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


- Chair Foster asked to pull the Joint Funder & Providers Funding Recommendations from the consent agenda for discussion purposes under agenda item #7 (HLB Budget Request to Pinellas County).
- The Chair stated that Jane Walker from Daystar asked to add an agenda item on SNAP Food Assistance Program.
- Mark Dufva of Catholic Charities as to make an introduction and speak about the intake process.

MOTION: Robbin Sotelo Redd moved to accept the revised agenda; seconded by Duggan Cooley. VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: April Lott moved to approve the consent agenda; Sean King seconded the motion. VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment/Good News: April Lott stated that the SOAR Program has submitted 20 applications and 18 have been approved. Directions for Living is now receiving $16,000+ for those individuals.

Michael Raposa of St. Vincent DePaul reported that the Veteran Leadership Team had been looking at discharge from shelter into bridge housing being considered a negative discharge, due to a quirk in benchmarks; after discussion locally, he brought to discussion in Washington, DC and as of October 1st, 2018, that will be changed.

Update on Suncoast Hospice/Empath Health: Kelly Siegel, Community Partnership Specialist for Empath Health (Hospice) gave updates on their services including food pantry and AIDS programs. Empath also offers community counseling for grief and other issues. Chair Foster thanked Empath Health/Hospice for their continued generosity to the HLB with their meeting space.
**Added Item:** Mark Dufva of Catholic Charities/Pinellas Hope introduced Danielle Husband, the new leadership at Pinellas Hope. He also clarified that their intake day at Pinellas Hope is Tuesdays. Intake does not always need to go through the Street Outreach Team, but that is the primary way, because they can best assess acuity. Call Danielle on days other than Tuesdays for referrals. He reiterated that Pinellas Hope remains a dry community and continues to do criminal background checks (for insurance purposes) and cannot accept violent sexual offenders or a those with a recent violent felony offense. Secondly, they will continue drug and alcohol screening, but entry is not denied for it. Their maximum capacity is 470 (200 of those are permanent supportive housing and the rest is shelter). Directions for Living and PEMHS are engaged, critical partnerships, as well as CABHI grant.

**Added Item:** Jane Walker asked for an advocacy action regarding changes to ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) rules for SNAP (Supplemental Food Assistance Program). Florida Legal Services sent out templates to share with agencies and individuals to write to administration to urge them not to make these proposed changes. Susan Myers will share the information.

**Chair Amy Foster asked Board members to note that in the February CoC Data Summary (in the consent agenda packet), there were more exits than entries; that change should be celebrated.**

5. **Notification of 2018 Nominating Committee Appointments:** The Chair stated that her appointees for this year would be Commissioner Karen Seel, April Lott, Pam Qualls, Duggan Cooley, and herself.

**MOTION:** Beth Houghton moved to approve the appointment of the 2018 Nominating Committee; Duggan Cooley seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approve Increase HLB Line of Credit:** Susan Myers stated that cash flow issues, due to the increase in payroll expenses and timeliness of grant reimbursements from funders, were discussed with the Finance Committee after the annual audit. Per the Financial Policies, the reserve account is funded $4,000 per year, if available. The Executive Committee recommended not funding this year until cash flow issues are resolved. Our line of credit with Republic Bank is currently $50,000 (payroll is $60,000 per month); Finance Committee suggested she approach the bank for an increase to $100,000. Republic agreed to $75,000 with 1% processing fee to cover underwriting costs (the interest fee on the line of credit is 5.75%). Susan recommended that we move forward with this offer or approach another bank if anyone has a suggestion. Beth Houghton, former Treasurer suggested that the HLB needs that cushion despite the fees.

**MOTION:** April Lott moved to increase the line of credit including the fees as explained. The motion was seconded by Michael Raposa.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

7. **HLB Budget Request to Pinellas County:** Chair Foster stated, to be clear, this request has already gone to County but felt it was important to share the joint Funders and Providers meeting results (which have been submitted to the County including a budget). Susan Myers reviewed the breakdown of the $1,558,000 being requested (in consent agenda packet). The joint councils recommended the following CoC priorities for local funding: 1) Intensive Support Systems and Services for Permanent Supportive Housing; 2) Rapid Rehousing; 3) Emergency Shelter for Families; 4) Prevention/Diversion Services; 5) PHMIS. Susan said she was directed to submit a request for additional $500,000 to County. This was discussed with System Redesign and Executive Committee for priority (in agenda packet): 1) Diversion - $214,358, Provider TBD; 2) Emergency Shelter Services for Families - $215,986, Provider TBD; 3) Supportive Housing Services - $66,666 for 4 months, Provider Boley Centers. Diversion dollars requested would fund three highly trained Diversion Case Managers. Diversion is a huge need in this County; the goal is to Page 2
reduce the number of people who enter the system, per CSH consultant this is a best practice throughout the country. Pinellas is in the top ten in homeless in the country.

Discussion followed on what other resources of funding are available for diversion. Suggestions were reallocation to increase the flexible funding for diversion once funding is awarded and looking at opportunities in the community ex-parte of the system (i.e. churches or faith based. Discussion on diversion vs. prevention. Prevention is for people already housed; diversion is keeping homeless out of the system. Prevention happens further upstream than diversion. Prevention resources need to be expanded.

Public Comment: Jane Walker of Daystar asked why we think there is enough prevention funding when housing costs are out of control and people self-divert to locations that are already overcrowded. Mental health cases have been victimized by eviction due to affordable living being knocked down; need to get DCF involved. Diversion starts at first contact (before shelter door). Diversion is after prevention has not worked. Need more advocates not more case workers.

HLB staff member Susan Finlaw-Dusseault wanted the Board to be aware that when CSH Consultant Susan Starrett was here, there was a 3-hour training on Effective Diversion Strategies. All shelter and Street Outreach workers were invited. There were ‘train the trainers’; they were expected to go back and train other shelter personnel on those strategies and we have committed to coming back together every six weeks to talk about what works/what doesn’t to start that conversation prior to additional funding.

Chair Amy Foster shared that she has put forward a couple of proposals for the City of St. Pete’s legal team to research – a ‘right to counsel’ ordinance, which would include counsel for people being evicted; a source of income discrimination ordinance; and a ‘just cause’ eviction ordinance. She is hoping to get feedback to bring these forward for diversion at the front-end. Attorney Kardash stated that Gulfcoast and Bay Area Legal Services do provide services for low-income evictees and St. Pete and Clearwater Bars provide free legal services once a year for all issues including landlord-tenant.

Sean King said that Susan Starrett spoke about ‘housing focused case management’ to facilitate solutions; we can raise the bar right now with existing staff and trainings. This board should be setting those kind policies through Funders and Providers Councils.

Michael Raposa stated that we need permanent supportive housing for high acuity people. We do have 8-9% occupancy available and affordable – it just needs to be found – in communities that may be challenging. Sustainability is always still an issue. We set people up for failure in some cases. They need additional vouchers. Amy Foster stated this will be discussed more at System Redesign.

Susan Myers returned to the at hand agenda item. She stated that Commissioner Seel has an initiative in which she has requested proposals to fund Emergency Shelter for families. She received 5 proposals and there is a Review and Rank Committee set to meet on April 10th. As a backup, until that review and rank takes place, the HLB created a proposal to fund beds that are sometimes unfunded and a case manager who could roam to where those families are as a stop-gap measure, although not ideal.

April Lott clarified that Directions for Living has no ‘unfunded’ beds; families are being put into hotel/motel after all the beds are full. Debbie Johnson from Pinellas Housing Authority reminded everyone that if a family goes into shelter and is at imminent risk of losing their children to DCF because of it, they may qualify for a Housing Choice voucher as a preference. Get with her for referrals. There is a waiting list at this time.

**Comment Cards:** Gary MacMath from Boley said that consultants told us for a long time how expensive emergency housing is; this is four times more than permanent supportive housing.
Theresa Jones from the City of St. Pete concurred that they have had to put people in hotel rooms and find no available beds at all.

The Chair asked April Lott to report on the Providers Council annual priority populations; she stated there was no change, still: families, unaccompanied youth, chronically homeless individuals, and veterans. They have not traditionally included veterans but did not want to overlook.

Chair Foster returned to the Funders and Providers recommendations, which were removed from consent agenda for separate action.

**MOTION:** Michael Raposa moved to approve the joint Funders and Providers recommendations on local funding for FY2018/19; Duggan Cooley seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

Reminders from the Chair: The CEO review is set for April 23rd at 12:00PM in Room 105 of JWB. The Executive Committee convenes to review, then gets with CEO. This is a public meeting. The opportunity for input was given out last month. Also, the N. County COC meeting is April 24th at the Salvation Army on Druid Road – “Effective Strategies on Ending Homelessness”.

Adjourned at 11:30AM.