FL515 BEST PRACTICES AND SERVICES APPROACH

1. Low Barrier Approach
   The purpose of a low barrier approach to access services is to have as few rules and conditions as possible in order to meet clients in their current situation. Rather than using rules to screen them out of services, assessment and case management are used to determine appropriate services for the client's individual situation. An example would be not to eliminate an individual from a low barrier shelter by requiring he/she to abstain from substance use.

2. Housing First Approach
   The Housing First model believes that stable housing is the first step in creating stability rather than being the reward for improvement. Homeless clients should be moved into permanent housing as soon as possible and provided with wrap around services to make the transition successful. As state above, barriers should be kept at a minimum.

3. Trauma Informed Care
   TIC, or Trauma Informed Care, recognizes that the majority of clients needing services are more likely than not to have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives. Providers need to be knowledgeable regarding the symptoms and underlying causes of trauma and be prepared to address underling issues in the client with appropriate services.

4. Fair Housing and Equal Access
   The housing policies of FL515 CoC are governed by, but not necessarily limited to, The Fair Housing Act, the Equal Access Rule, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II and Title III. Fairing Housing guarantees that individuals will not be discriminated against by race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, or disability. The Equal Access Rule states that persons access will not be determined based on perceived or actual sexual orientation, gender identity, or family status. Persons with disabilities may not be discriminated against due to their disabilities. These policies apply to services, programs, and activities of the FL515 Continuum of Care.

   More information can be found at HUD.GOV.