

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-53**

**RESOLUTION OF PINELLAS COUNTY  
ENDORING HOUSING FIRST AND THE COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has an interest in improving the quality of life of all homeless citizens in Pinellas County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners agrees that housing is a basic human right; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners is committed to developing a homeless services system which ensures that homelessness among Pinellas County citizens is *rare, brief and nonrecurring*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Inc. is the designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for Pinellas County through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

**WHEREAS**, HUD established a commitment to Housing First, defined in Notice of Funding Availability for the 2015 Continuum of Care Program Competition FR-5900-N-25, as "an approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold" and includes the minimum components: 1) removing barriers to entry; 2) establishing a coordinated entry system; 3) practicing client-centered service delivery; 4) prioritizing households most in need; and 5) ensuring inclusive decision-making.

**WHEREAS**, HUD established a requirement for each CoC to implement a Coordinated Entry System as outlined in CoC Program Interim Rule 24 CFR 578.7(a)(8); and

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Inc. is developing a Coordinated Entry System for full implementation in FY 2016 in order to effectively assess and prioritize housing needs and mitigate recurrences of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness released the nation's first comprehensive strategy for ending chronic homelessness entitled

*Opening Doors; Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, which endorsed Housing First as a best practice.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida:

**Section 1.** The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners endorses the best practice model of Housing First and believe it will greatly assist in the goal of making homelessness *rare, brief and nonrecurring* for Pinellas County citizens.

**Section 2.** The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners expects all CoC-funded entities to implement a Housing First philosophy in their housing programs.

**Section 3.** The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners requires the full participation of all CoC-funded entities in the Coordinated Entry System.

**Section 4.** The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners expects all non-CoC housing programs within Pinellas County to adopt the Housing First philosophy and fully participate in the Coordinated Entry System by April 1, 2019.

**Section 5.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 9th day of August, 2016, Commissioner Long offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Seel, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Justice, Long, Welch, Eggers, Gerard, and Seel.

NAYS: None.

Absent and not voting: Morroni.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By:



Office of the County Attorney