BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

DRAFT 2018-2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Heard before A.C. Rothenbuecher, Presiding Officer
Montana Department of Commerce
Room 228, 301 South Park Avenue
Helena, Montana

August 8, 2018
10:00 a.m.

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WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Good morning. This is A.C. Rothenbuecher, operations manager for Montana Department of Commerce. This is the 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan public hearing on August 8, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Helena, Montana.

Before we get started with our presentation for the public hearing, we are going to identify those who we have on the Webinar. We will be saying your name, and so please let us know if we have missed anyone or if we have misspelled your name. And we're using this information from our Webinar.

MS. CRIDER: We have Julianna Crowley, we have Melissa Gordon, Rita Ripley-Weamer, and Shyla Patera.

MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Please let us know if there are any other members of the public who are present on the Webinar phone call today. We will unmute you all briefly so that you can let us know if we're missing anyone.

MS. CRIDER: So everybody should be unmuted.

MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Okay. Hearing no one else, we will continue with our presentation. And we will be muting you at this time, and then we will open it up for public comment.

Okay. So this is the Annual Action Plan public hearing. So the Consolidated Plan is our five-year plan
which is designed to meet the requirements set forth by
the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development, or HUD,
and various housing and community development acts passed
by the U.S. Congress. And that document which is the
five-year plan is used by federal agencies to make
decisions regarding resources made available to Montana
for addressing issues related to affordable housing,
homelessness, infrastructure, community facilities,
economic development, and other community development
needs.

Today we will be discussing the Annual Action Plan
which is for the 2018-2019 period. Citizen participation
is essential for the review and approval of our
Consolidated Plan documents, including the Annual Action
Plan.

So Montana's HUD programs include the Community
Development Block Grant, CDBG, which includes economic
development, housing, public and community facilities;
Emergency Solutions Grant, ESG; HOME Investment
Partnerships Program, HOME; Housing Opportunities for
Persons with AIDS, or HOPWA; and the Housing Trust Fund,
HTF. There are congressionally mandated goals that come
from HUD that we are focused on also in our Consolidated
Plan and our Annual Action Plan; they are to provide
decent housing, provide a suitable living environment, and
expand economic opportunities.

So as I mentioned briefly in the beginning, the Consolidated Plan is the five-year plan for federal housing, community and public facilities, and economic development investment in the state of Montana. It combines the planning and application, citizen participation, and reporting requirements for CDBG, HOME, HTF, and ESG.

The five-year plan is the Con Plan. And our 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan has been approved by HUD, and it's available on the Community Development Division's website at comdev.mt.gov.

The Annual Action Plan, or the AAP, right now we are doing a public hearing for this year's Annual Action Plan, for the 2018-2019 period, and it's open for public comment. The comment period began on July 15th, 2018, and ends on August 14th, 2018. The Draft AAP is available online at our website and also at all repositories identified on our Consolidated Plan portion of our Department of Commerce Community Development Division website.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, or the CAPER, is presented once the program year has ended, and it's a report on activities that we completed during the previous plan year. Our plan year
runs from April 1st through March 31st.

So what is the Annual Action Plan? The Annual Action Plan is an annual update to the five-year Consolidated Plan to guide the state's housing, community and public facility, economic development policy and actions for each plan year. Again, the plan year begins April 1st and ends March 31st. The Annual Action Plan identifies the state's housing and community development needs, priorities, and goals, it stipulates how funds will be allocated, and it helps the State invest money in the areas of greatest need.

So again, the Draft 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan will be provided to HUD electronically through the eCon Planning Suite, which is a required system from HUD. There are three major sections, Setup, Process, and Annual Action Plan. And the Setup includes administrative details. The Process includes documentation of the public participation elements in our process. And then the Annual Action Plan as a whole, which includes expected resources, goals, objectives, and priorities.

The Annual Goals and Objectives section of the Annual Action Plan identifies the goals for the program, the needs identified to be addressed with funding, funding that's established to meet those goals and objectives, and indicators for meeting those goals. There's also
allocation priorities, which identifies how funds are prioritized for individual programs. Also, it includes the method of distribution, which identifies how funds will be distributed by each program.

Additionally in the Annual Action Plan document, there are Barriers to Affordable Housing, which identifies the action items the departments intend to implement to address housing barriers. It also includes program-specific requirements as required by HUD. These specific programmatic requirements are discussed to implement these programs.

So here is a summary of the goals that we lay out in our current Annual Action Plan. And again, more of these can be seen -- more details of this can be seen in our Draft Annual Action Plan document. So a summary of our goals include to preserve and construct affordable housing. Our current goals include constructing 25 rental units, 20 rehabilitated rental units, adding 2 homeowner housing units, adding 4 homeowner housing rehabs, and doing 50 direct financial assistance to home buyers.

The goals for the Annual Action Plan also include planning for communities to assist citizens in the local community with their planning needs.

Additionally, our goals include improving and sustaining public infrastructure. For this Annual Action
Plan year, our goal is to benefit 2,000 activities under public facility or infrastructure activities and have direct benefit to 20 individuals.

We also have the goals here for revitalizing local economies, with a goal of creating or retaining 15 jobs, assisting at least 4 businesses, doing at least 3 public service activities, and at least 1 facade treatment/building rehabilitation project.

An additional goal we have is to reduce homelessness. That includes goals, as you can see here, for tenant-based rental assistance/rapid rehousing; homeless person overnight shelters, those assisted in that area; overnight/emergency/shelter/transitional housing beds added; efforts to do homeless prevention; and efforts to add housing for homeless individuals.

So you can see here in Table 8 which you will find in our Annual Action Plan how we have allocated funds and the priorities of those funds. Those are organized in the same five goal areas that we just discussed. You can see those at the top. And then the funding allocation priorities are demonstrated in percentages and also organized by the funding sources from HUD, CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA, and the Housing Trust Fund.

The Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, and CAPER efforts are a collaborative administrative effort and
programmatic effort by two agencies, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Here you will see the contact information for the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Division; our division administrator, Jennifer Olson, and myself, A.C. Rothenbuecher, the operations manager. We have our address, phone, fax, e-mail, and website here. Our e-mail address for Department of Commerce Community Development Division is doccdd, so D-O-C-C-D-D, @mt.gov, and our website is comdev.mt.gov.

We partner with our colleagues at the Department of Public Health & Human Services for the Emergency Solutions Grant, the division administrator, Jamie Palagi, and bureau chief, Sara Loewen. You'll also see their address, phone, and contact information. And the website to contact Emergency Solutions Grant at DPHHS is dphhs.mt.gov.

So as I mentioned before, we are currently in an open public comment period. Comments regarding the Draft 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan are now being accepted during this Webinar. If you are interested in providing comment on this Webinar, please state your name and spell it for the record and the organization, if applicable, that you are representing. We will accept comments until
August 14th, 2018.

And at this time, we will accept any public comments and then we will finish out some of our slides. If you would like to give any comments verbally on this Webinar, we will unmute you at this time.

MS. CRIDER: I have unmuted everyone who can be unmuted.

MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Okay. You all should be unmuted at this time if you would like to provide any verbal comment on this Webinar.

MS. PATERA: For the record, this is Shyla Patera, spelled S-H-Y-L-A, P-A-T-E-R-A. And I represent North Central Independent Living Services out of Black Eagle, Montana; 1120 25th Avenue Northeast, Black Eagle, Montana 59414. We serve northcentral Montana from the Blackfeet Nation to the North Dakota border.

And the public comment that I would wish to provide today, along with the written comments I am sending, is that we really hope the Department will make all of its Annual Action Plan and program goals accessible to people with disabilities, including those that are coming out of state institutions and correctional facilities, because many of those individuals have mobility and sensory disabilities, along with mental health issues. And we desperately hope that Montana can add this as a goal and
submit it to HUD.

And I will be submitting further written comments.
Thank you for your time.

MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Thank you, Shyla.

Any additional comments verbally on our Webinar today?

So written comments for the Draft 2018-2019 Annual
Action Plan must be submitted no later than August 14th,
2018, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time to Montana Department of
Commerce, Attention Consolidated Plan at the Community
Development Division, P.O. Box 200523 in Helena, Montana
59620-0523. Additionally, written comments can be
submitted via e-mail at DOCConPlan, D-O-C-C-O-N-P-L-A-N,
@mt.gov.

Department of Commerce and Department of Public Health
and Human Services encourages all interested parties to
make a comment, and we appreciate that. And thank you,
Shyla, for your comment that you provided today, and we
look forward to your additional written comments.

So once the public comment period has ended, the
Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human
Services will respond to comments made during the public
comment period, including any written or verbal comments.
We will modify the documents to include the comments made
and our response from our two agencies. Based on the
comments and response to the documents, we may make
modifications to reflect the decisions made in the
response.

We will prepare a final document to send to HUD. This
final document we publish on our website. And we will be
waiting for a response from HUD at that time, and we will
be awaiting an approval or requests for modifications from
HUD. We will also be providing a notice of the final
HUD approval and the document availability on our website.

So we want to thank you for the comments that we heard
today. We want to thank you for your participation today.
And we appreciate any written comments that you would like
to send to the Departments of Commerce and Public Health
and Human Services during our comment period for the

I will just give another moment to see if anybody else
would like to add any other comments.

Okay. We thank you for your time and thank you for
your participation.

(The proceedings concluded at 10:23 a.m.)

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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA )
COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK )

I, CHERYL ROMSA, Court Reporter, residing in Helena, Montana, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and later transcribed into typewriting; and that the foregoing -12- pages constitute a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes of the proceedings.

DATED this 9th day of August, 2018.

/s/Cheryl A. Romsa
CHERYL A. ROMSA