

Shannon Fowler announced he will be teaching a Graduate and an Undergraduate course of Victimology this summer.

Amy thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting is on June 18th at 2:00 via ZOOM.