



Policy Committee Meeting
June 17,2025

Judge Judy Warne	Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Shannon Fowler	UH Downtown
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Nusrat Ameen	DAYA
Chanica Brown	HAWC
Yolanda Armenta	KCM
Kaye Bastian	Your New Beginnings
Cythnia Pavlock	Your New Beginnings

Judge Warne welcomed everyone, and Introductions were made.

Amanda Elkanick said that TAP has 12 law clerks that are working on 3 different Legislative Projects for their Legislative Update tentatively scheduled for August 21st. It will include new laws related to divorce, child custody, dv, etc. She said they are also working on a Quick Reference Guide for new bills. She discussed several bills that have passed and are waiting on the Governor’s signature. If he does not veto them, most will go into effect on September 1st, 2025:

- SB 2196- Extends the length of MOEPS
 - Misd-from maximum of 61 days to 91days but not less than 61 days (used to be 31 days)
 - Felony- from maximum of 91 days to 121 days but not less than 91 days (used to by 61 days)
- SB 1559- SB 1559- Mandatory Transfers of Protective Orders- New language to be added “During the time in which a Protective Order is valid and subject to transfer, the order prevails over any other ordered rendered in a suit for dissolution of a marriage or a suit affecting the parent- child relationship to the extent of any conflict between orders.” It also changes may to shall transfer Protective Orders to the court with jurisdiction of above suits if it finds it will not impact on the safety of any person protected by the P.O.

- SB 1896-The person making the arrest or the person having custody of the defendant shall provide to the magistrate with any information regarding the defendant that will aid the magistrate in issuing an order for emergency protection.
- HB 4238 PROTECTING SURVIVORS FROM COLLECTION OF COERCED DEBT
This measure seeks to protect individuals from debt collection actions when they are victims of identity theft by adding a new section to the Texas Finance Code, establishing that creditors and debt collectors cannot collect on debts incurred as a result of identity theft under certain conditions. Creditors and debt collectors could pursue legal action against the perpetrator of the identity theft to recover the debt.
- SB 761- adding sexual assault victims to the list of crime victims that before accepting a guilty plea the Judge will ask if the prosecutor conferred with the victim regarding the disposition of the case.
- SB1120- If a defendant is released on parole the victim can find out what county the defendant is released to and any non-confidential conditions including no contact with victim, if defendant is required to attend BIPP. It also adds Family Violence to cases that victims must be considered if a continuance is requested, and the Court must state on record the reason for granting or denying the request. Also, a victim advocate can request the parole information and receive what the victim can receive.
- HB 1422- Adds Continuous Sexual Assault to a list of crimes in regards to prosecution, punishment, and collateral consequences of certain sex offenses.
- HB1193- New check box on Declaration of Informal Marriage to keep applicants' information confidential
- SB 9- Pretrial Intervention Conditions are to be entered into DPS database
 - This will include Defendant's criminal history, convictions, pending cases, and previous sentences, any previous failure to appear in court, if defendant is on probation, on any type of bail- including Pretrial Release, outstanding warrants and if they have an active Protective Order against them
 - If they are on felony bail only a trial court Judge can release them not a Magistrate
- SB 1362- Anti Red Flag Law, Texas does not have to recognize any other State's Extreme Risk Protective Orders. And no entity in Texas can create one. CONCERN- could affect Gun Surrender in Criminal Courts
- SB 1946 REDUCING & PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE HOMICIDE IN TEXAS
With increases in family violence homicide in Texas, addressing lethal violence is an issue that requires a collaborative team working towards solutions. Research indicates that there are three top lethality indicators: strangulation, stalking, and the intersection of firearms and family violence. This measure would create a 2-year task force focused on prevention and reduction of family violence homicide with charges to make policy recommendations for the 90th legislative session.

- SB1278- It is an affirmative defense that a victim of trafficking or compelling prostitution that is charged with the above crimes can use the defense that they were coerced or threatened to engage in that behavior
- HB 2073- HB 2073- Relating to increasing the penalties for violations of orders or conditions of bond in cases involving family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking or trafficking.
- HB 2492 Allows magistrates to hold a dv offenders for up to 48 hours regardless of who wants to let them out.
- HB 793- Changes from may to SHALL keep Protective Orders applicants' mailing address and county of residence confidential.

Katharina Dechert talked about SB 8. This bill mandates all Sheriff's Offices to enter into a 287G agreement with Immigration Enforcement (ICE). This will impact the willingness of undocumented survivors to report crime.

She also talked about SB 17 that prohibits certain foreign-born people from buying land. They can buy houses but not businesses.

And she discussed SB 38- Squatters crackdown but could involve clients because it makes it easier for landlords to evict without a hearing. She also mentioned that HB 168 that would have raised the age of marriage in Texas failed but it did pick up some good momentum.

She also discussed the bill to repeal the DREAM Act which allows undocumented children to pay in State tuition failed however the DOJ sued Texas and Texas settled so there is great concern about those who are currently enrolled or newly graduated Seniors who were depending on this Act to go to college.

Nusrat Ameen stated that several of DAYA's clients have testified in a lawsuit to get Harris County about the use of interpreters. Harris County is now using interpreters more.

Shannon Fowler asked for clarification on HB 1946 (see above). Amanda stated this was a TCFV priority bill. No money was attached to the bill, but certain groups are required to be on the Task Force including TCFV, TAASA and TAP.

Katharina mentioned a Yellow Card being given out by the Harris County District Attorney's Office to Immigrant victims and witnesses. HCDA is hoping by showing these yellow cards ICE will not detain or deport them. Additional information can be found at: <https://houstonlanding.org/after-increased-detentions-harris-county-da-provides-cards-to-identify-immigrant-witnesses/> She also asked if anyone had any information on this to please email her at Katharinad@tahirih.org

Judge Warne and Amy announced the Committee will not meet in July or August so the next meeting will be September 16th at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned.