1. **Call to Order**

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Chair made an announcement about virtual meetings and reviewed procedural items for speaking, motions and voting.

1a. **Public Comment**

- City of St. Petersburg noted that there will be a Showered and Empowered event at the church located at 900 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. South which Sam Picard was helpful in arranging. There is also an event at DayStar today.

2. **Consent Agenda**

- The consent agenda was comprised of the March 6, 2020 CoC Board Meeting Minutes; the Resolution to Allow Remote Conferencing; the Minimum Shelter Standards and the Alternative Shelter Proposal.

- It was requested to remove item 2d, the Alternative Shelter Proposal due to an error on the agenda item cover sheet.

**MOTION:** Approve Consent Agenda minus the Alternative Shelter Proposal by April Lott. Seconded by Connor Donovan. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.
• The background on the agenda item cover sheet for the Alternative Shelter Proposal should indicate ‘ratify the Alternative Shelter Proposal’, not the Minimum Standards. Staff recommendation on the cover sheet should also say ‘ratify the Alternative Shelter Proposal.

**MOTION:** Approve agenda item 2d, Alternative Shelter Proposal, with the correction by Michael Jalazo. Seconded by Amy Foster. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

3. **Return to Monthly CoC Board Meetings**

• The Board had previously agreed to meet on a bimonthly basis for the current year. However, due to policy and funding needs that require Board review, the Board will be meeting monthly for the foreseeable future.

4. **Approval of CoC Attorney**

• When the HLA became a separate non-profit agency and retained the attorney, the CoC Board agreed that independent legal representation was needed for the CoC. Mr. Charlie Gerdes has offered to represent the CoC pro bono and has conveyed a letter of representation. The Board needs to approve having Mr. Gerdes as its attorney.

**MOTION:** Michael Jalazo motions to approve. Seconded by April Lott. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

5. **CoC COVID-19 Response**

• Executive Committee has been very involved in the process, as have some of the Board members as elected officials or providers. Providers, those who donate, volunteers have all stepped up to serve the homeless population.

• Shelters have been full; some are still doing intakes, and some are working with Outreach.

• Prevention services providers are already being overwhelmed with rental services requests. There was no moratorium on late fees and many landlords have been adding them into the rent due.

• Pinellas County Human Services implemented a COVID-19 isolation project for homeless citizens who tested positive or are waiting test results. Those with positive results were placed in hotels until they tested negative or simply required 14 days quarantine. The project was a partnership between the County, Directions for Living and the HLA. HLA did the coordinated entry, Directions for Living provided transportation, food and case
management. Approximately 15 homeless were involved in this project and four tested positive.

- Directions for Living and the HLA have partnered to do targeted outreach. Staff went out and went to various targeted encampment areas to provide information of resources and supplies such as masks, hygiene items and such. We will be doing that regularly together with Directions for Living until there is no longer a need.

- Shelter issues include a lack of supplies, although they are starting to come in. Getting hundreds of donations of masks, along with those provided by emergency management, and there have also been significant donations of gloves and hand sanitizer. Thermometers are wanted by all the shelters, but no one has been able to secure them.

- Executive Committee has been meeting three times a week at 5 PM and sometimes meeting until 7 PM. HLA Staff are working 10-12-hour days, seven days a week.

- HLA staff are meeting with homeless providers and funders several times a week. Both funders and providers have been working nonstop to keep the homeless population safe.

- In response to a question, the hotel project has a current capacity of 50 hotel rooms available for those who have nowhere to quarantine, have been tested and are waiting for results or tested positive.

- Commissioner Holck offered thanks to all for their hard work. Commissioner Holck volunteers with I Love St. Pete and they have done a lot of referrals to Directions for Living and 211. Everybody sent to these organizations was accommodated.

- Dr. Carr also offered thanks to Directions as well as Pinellas Community Foundation. They were instrumental in getting computers out to students and coordinating hot spots for the families.

6. Non-Congregate Shelter Proposal

- The hospital to hotel program the County is operating is called non-congregate sheltering. Throughout the last eight weeks, the best practice across the country is to provide this type of shelter, particularly to those who are more vulnerable to contracting the virus, because congregate shelter increases the risk of infection.

- Presented a proposal to the County that puts those 65 years of age and older as well as those with chronic health conditions into a hotel. This population should have the opportunity to go to non-congregate sheltering if they would like. HLA would do coordinated entry and Directions for Living would provide transportation and case management. Based on costs and expenses, it would cost approximately $26,000 per week for the 46 individuals who are currently in HMIS in shelter or outreach that are 65 years of age or over. The actual cost will depend on the number of applicants.
• Funding is an issue. One of our funders gave us permission to use their grant for this program. Directions for Living has also applied for a $75,000 grant, so we are hoping to have over $100,000. The County has other priorities at this time and will be focusing its funding on those priorities. Currently, the HLA has $30,000 available however additional dollars are needed for implementation.

• Providers Council Chair Lott suggests that if individuals at area shelters do test positive, they can access the hotel provided by the County. Individuals 65 and older are not as likely to recover and preventing them from being exposed is a goal.

  **MOTION:** Chris Koback motions to approve. Seconded by Michael Jalazo. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

7. **CoC Priorities for COVID-19 Funding**

• The HLA is asking the CoC Board to consider developing recommendations for how it would want additional COVID-19 federal, state and local funding allocated. Currently, the ESG allocation is $200,000, which is subcontracted to Directions for Living for Rapid Rehousing and prevention. We anticipate getting at least another $200,000. It’s one of the few grants that can be used for emergency shelters. Staff recommends that it be used for prevention and Rapid Rehousing, with Executive Committee determining how it’s used.

• HUD is directing CoCs to allocate funding through an equity lens. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has provided questions that the committee should be asking to determine how to allocate through an equity lens. The questions were developed to helpfully guide the discussion. Staff is recommending that the CoC Board give the Executive Committee authorization to allocate funds.

  **MOTION:** April Lott motions to approve that Executive Committee determine the prioritization and funding allocation, using an equity lens. Seconded by Debbie Johnson. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

• Follow up Discussion: Recommend including domestic violence. It was also believed that the public doesn’t understand what forbearance means when it comes to paying rent and utilities and that they all will have to pay the rent and utility bills that are past due.

8. **Establish a COC Disaster Task Force**

• At present, there are numerous workgroups under County Emergency Management (EM) for various entities and populations. The HLA is currently the lead for EM’s Homeless Workgroup. County EM announced that it will retain the Homeless Workgroup through hurricane season. It is recommended that an ongoing CoC Disaster Task Force be created to develop mitigation plans for the various types of disaster events that could impact the homeless community such as hurricanes, pandemics and other natural disasters.
**MOTION:** April Lott motions to approve the development of a CoC Disaster Task Force. Seconded by Connor Donovan. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

- Follow up: The HLA will call for volunteers next week.

9. **Partnership to End Childhood Homelessness Project**

- The Chair moved this item to earlier in the agenda in order to ensure it was reviewed by the Board during the meeting.

- The City of St. Petersburg is funding this project with a budget of $250,000 to end childhood homeless in select St. Petersburg schools. An RFP was sent out with a deadline of March 31 to submit a proposal. The Review and Rank Committee met on April 20 but there were not enough members to achieve quorum. Only one proposal was received from Directions for Living. They indicated they are ready and able to move forward with the project. The five members of the Committee scored an average of 93 for the proposal; Directions for Living’s proposal meets all the requirements of the project. Board needs to vote since Committee did not have quorum.

**MOTION:** Duggan Cooley moves to approve. Dr. Carr seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

10. **Update on Governor’s Executive Order**

- The Chair elected to move this item to the end of the agenda.

- The Governor’s Executive Order 20-69 suspended the in-person quorum requirement and does not affect other Sunshine Law requirements. Those continue in place as is. The only thing suspended is the in-person requirement that allows meetings such as videoconferencing. That expires on May 8, but as part of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-112, it has been extended for the life of that order. It doesn’t indicate for how long. The Governor’s Task Force is indicating that they may let the exemption lapse. The expectation is that in Phase II, there will no longer be a quorum exemption and we would need to meet in person. Public attendance could be limited to 50 people with proper spacing.

- One of the challenges is the reliance on various other nonprofits to use their meeting space. Currently, we can’t use Empath, JWB or ServiceSource. Meeting in person will be a challenge.

- The Chair indicates that members should prepare for the likelihood of meeting in person in June. Executive Committee is meeting on May 18 and will review potential options.
Final Comments from the Chair:

- Please make sure to look for updated CoC Board meeting invitation. Prior to meeting, we will ask for attendance intentions by Doodle Poll or email; please respond so that we can determine if we have quorum.