



Policy Committee Meeting
August 20, 2024

Judge Judy Warne	Committee Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Amanda Elkanick	Texas Advocacy Project
Swati Narayan	DAYA
Mayumi Waddy	Moms Demand Action
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Aarian Tipton	Texas Advocacy Project
Veronyka James	Office of County Administration
Nusrat Ameen	DAYA
Jacklyn Guerra	HAWC

Judge Judy Warne called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She stated that all Texas Judges has have training on 12 different topics, including DV, in the next 15 months. Their training hours were zeroed out, so they are scrambling to get it all done.

Amy Smith announced HCDVCC will be holding a training on Domestic Violence High Risk Teams at the United Way on September 26th. More information will be sent out soon.

Thecia Jenkins stated HCDVCC held a roundtable in February on A Coordinated Community Response in the Black Community. Themes that came up were delayed reporting due to historical oppression, issues arising from people of Color in leadership roles, and Faith- based services. The third meeting of this group will be on August 29th. Due to the success of this roundtable HCDVCC will host a roundtable on A Coordinating Community Response in the Hispanic Community on September 19th. Next year HCDVCC is hoping to host roundtables in the LGBTQ+ and People with Disabilities communities. She also mentioned that DVCC, AVDA, and DAYA will be hosting an Interfaith Dialogue and a Candlelight Vigil on October 10th at the United Way. HCDVCC is also beginning a Safety Assessment of the Criminal Justice System.

Swati Narayan mentions DAYA will be participating in a Hate Crimes Forum with the DOJ and FBI on September 5th. They are trying to include gender-based violence crimes as a hate crime. They is talk about putting a work group together to discus this issue. They are hosting the film "To Kill a Tiger" with the Asia Society on Oct. 16th. She also announced two upcoming events they are cosponsoring Trauma

Informed Interpreter Training

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z42OA_QOSJWQO7I7E_gLzg#/

Power of Words - difficulty in inclusive language in AAPI communities

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sdOmvqTljGd38ydDmRudZrJtpyEUs-LuB#/registration>

Daya's gala will be on September 29th. They are also working on Safety Tips in 10 different languages. They are also working on a National Level for reproductive justice and the forced marriages.

Veronkya James announced she is working with DVCC on the Safety Assessment, and she is working to map services and resources in the HCSO DV Hot Spot map. She has discovered resource deserts and by using this information to see how to better get resources to victims.

Katharina Dechert announced that Tahirih's Naturalization Clinic was rescheduled for Friday August 23rd. They are hosting their 15th Anniversary Luncheon on September 12th. They are close to finalizing the long-awaited Enhanced Library Card to use as an ID policy. Hoping to have a celebration to announce it on September 20th. Tahirih has also been working on the national level with the Child Marriage Act of 2024 which will require a minimum age for marriage and creating funding for State Based Agencies to work in States that still have child marriages. SB 4 is still pending in the 5th circuit with no decision yet. Gov. Abbott signed an Executive Order that is set to go into effect on Nov. 1st where hospitals will be required to ask for patients their immigration status. The information is to collect cost of care information. According to some hospitals have already started collecting this information.

Amanda Elkanick reported TAP is getting ready for the upcoming Legislative Session. They are prepping bills and working with survivors around coercive control and abusers having access to signing for deceased's bodies. Not sure if this would require a bill/law or a policy change from a State Commission. Aarian Tipton announced their support groups have wrapped up for now.

Jacklyn Guerra announced that HAWC was busy with media requests around Rahimi. Their shelter is still under construction but hopes to open at the beginning of 2025.

Amy announced HCDVCC will create a DVAM calendar so feel free to send your events to Rebecca Council rebeccacouncil@hcdvcc.org

Judge Warne announced the Family Law Foundation is working on a bill to amend the P.O. Statue. DV has such a broad definition and at least adding that an affirmative defense is not likely to happen again. No statute of limitations on when DV occurred so possibly adding DV must occur within the past 24 months. As of now the 280th is not listening to cases in the DV was not within the last year. This could help with different Judge's interpretation of not having to grant P.O.s.

Judges would have to consider P.O.s if DV occurred within 2 years. Amanda stated some counties build in their own policies. Amy stated there is a difference between policy and practice. She stated TAP has 3 attorneys in Houston and might be able to look at some appeals in those cases. Judge Warne said that counties with limited resources have been swamped with P.O.s that may or may not be credible. She also stated that she gave a speech to over 2,000 lawyers and Judges and several did not know the burden in P.O.s had changed. Amanda asked about the survey that was sent out and Judge Warne stated there was poor return rate.

Judge Warne adjourned the meeting.

Our next meeting is on September 17th via ZOOM.