

ABOUT HCDVCC

Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council



History

In 1995, a number of people began discussing how to formalize the unofficial working agreements among individuals working in the domestic violence field in Harris County. Prior attempts had resulted in networking meetings, but little was accomplished. In October of that year, Houston Police Chief Sam

Nuchia held a meeting of community leaders to discuss women's issues. During that meeting, Chief Nuchia was asked if he would be willing to convene a meeting of decision makers in the domestic violence field, who could formalize agreements. He agreed to convene the meeting, but he felt that an official from Harris County should be involved. Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes, Jr. agreed to co-host the meeting.

On April 18, 1996 the first meeting of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) was held. In attendance were representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, post conviction, health, education, domestic violence programs and others. All agreed to send people to the meetings who would have authority to help create written protocols. The protocols would include every aspect of the community that had contact with domestic violence victims. By April 1997 the Council had incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, adopted bylaws, and formed committees to begin the work on protocols.

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Mission

HCDVCC's mission is to develop and implement a community wide plan to end domestic violence, and the following goals were adopted to accomplish the mission:

Develop cooperation and coordination among all the participants who serve domestic violence victims; evaluate the current institutional response to domestic violence in order to develop and maintain a community protocol handbook; identify additional service needs in the community and work to fill those needs; educate the public about domestic violence policies and available resources; strengthen and coordinate intervention and prevention efforts; encourage efficient use of community resources and simplify and increase access to services.

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Training and Technical Assistance Services

Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is available to provide professional development courses to equip first responders and community member work effectively with survivors of domestic violence.

We have training and technical assistance courses for:

Law Enforcement

Healthcare (Nurses, physicians, allied health workers, etc.)

Educators (k-12, college and university)

Corporate (Human Resource Professionals, Managers, Supervisors, etc)

Social Service (Case Managers, After School Programs, etc)

Criminal Justice (Probation Officers, Jailers, Case Managers, etc)

Religious Institutions (Clergy, Congregations, etc)

Domestic Violence 101

"Thank you for taking the time to build your knowledge about domestic violence. It is an issue that affects approximately one in four of your students in the classroom. This session provides an overview of what individuals in an abusive relationship are dealing with on a daily basis. As you engage in this session use this handout to jot notes about how you believe that the survivor is being impacted. This is the first step towards gaining empathy and seeking assistance for the families you work with.

Describe how you believe the survivor is being impacted and think of examples of each of the tactics used by the abuser (person who causes harm) based on the facilitator's presentation.

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