



Legal Services Committee  
November 20, 2025

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Sarah Bryan	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors
Libby Hasse	Tahirih
Meagan Belovsky	South Texas College of Law

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Meagan Belovsky announced that South Texas lost their OAG Victim Assistance Grant, and they reapplied once it opened back up but they were denied. The video for the 280<sup>th</sup> is in the final stages of editing.

Sarah Bryan announced they did receive their Federal grant from OVW for Legal Assistance to Victims they are still working through what will be allowable costs. They are still seeing some government approval of their cases, but it appears they are looking for anything to deny an application. Their VOCA grant was cut from \$105,000 to \$15,000 and they can only use it for case management and no legal services.

Libby Hasse stated that Tahirih kept their VOCA funding which is 95% case management they also still have their OVW funding it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3-year cycle. They are back to a full team of 6 (which is down from 9 last year). They are hoping to keep their staff stable. They had their first U Visa approved for this fiscal year- the case was filed in April of 2017. They are working on mainly Asylum cases which is taking up most of their lawyers' time. As a result, they are not taking on a ton of new cases.

Thecia Jenkins announced HCDVCC will be hosting a Stalking Training in January and an Enhanced Safety Planning Training with Tahirih in February. Starting next year, she is doing monthly trainings for the Harris County Public Health Department's RISE and HEART Teams.

Amy Smith announced that HUD funding is scheduled to be cut around 70% next year so not sure what that will look like for those who are currently in Rapid ReHousing. DVAf was approved by the County and HCDVCC will once again facilitate that funding.

The committee will not meet in December.

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 15th, 2026, at 11:30 via ZOOM. The current ZOOM link should work for that meeting.

Meeting adjourned.