



Policy Committee Meeting
October 21, 2025

Judge Judy Warne	Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Shannon Fowler	UH Downtown
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Amanda Elkanick Oder	Texas Advocacy Project
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Megan Dellorto	County Judge's Office
Jen Schirmer	Transgender Education Network of Texas
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Swati Narayan	DAYA

Judge Warne welcomed everyone.

Shannon Fowler announced he has a student doing a research paper on Stalking and Prosecution in Harris County. He will brief us on her findings when they are finished.

Amanda Elkanick Oder- announced that TAP is using this last quarter to do a big push around Protective Orders and they are trying to research how TAP can take on more cases around the State, They are currently completing and tabulating a Protective Order Survey that went out to all 254 counties once completed it will be published and will help them try and fill some of the gaps in unmet needs for survivors around P.O.'s She was supposed to be in Washington, D.C. to meet and talk to the Texas Delegation around DV priorities on the Federal level with the number one priority being funding. However, due to the government shutdown the trip was postponed. Their Legislative Update one-pager is still being finalized. They are revamping their Teachable platform and adding recorded Townhalls and training courses including Legal Options for survivors, Safety Planning etc. to access the platform click here:

<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/training>

And finally, the grant they received from the State Bar to create and record a video for Judicial Training is almost complete and ready to be uploaded for Judges who need DV credit can view the video and receive CLE credits.

Lt. Kira Webster noted that it looks like less final Protective Orders are being filed but the new MOEPS with the extended deadline are being filed.

Swati Narayan announced that DAYA's caseload has increased by about 69%. They have lost one grant and another grant portal closed unexpectedly because it was not in compliance with an Executive Order. They are doing a lot more with a lot less.

Jen Schirmer clarified a statement about SB 8- Family Violence Centers will allow male children under the age of seventeen to stay with their caretakers in a shelter. They are working with DV folks to figure out all the ramifications of this bill regarding DV before it goes into effect on December 4, 2025.

Katharina Dechert announced that Tahirih has joined with the Texas Immigration Law Council and Houston Volunteer Lawyers to address Labor Laws that effect Immigrant Survivors. It will include legal education, legal assistance, and empowerment solutions for survivors. It is a two-year project.

Amy Smith announced that HCDVCC and several Community Partners are hosting the annual Candlelight Vigil honoring those who lost their lives to domestic violence will be on October 22nd at 6:30 at The Montrose Center. She also mentioned that HCDVCC, the DA's Office, the HCSO and Commissioner Briones' Office held a Strangulation Training for over 120 law enforcement officers, advocates, and prosecutors. And over seventy people attended the Domestic Violence Assistance Fund report release. To read the report and watch the video click here: <https://www.hcdvcc.org/dvaf2024/>

Thecia Jenkins announced the 2026 HCDVCC Training Catalog is on the HCDVCC website. <https://www.hcdvcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Training-Catalog-Rev.-September-2025-1.pdf>

Judge Warne announced she is helping to update the Bench/Bar Book for Judges on Domestic Violence.

The Committee decided to take November and December off and if anything comes up between now and then please notify Amy and she will get it out to the Committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting January 20, 2026