BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

DRAFT 2018-2019 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & REPORT (CAPER)
PUBLIC MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Heard before Stephanie Crider, Presiding Officer
Montana Department of Commerce
Room 226, 301 South Park Avenue
Helena, Montana

June 13, 2019
2:33 p.m. - 2:43 p.m.

REPORTED BY:
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WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

MS. CRIDER: Good afternoon. This is Stephanie Crider with the Department of Commerce in the Community Development Division. Today we're going to go through the Draft 2018-2019 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report, which is CAPER. The slides that we are presenting are going to define the CAPER, why we do this report, and some results that we have had throughout our program year.

Montana has five HUD programs that we report with: The Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG, which we have economic development, housing, and public facility grants; the Emergency Solutions Grant, or ESG; the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, or HOME; Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, which is HOPWA; and the Housing Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Plan is our five-year plan for federal housing, community and public facilities, and economic development investment in the state of Montana. It's a plan that combines planning and/or application, citizen participation, and reporting requirements for our HUD programs.

There are multiple components to our Consolidated Plan. The first is our five-year plan, which our state is currently operating under the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan.
We also do annual plans, which are called Annual Action Plans. Each year of our Consolidated Plan period, we prepare an Annual Action Plan which is specific to that year's goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes. They are not cumulative. And then we have our Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report, or CAPER, which is a report on the use of the funds, goals, and objectives for each Annual Action Plan.

The CAPER details our project accomplishments and expenditures throughout the current program -- or the past program year, which was April 1st, 2018, to March 31st, 2019. We are currently within our public comment period, which ran -- which began June 4th, and it goes through June 21st. And the CAPER will be submitted to HUD electronically by the end of this month. If you are interested in viewing the CAPER, you can go to the website listed at Commerce.mt.gov\Conplan\documents.

The 2018-2019 CAPER is what we are reviewing. It was the fourth year of our program year of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan period, April 1st to March 31st. For the Department of Commerce, Jennifer Olson and A.C. Rothenbuecher are the main contacts regarding the Consolidated Plan documents, Annual Action Plan, and the CAPER.

So we're going to actually go through some of our
accomplishments for this last program year. We awarded several grants for the program year. Within CDBG, we awarded 6 public facilities, 2 community facilities, and 17 planning grants. The economic development team awarded 6 grants. The HOME program awarded 3 grants for new construction and 2 for rehabilitation projects. And the Housing Trust Fund awarded 5 grants for new construction.

Jamie Palagi and Sara Loewen are the contacts for the Department of Public Health and Human Services Emergency Solutions Grant. Emergency Solutions Grants are distributed on a formula basis to the state's HRDCs, the human resource development councils. The HRDCs use the funds to meet the needs of the homeless or those at risk of homelessness at a local and community level. It includes rapid rehousing, which has activities involving case management, rental assistance, rental arrears, security deposits, and other expenditures for housing relocation and stabilization services.

The CAPER is set up in what is called the eCon Planning Suite, which is a HUD reporting tool. It has a HUD-prescribed template that we follow. And there are multiple sections in this template, but today we're just kind of going to go over a couple of the various sections to highlight some of this past program year's
accomplishments.

So the first is CR-05, which are Goals and Outcomes. CDBG and HOME expended a little over $8.4 million in Program Year Four. And the funds are broken out into one of five categories, which are preserve and construct affordable housing, plan for communities, improve and sustain public infrastructure, revitalize local economies, and reduce homeless. So in Program Year Four, we spent 73.9 percent of our HOME funds on preserving and constructing affordable housing, and we expended 36.6 percent of our CDBG funds improving and sustaining public infrastructure, and We spent 23.33 percent of our HTF funds with reducing homelessness.

The accomplishment year, we've had a lot of accomplishments this year. We saw very large numbers, especially with assisting households or improving and sustaining public infrastructure. For providing direct financial assistance to home buyers, we assisted 61 home buyers. We helped 7 communities with planning their communities. And our economic development grant wound up assisting in creating or retaining 78 jobs, which helps revitalize local economies.

In CR-20, which is the Affordable Housing section of the CAPER, we reported that 1,087 households were supported through rental assistance, and 61 households
were supported through the acquisition of existing units, and 16 households were supported through the production of new units.

CR-40 is the Monitoring section of the CAPER. During this past program year, CDBG monitored 8 projects, HOME monitored 4, the HOME Period of Affordability monitored 59 projects. And no HTF projects were monitored during Program Year Four. That's because these monitorings are specific to construction activities, and our HTF projects during Program Year Four were just at the beginning phases of their grant.

The Analysis of Impediments has a small section in the CAPER where it's about steering committee efforts. We're looking at efforts towards impediments of fair housing. There is a statewide partnership that includes the three entitlement communities and many public housing authorities across the state.

So with that being said, we are in the open public comment period right now. We accept comments during public hearing, also in writing, and we're accepting them through close of business on June 21st, 2019. Once comments have been made and the public comment period has closed, we will respond to all comments made, modify the document if required, and submit the final document to HUD, and we'll make sure to publish on our website.
Written comments can be sent to Department of Commerce.

And if there aren't any questions, we're happy to take comments at this time.

(No audible response.)

MS. CRIDER: All right. Thank you for listening, and have a great day.

(The proceedings concluded at 2:43 p.m.)

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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA ) ss.
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 -7- pages constitute a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes of the proceedings.

DATED this 17th day of June 2019.

/s/Cheryl A. Romsa
CHERYL A. ROMSA