1. Welcome, Introductions, Establish Quorum: A quorum was established. Chair Foster opened the meeting at 10:00AM and introductions were made.

2a. Items Removed from Consent Agenda (if applicable): Agenda items included Board Meeting Minutes May, Executive and HMIS Governance Minutes April, Providers Council Minutes April, Financials April, Committee Reports May, Board Attendance through 5.01.18.

MOTION: April Lott moved approval of consent agenda; seconded by Michael Raposa.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment/Good News: Michael Raposa shared that St. Vincent DePaul Pinellas was chosen as one of 10 pilot sites for VA ‘Rapid Resolution’, a diversion project designed to lessen the flow of veterans into the homeless system. They are envisioning hiring two diversion specialists.

April Lott of Directions for Living stated that homeless families have been an ongoing issue; there is no emergency shelter for families and we are months away from any additional funding. The Sheriff previously gave $75,000. SVDP and SP Free Clinic also shared some resources, but they are now full and hotel/motel costs are $2600 per day. Funding for families is depleted and everyone possible has been notified. Met with HLB Staff and Pinellas County Housing Authority today and working on collaboration to solve the issue, at least temporarily. Please express support to Board of County Commissioners for funding for shelter for families. Enough money for 40 families for 14 days has been pulled together from the County and City of St. Pete, but a long-term solution is needed. Is temporary funding from 211 available? A call is going to be scheduled to collaborate on solutions. Discussion continued with possible additions to resources.

4. Presentation on Methodology Study Report Pinellas Hope Phase V/ Housing First & PSH Models: Mark Dufva introduced Sondra Fogel, Ph.D. Program Chair USF and Vivian Bell, MSW, Grad Student and Project Director. Pinellas Hope is a 10-acre property, two separate operations. Shelter for up to 270 adults and 156 apartments plus case management and wrap-around services. Hope Cottages (shipping containers) approved by City of Pinellas Park to replace tents. Medical Respite started in 2009 (releases to 10 respite beds). Phase 5 is 45 units, PSH. FHFC required empirical study on financing PSH construction; results to be submitted to Florida Legislature. Study covers costs over the 3 years (one year prior to housing and 2 years following PSH) and socio-behavioral outcomes and connections to services. Dr. Fogel and Ms. Bell reviewed the study findings.

5. April CoC Data Summary: Last month it was voted this be a standing agenda item. Avery Slyker shared important points: Main difference this month was that of the 677 exits for the month, 341 were
positive. This increased our housing rate by 10% over last month. Today 1:00 HMIS begins a data clean-up campaign; going to agency administrators.

6. CoC HUD-Funded Project’s Annual Site Visit Reports: Avery Slyker has been able to flesh this process out and provide more thorough reporting; she shared that this encompasses CoC HUD funded projects only. 25 new standards have been added to enhance the monitoring process. HMIS data entry errors were significant and were corrected on site or provided later. SPDAT scores are higher, which requires more case management.

7. HUD FY 2017 CoC Program Competition Debriefing: Susan Myers stated that the CoC was above the median score and awarded over $4 million, which is positive. Negatives: We are not consistently housing families within 30 days and there was an error in calculation of rapid rehousing beds from previous year. The next NOFA should be released soon.

8. Alternates HLB 2018 NOFA Review & Rank Committee: Amy Foster asked for alternates, if needed. Please let Ginny know as soon as possible.

9. Annual Legislative Priorities: It was decided to leave as a standing agenda item last month. There was an item in yesterday’s newsletter on a NOFA for a family unification project through vouchers; the St. Pete Housing Authority is looking at that and we need to make Robbin Sotelo Redd from Tarpon Springs aware. April Lott shared that FHC priorities were discussed at last Providers meeting; April asked them to continue to provide input. Proposals for special projects need to be considered, possibly for families, as well as diversion. Susan Myers submitted the HLB’s priorities to the Florida Housing Coalition. A statewide priority meeting in on June 18th in Orlando. A request went from the HLB to the Governor to save Challenge funding for homelessness -- the Board, Funders and Providers were asked to do the same.

A suggestion was made here to consider using vacant warehouses near public transportation for housing.

10. HUD Contract Fiscal Alignment: Susan Myers stated that the proposal to realign the grant periods was submitted to both the Finance and Executive Committees and approved. 

**MOTION:** April Lott moved approval, Beth Houghton seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

May need to recuse Michael from that vote, Regina will check into that.


**MOTION:** Beth Houghton on approved and April seconded.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Consider changing Executive Assistant’s title to better encompass all of the duties entailed.

12. Follow-Up RCS: Chair Foster stated that RCS representatives are present today and will have a three-minute presentation time; not enough notice was given for an additional agenda item, but they may present at the next Board meeting if noticed. This is an informational item; the Executive Committee discussed this at their last meeting and wanted to share with full Board and be transparent. The Chair reviewed issue to date: RCS Permanent Supportive Housing grant compliance issues. HLB, as lead agency, must monitor performance in area. The current RCS contract with HUD is for PSH for survivors of
domestic violence. Additionally, a formal complaint regarding compliance issues on RCS leases was received. The Chair briefly reviewed correspondence to date.

Kirk Smith, CEO and President and Melinda Perry, COO from RCS asked if there were any questions they could answer and asked to present at a later time. A site visit was made to RCS yesterday; not all of the data is completed yet. Some of their units are to be repurposed and fully converted on Jan.1, 2019. Current occupants that did not qualify for affordable housing will not be evicted.

Discussion - This can affect the upcoming NOFA with regard to DV housing gaps. These conversations should have taken place at the Providers Council, of which RCS is a member. Mr. Smith stated that he communicated the changes with HUD and they are and were aware. He believed they were doing things the correct way; they are still fully committed to the DV population with permanent supportive housing. The current agreement is for 11 units of PSH for DV survivors. Can that be changed to 4 units? Discussion on using vouchers plus HUD/CoC funding combined. CoC funded programs must be Housing First. Questions and discussion followed on grant application timing and the dates that the changes were initiated. How do we better move forward with this process? Does HUD only have to be notified or programmatic changes? What is in the contracts?

Immediate review needed on occupancy and capacity of current providers and report back next month on DV capacity.

Next steps: RCS come to next meeting and the Board will receive results of site visit. RCS’s contract is directly with HUD; staff must meet with HUD and RCS prior to Board presentation. Also present to Board the impact of funding for 11 DV units and funding for next year for system planning.

No items from the floor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.

Submitted by G. Bodkin