

A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

2 MS. OLSON: I'll go ahead and open the hearing.

3 Thank you so much for joining us.

4 This morning's hearing is about the Consolidated
5 Annual Performance & Evaluation Report. This evaluation
6 report, or we call it the CAPER, is specifically related
7 to the state of Montana's Consolidated Plan, which is a
8 five-year plan that the State completes and then annually
9 updates through the Annual Action Plan to ensure that we
10 are providing the public the opportunity to engage and
11 comment in to how the State will administer or use funds
12 from a federal perspective on how HUD funds will be used
13 in the state of Montana. And the CAPER is the report out
14 regarding how we did complete that task or use those
15 funds.

16 So with that, these programs that are listed on the
17 screen in front of you are the programs that are included
18 in the Annual Action Plan and also the CAPER. So the
19 Community Development Block Grant Program; ESG, which is
20 administered by the Department of Public Health and Human
21 Services; HOME Program; HOPWA, which is also overseen by
22 the Department of Public Health and Human Services; and
23 the Housing Trust Fund are the programs that are included
24 in the update and report out of the CAPER and then also
25 included in the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan

1 that identify how we're going to be using those funds.

2 And as you can see, Community Development Block Grant
3 has three different types of uses, economic development,
4 housing, and public facilities. And so we specifically
5 identify those in our Action Plan and in our report as to
6 how we have intended to use them and, in this report, how
7 we have established our use and expenditure of them.

8 So this is again the Consolidated Plan, the five-year
9 plan for federal housing, community and public facilities,
10 and then, of course, it combines all of the reporting into
11 one report of the CAPER for all of the programs that you
12 just briefly saw.

13 So as a reminder, the Consolidated Plan, we are
14 currently under the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. And
15 actually, we'll begin shortly our update to the
16 Annual Action Plan. This CAPER is a report about the
17 activities that the State has undertaken for the 2017
18 federal fiscal year and falls under our 2016-2017
19 Annual Action Plan.

20 So in the CAPER, there are detailed project
21 accomplishments that show the expenditure of the funds as
22 it pertains to the projects that were awarded throughout
23 our program year. Our program year begins April 1st and
24 ends March 31st. Specific to this CAPER, it was
25 April 1st, 2017, and March 31st, 2018.

1 So we're going through a public comment period. It
2 began June 14th and it ends June 28th. So if you have any
3 comments about the use of funds or how we expended those
4 dollars, we would ask you to view our CAPER, hopefully you
5 already have, by the close of June 28th and give us
6 comments back regarding any questions or comments that you
7 might have about the use of those funds. Once those
8 comments are received, we will provide an official
9 response and include that in our CAPER to ensure that any
10 comments that you have, we not only provide a response but
11 then also are able to provide any updates to the CAPER or
12 edits to the CAPER before sending it off to HUD.

13 This is our third year of our Consolidated Annual
14 Performance Evaluation Plan, again, of that five-year
15 performance period.

16 So in the Department of Commerce, Community
17 Development Division, myself and A.C. Rothenbuecher, as
18 the operations manager, help to oversee the CDBG, HOME,
19 HFT funds, and we help to administer those funds on behalf
20 of the Department of Commerce and the State of Montana.

21 Within the CDD Division we have awarded CDBG grants,
22 three to public facilities; three to community facilities,
23 which are local community facilities that would support
24 low and moderate income folks such as food banks,
25 HeartStart centers, senior centers; and two housing

1 projects. And also, public facilities are infrastructure
2 related, so that would be water and wastewater and other
3 sorts of public infrastructure.

4 We have one economic development project that was
5 awarded and one HOME rental development and rehabilitation
6 project -- or, excuse me, two rehab projects and then one
7 that was a new construction project funded by the
8 HOME Program. We also have, as part of our HOME funds,
9 set aside HOME funds that are for down payment assistance
10 to individual households. And so we have one project of
11 those, and then also funded, out of our housing trust
12 funds allocation, one rehabilitation project.

13 Next, the Department of Public Health and Human
14 Services oversees the ESG, Emergency Solutions Grant, and
15 also the HOPWA funds. So Jamie Palagi is the division
16 administrator and Sara Loewen is the bureau chief that
17 oversee the administration of those funds that are the
18 responsibility of Department of Public Health and Human
19 Services.

20 Jointly, the Department of Commerce and Public Health
21 and Human Services complete all of the plans that we've
22 been talking about, the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action
23 Plan, and the CAPER, to provide a consolidated response
24 and report and application to HUD on an annual and
25 five-year basis.

1 So the ESG grants are distributed on a formula basis
2 to the HRDCs, and the HRDCs use those funds to meet the
3 needs of homelessness -- or of the homeless or those at
4 risk of homelessness at the local level. They also
5 provide funding for activities for rapid rehousing, which
6 you can see the activities that are included as part of
7 rapid rehousing.

8 Next, the HOPWA funds also are overseen by DPHHS and
9 work to increase the availability of affordable housing,
10 meeting the needs of people that have HIV or AIDS and
11 their families. And it's a partnership between DPHHS and
12 four private agencies, and you can see that those are
13 regional agencies that span Montana, North Dakota, and
14 South Dakota.

15 So the CAPER is included as part of what we call the
16 eCon Planning Suite, which is an electronic consolidated
17 plan format that HUD prescribes and is put into that
18 format and then produced as a document so that we can
19 report in all of the accomplishments for the annual
20 program year and then provide that format to the public to
21 provide comment on. So within the CAPER there are
22 two major sections. They report for all HUD funded
23 programs under the CR. And then ESG has specific
24 reporting.

25 what you'll see in our CAPER is that there are some

1 sections that are specific to programs, but we also try to
2 supplement the information that is required by HUD to add
3 state level data that may not be captured in the
4 eCon Planning Suite to further inform the public about the
5 activities and actions, accomplishments carried out by the
6 State for this program year.

7 so CR-05 lists the goals and outcomes. Overall, CDBG
8 and HOME expended \$8.7 million for Program Year Three. We
9 established the goal in the Annual Action Plan, as you can
10 see in the chart in front of you, as to how we were going
11 to expend CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HTF funds. And those funds
12 are representative of the actual activity costs and don't
13 include the funds that may be designated towards
14 administrative costs.

15 So here you can see the other goals that we have. If
16 you'll note, the five goals that are listed are the
17 specific goals that are not only listed in the
18 Consolidated Plan, the five-year plan, but then also the
19 Annual Action Plan. And those goals are, first -- and no
20 prioritized order, but the first goal is improve and
21 sustain public infrastructure, of which CDBG funds have
22 been allocated and have produced results in this program
23 year and then also in the five-year period.

24 Second, preserve and construct affordable housing with
25 direct financial assistance to home buyers. That's

1 included in that preserve and construct affordable
2 housing. Reducing homelessness, primarily looking at
3 homeless persons, overnight shelters, and care of those
4 persons assisted, which is primarily and exclusively ESG's
5 and HOPWA reporting. Reducing homelessness through
6 homelessness prevention, which is a combination of CDBG,
7 HOME, HTF, and ESG sources of funds. And then
8 revitalizing local economies to create and retain jobs,
9 which is a CDBG objective.

10 So over the past year, we have served extremely low
11 income to moderate income families, so a total of
12 CDBG activities have served 48 households and HOME funds
13 have served 86 households.

14 As part of the CAPER, we are required to report how
15 many projects were monitored for all of the programs
16 listed, and you'll note there's two HOME designations
17 here, a HOME that indicates three projects and a HOME POA.
18 POA stands for period of affordability. So HOME
19 Investment Partnerships Program requires that the State
20 oversee and monitor the continual affordability of any
21 projects that were previously funded by HOME funds, so
22 those can range anywhere from 10 years to 20 years. So we
23 have monitored those projects that were previously funded
24 during this past program year, so you can see the number
25 of projects that we have monitored.

1 Also of note, we have not monitored any HTF projects.
2 That is because the monitoring comes in after the project
3 has been completed, and we are just beginning the
4 HTF project here, so in the next program year the CAPER
5 will report more monitoring regarding HTF.

6 Next is CR-55, which is a HOPWA spreadsheet that shows
7 the number of households served, with five different --
8 excuse me, four different types of attributes and
9 processes through which HOPWA serves these individuals.
10 You can see what the one-year goal is and what the actual
11 goal is. So the total of all of the ways that HOPWA would
12 serve households was 106 households served, and the actual
13 result was 100. So you can see that there was
14 two different categories that didn't apply, and so the
15 majority of the activities were completed on short-term
16 rental assistance payments, mortgage payments, utility
17 payments, and then also tenant-based rental assistance.

18 Additionally, the Analysis of Impediments is a part of
19 the CAPER in an indirect way while not directly reported
20 in the CAPER. The steering committee continues its
21 efforts as it relates to the analysis of impediments to
22 fair housing. And DPHHS and Commerce continue to
23 collaborate with a statewide partnership in order to
24 complete activities that will reduce any identified
25 impacts that would be an impediment to fair housing choice

1 across Montana.

2 while we're working with all public housing
3 authorities across the state, we are directly working with
4 the three entitlement communities of Great Falls,
5 Missoula, and Billings to specifically move into a
6 coordinated affirmative fair housing plan for the state of
7 Montana that will have specific elements in each one of
8 the entitlement areas.

9 So as I stated earlier, this is a public comment
10 period. It's open until June 28th, 2018, and the State of
11 Montana is accepting written comments regarding the CAPER.
12 Please send your name -- or, excuse me, send your comment
13 via email or in writing. I'll give you some information
14 about that in just a moment. Or you can definitely
15 provide comments right now verbally to the process.

16 So I'm going to go ahead and open up the phone line.
17 Hopefully we can get the folks that are on the line to be
18 able to comment. If you don't have any comments, that's
19 fine too, but if you could state your name and spell it
20 and the organization you're representing so that we can
21 record it for our hearing today.

22 And I see there's some folks on the phone.

23 MS. CRIDER: I sent Shyla and Tori their PINS so
24 that if they want to log in and ask questions they can.

25 MS. OLSON: So it looks like Shari Eslinger is on

1 the phone and Shyla Patera. And then Tori Matejovsky,
2 you're also on the phone. So if any of you would like to
3 make a comment, you can also type it into the queue in
4 front of your computer screen.

5 I'm also going to bring up the slide that shows how
6 you can submit written comments to the Department
7 regarding the CAPER. You can send them to the
8 email address that you see in front of you, which is
9 DOCConPlan@mt.gov, or you can put them in writing and send
10 them in the mail. Please send them so that they can be
11 received by the Department during the public comment
12 period time frame, which ends, again, June 28th. And we
13 look forward to receiving any comments that you might
14 have.

15 Just as I'm waiting to see if anybody has any
16 comments, once you open up the CAPER online -- in which
17 case you can also access it at the 25 or so repositories
18 across the state that allow you to see a physical copy --
19 I would direct you to view the table on page 7, which is
20 Accomplishments. That specifically addresses how much
21 funds were used in each one of those categories that
22 established the goals and then also what the percentage of
23 use of those funds were, as well as identifying the amount
24 that was expended during the program year. I find that
25 that table is most helpful in identifying where the funds

1 were -- excuse me, how much of the funds were spent.

2 And then also directing your attention to page 9,
3 which shows the projects that were awarded during the plan
4 year specifically from the CDBG and HOME and HTF funding
5 sources. I think that gives a really great picture of the
6 use of the funds that was awarded by the State to entities
7 that applied during this program year.

8 so Shyla, it looks like you have some comments. If
9 you'd like, you can type them in and I can read them for
10 the record and we can record your comments.

11 MS. CRIDER: Shyla is having computer issues.

12 MS. OLSON: So Shyla, we see that you're having
13 some computer issues, so we're just going to give you some
14 time to participate.

15 MS. CRIDER: And I also sent her an email saying
16 that comments can also be submitted through email.

17 MS. OLSON: So I'm going to chat a little bit
18 about the process for public comment. Once you make a
19 public comment, the State will consider that and then
20 provide a formal response via the document, and we'll be
21 sure to post that online so that you can not only see your
22 question and then also see the response that, that either
23 DPHHS or Commerce will provide as applicable to the
24 programs.

25 Additionally, this is a draft version of the CAPER,

1 and so any comments that are made that would substantiate
2 some changes to be made to the CAPER will be considered by
3 the state, and any of those changes will be reflected in
4 the final draft that will be prepared and sent to HUD. Of
5 course, this will all be published on the Commerce's
6 Consolidated Plan website. And then after that's been
7 sent up to HUD, the state then will receive a response
8 from HUD based on their review and any modifications that
9 they request before it is fully finalized and approved by
10 HUD. Any changes to that will be posted on our website to
11 ensure that the public is fully informed.

12 shyla, if you can hear me, it looks like you're trying
13 to log back in. We'll definitely wait and give you some
14 time to be able to chime in when things are working.

15 MS. CRIDER: Carilla French from HRDC 4 is now on
16 the line, so I unmuted her.

17 MS. OLSON: So Ms. French, it looks like you just
18 joined the call. We went through a summary of the CAPER,
19 but if you have any comments or questions, I'm happy to
20 repeat anything as you're just joining the call. Your
21 phone has been unmuted, so if you have any comments about
22 the CAPER, happy to hear those comments. And as well as
23 anybody else on the line, your phone has been unmuted and
24 we're happy to accept comments verbally or you can also
25 send them to us in writing at the address you see in front

1 of you or you can email them to DOCConPlan@mt.gov.

2 MS. FRENCH: Thank you, Stephanie.

3 MS. OLSON: Perfect. Who do we have on the line?

4 This is Jennifer.

5 MS. FRENCH: Oh. This was just Carilla French
6 saying thank you.

7 MS. OLSON: Oh. No worries. And if you have any
8 comments, we're more than happy to accept them today on
9 the phone. And if you'd like to have me repeat or go over
10 anything that was already discussed about the CAPER or any
11 questions about the CAPER, I'm happy to also give you kind
12 of an overview of what that document is.

13 MS. FRENCH: So I apologize for ringing you late.
14 I had another meeting that ran over. So did I miss the
15 entire review of the CAPER?

16 MS. OLSON: Well, the public hearing is just an
17 abbreviated version of the CAPER since it's a 47-page
18 document, so we just went over the highlights. Some of
19 the things that I will just kind of go back over is I
20 would direct you to the Accomplishments listed on page 7,
21 which is in Table 1 of the CAPER, and then also
22 specifically page 9, which lists the CDBG, HOME, and HTF
23 awards.

24 But generally, let me give you kind of a short
25 synopsis. The CAPER is the final accomplishment report to

1 HUD, which is based off of the five-year Consolidated Plan
2 that the State completes and the Annual Action Plan that
3 is an update, if you will, annual update to the
4 Consolidated Plan that is sent to HUD as the State's
5 intended use of funds.

6 And so the CAPER shows how we did use them and how we
7 did expend the funds that were received by the State from
8 HUD. Those funds include CDBG, HOME, HTF, ESG, which is
9 the Emergency Services Grant, and HOPWA, which is the
10 housing opportunities for persons with AIDS.

11 So those are the specific programs that are included
12 within the CAPER, and then you can see within the
13 document, there's a couple of good tables that -- well,
14 all of them are really good tables, but some really
15 specific tables that point to the use and expenditure of
16 funds.

17 The use of these funds are for the program year that
18 began April 1st, 2017, and ended March 31st, 2018. And so
19 we received our HUD award and contract on October 31st,
20 2017, so it's reporting all of those funds that were then
21 made available in late October and then have then been
22 awarded out to grantees over the past program year.

23 So we're just accepting public comments right now on
24 the CAPER, but you can definitely, you know, take a look
25 at the CAPER if you haven't already, and we are accepting

1 comments through June 28th, 2018. You can email them to
2 DOCConPlan@mt.gov or you can send them in writing to the
3 address that you see in front of you, which is
4 Community Development Division, P.O. Box 200523, Helena,
5 Montana 59620-0523.

6 I think we have a comment from Shyla. We've been able
7 to help, through other means, work around the technical
8 issues that we were having. So Shyla, I think you're on
9 the phone now.

10 MS. PATERA: Huh-uh. Hi. For the record, my
11 name is Shyla Patera, spelled S-H-Y-L-A, P-A-T-E-R-A. And
12 I represent North Central Independent Living Services at
13 1120 25th Avenue Northeast in Black Eagle, 59404;
14 452-9834.

15 And my comment on this current CAPER is we, we applaud
16 the Department in its efforts to work on its five goals.
17 We encourage the Department and Montana housing in all of
18 its forms to include visitable, accessible, and affordable
19 housing. We do encourage the Commerce and DPHHS to
20 continue working together regarding disability issues,
21 particularly those around homelessness and the continuum
22 of care.

23 We, we would like to see more data tracked as to the
24 transition needs of people with physical, sensory, and
25 mental health issues. And we hope that, that housing,

1 transportation, and health care will continue to be a
2 staple throughout the entire five-year plan and beyond.

3 And I will be submitting written comments as well.

4 MS. OLSON: That sounds great. I appreciate your
5 comments today verbally, and we look forward to seeing the
6 comments in writing, Shyla.

7 MS. PATERA: Thank you so much.

8 MS. OLSON: And thanks for bearing with us as we
9 figured out the technical issues.

10 MS. PATERA: Thanks. Bye.

11 MS. OLSON: Bye-bye.

12 If there are any other public comments, please feel
13 free to state them verbally now or you can type them in
14 your computer and we can read them for the record and then
15 include them as part of our record of response when we
16 finalize the document.

17 So seeing none from the group that is on our webinar
18 or in the room, I'm calling maybe one last time for them.

19 I want to thank everyone for your time today and
20 participation in our CAPER hearing, and I really want to
21 encourage you to provide any comments to be submitted to
22 DOCConPlan@mt.gov, and please submit them before June 28th
23 to be considered as part of our formal public hearing
24 process.

25 Additionally, if you would like to engage with the

1 Department of Commerce at any time, you can always email
2 us at DOCConPlan@mt.gov or DOCCDD@mt.gov to get on any of
3 our ListSrvs regarding any of the programs that we've
4 talked about here today or any other Commerce programs to
5 help support the community and affordable housing,
6 infrastructure, economic development, and also addressing
7 homelessness across the state.

8 Thank you so much for your time, and we look forward
9 to receiving your comments. Have a great day.

10 (The proceedings concluded at 10:35 a.m.)

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