



Policy Committee Meeting  
January 20, 2026

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|----------------------|--|
| Amy Smith            | HCDVCC                                 |
| Lt. John Klafka      | HCSO                                   |
| Sabra Mitchell       | Graduate Student                       |
| Amanda Elkanick Oder | Texas Advocacy Project                 |
| Aarian Tipton        | Texas Advocacy Project                 |
| Lt. Kira Webster     | HPD- Family Violence                   |
| Katharina Dechert    | Tahirih                                |
| Maria Servera        | The Bridge                             |
| Jen Schirmer         | Transgender Education Network of Texas |
| Thecia Jenkins       | HCDVCC                                 |
| Ashlie Young         | Coalition for the Homeless             |

Amy Smith welcomed everyone. Judge Warne was unable to attend the meeting.

Amanda Elkanick Oder announced TAP will be looking at the landscape in Texas about the 2<sup>nd</sup> prong of the P.O.'s that was taking out a couple of sessions ago. The requirement that family violence is likely to occur in the future. Some people are advocating to get it put back in so TAP will be gathering data and having conversations to get the lay of the land on this issue. Most states do not have this 2<sup>nd</sup> prong in their P.O. Statutes. She talked about TAP is doing a push to help survivors with P.O.'s and they have revamped their intake process:

[https://tapoi.legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern\\_intake.php?pid=163&h=62b5ab&state\\_uid=342f237e-f239-11f0-b680-0eea33fe5494&f=405&d\\_id=2](https://tapoi.legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern_intake.php?pid=163&h=62b5ab&state_uid=342f237e-f239-11f0-b680-0eea33fe5494&f=405&d_id=2)

People should hear back from someone within 1 business day but the number contacting them will be a 512-area code since they are based in Austin. And finally they have several new trainings available:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL576VEbsgRpokGOWFerqnc9ImPLE6zsj9\\_!!OAqB8m26hw!or\\_hkdWhDDMtADEwwSOGfpj06ZvNko30aZsQf4X9KKc0Bwb4arkHBclAnTHs2flyNOX-3vxoTqijZNP4NL\\_WvPb-tCOxvVuZFXEQ7vNDqYRfXAXJ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL576VEbsgRpokGOWFerqnc9ImPLE6zsj9_!!OAqB8m26hw!or_hkdWhDDMtADEwwSOGfpj06ZvNko30aZsQf4X9KKc0Bwb4arkHBclAnTHs2flyNOX-3vxoTqijZNP4NL_WvPb-tCOxvVuZFXEQ7vNDqYRfXAXJ$)

Lt. John Klafa announced that they are looking for a new Deputy to be assigned to the Gun Surrender Program in the 280<sup>th</sup>.

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. She will also be providing Enhanced Safety Training in partnership with HCDVCC on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Due to popular demand a second training on January 30<sup>th</sup> has been added. She also is working on the issue of the State changing regulations for car registrations, licenses, and community affairs.

Jen Schirmer announced TENT offers education and training around language to use when addressing transgender individuals. She also announced SB 8 should not be affecting shelters but in some cities, there have been reports of vigilante justice in public restrooms.

Ashlie Young announced CFTH is working on advocacy issues around funding.

Sabra Mitchell offered to help with writing any public policy that is needed since she is getting her PhD in Psychology of Victimization.

Amy announced she will be sending out a new ZOOM link for the meetings this year.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 via ZOOM**