

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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A P P E A R A N C E S

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A.C. Rothenbuecher, Presiding Officer
Stephanie Crider
Janelle Egli
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PARTICIPANTS VIA WEBINAR:

Julianna Crowley
Melissa Gordon
Rita Ripley-weamer
Shyla Patera
Marcia Lemon

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1 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

2 MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Good morning. This is
3 A.C. Rothenbuecher, operations manger for Montana
4 Department of Commerce. This is the 2018-2019 Annual
5 Action Plan public hearing on August 8, 2018, at
6 10:00 a.m. in Helena, Montana.

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

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

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

19 MS. CRIDER: So everybody should be unmuted.

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

24 Okay. So this is the Annual Action Plan public
25 hearing. So the Consolidated Plan is our five-year plan

1 which is designed to meet the requirements set forth by
2 the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development, or HUD,
3 and various housing and community development acts passed
4 by the U.S. Congress. And that document which is the
5 five-year plan is used by federal agencies to make
6 decisions regarding resources made available to Montana
7 for addressing issues related to affordable housing,
8 homelessness, infrastructure, community facilities,
9 economic development, and other community development
10 needs.

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

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

1 expand economic opportunities.

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

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

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

22 The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation
23 Report, or the CAPER, is presented once the program year
24 has ended, and it's a report on activities that we
25 completed during the previous plan year. Our plan year

1 runs from April 1st through March 31st.

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

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

21 The Annual Goals and Objectives section of the
22 Annual Action Plan identifies the goals for the program,
23 the needs identified to be addressed with funding, funding
24 that's established to meet those goals and objectives, and
25 indicators for meeting those goals. There's also

1 allocation priorities, which identifies how funds are
2 prioritized for individual programs. Also, it includes
3 the method of distribution, which identifies how funds
4 will be distributed by each program.

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

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

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

24 Additionally, our goals include improving and
25 sustaining public infrastructure. For this Annual Action

1 Plan year, our goal is to benefit 2,000 activities under
2 public facility or infrastructure activities and have
3 direct benefit to 20 individuals.

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

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

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

24 The Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, and CAPER
25 efforts are a collaborative administrative effort and

1 programmatic effort by two agencies, the Department of
2 Commerce and the Department of Public Health and Human
3 Services.

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

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

19 So as I mentioned before, we are currently in an open
20 public comment period. Comments regarding the Draft
21 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan are now being accepted during
22 this webinar. If you are interested in providing comment
23 on this webinar, please state your name and spell it for
24 the record and the organization, if applicable, that you
25 are representing. We will accept comments until

1 August 14th, 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

1 submit it to HUD.

2 And I will be submitting further written comments.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 MS. ROTHENBUECHER: Thank you, Shyla.

5 Any additional comments verbally on our webinar today?

6 So written comments for the Draft 2018-2019 Annual
7 Action Plan must be submitted no later than August 14th,
8 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time to Montana Department of
9 Commerce, Attention Consolidated Plan at the Community
10 Development Division, P.O. Box 200523 in Helena, Montana
11 59620-0523. Additionally, written comments can be
12 submitted via e-mail at DOCConPlan, D-O-C-C-O-N-P-L-A-N,
13 @mt.gov.

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

19 So once the public comment period has ended, the
20 Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human
21 Services will respond to comments made during the public
22 comment period, including any written or verbal comments.
23 We will modify the documents to include the comments made
24 and our response from our two agencies. Based on the
25 comments and response to the documents, we may make

1 modifications to reflect the decisions made in the
2 response.

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

9 So we want to thank you for the comments that we heard
10 today. We want to thank you for your participation today.
11 And we appreciate any written comments that you would like
12 to send to the Departments of Commerce and Public Health
13 and Human Services during our comment period for the
14 Annual Action Plan for 2018-2019.

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

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

19 (The proceedings concluded at 10:23 a.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 -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