

Citizen Advisory Committee Public Meeting

May 17, 2024

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Alright. So good to see everybody. For being here today. Thank you for traveling near and far to be here with us today. Appreciate [Inaudible]

>> So, moving along. [Inaudible] So, for those on the call, can you hear me? Do we have anybody on the phone? [Inaudible] Can you hear me?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** They can raise their hand.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. I think I wanted to make sure it was clear. Alright so we're going to do a roll call. I'm going to call and [Inaudible] chair and the president.

>> Owen Thomas, he's not here.

>> Charles Wright. Charles Wright, present.

>> Mr. Keith Graham?

>> **Keith Graham:** Present.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Kelley Shinn? Kelley Shinn? Alright.

>> Mary Perkins-Williams?

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** Here.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Alright. [Inaudible] Jimmy T. Tate?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Mayor Hardy, I think Kelley Shinn indicated she's present on the call.

>> And I see Dr. Tate on the call as well.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. Tate? What about Laressa Witt?

>> LaTasha McNair?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** She's present.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. Thank you. Lisa R. Williams?

>> Brad Lovin?

>> I want to say Jeralene Merritt.

>> **Speaker:** She texted me, and she's here.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. So LaTasha McNair, she's here.

>> Okay, so Kelley Shinn is also present.

>> So I believe [Inaudible]

>> So, is she good to go? [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** I'm sorry, who? Kelley Shinn? She's on the call. Yes. She's present.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. [Inaudible] Alright. [Inaudible] wrote myself. Correct chair [Inaudible] Seem to be. [Inaudible] based right? [Inaudible] Continued support efforts so, we'll move over Owen Thomas since he's not here. He couldn't make it so we'll move to Charles Wright.

>> **Charles Wright:** [Inaudible] Yes, Charles Wright, retired Air Force, retired nurse. [Inaudible] Started our organization about seven years ago now for Goldsboro, Greene County. [Inaudible] very long always helping people [Inaudible] coming along [Inaudible] ReBuild NC right from the beginning.

>> [Inaudible] patience [Inaudible] And we're still doing [Inaudible]. We have expanded into new [Inaudible] That we will get hopefully next year.

>> [Inaudible] County [Inaudible] Talk to mostly via email on the phone [Inaudible] I do a lot of communicating.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you, Mr. Wright

>> [Inaudible] Keith Graham.

>> **Keith Graham:** Thank you [Inaudible] Pastor Keith Graham. [Inaudible] counties. Very [Inaudible] on the ground helping people recover [Inaudible] With a lot of my constituents [Inaudible] to have six people [Inaudible] through the process [Inaudible] able to help people.

>> To get into [Inaudible] building the program to get [Inaudible] homeownership with a lot of people's [Inaudible] So we're helping [Inaudible] So, it's only up from here. [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you. Pastor Keith Graham. [Inaudible]

>> Alright, so we'll move on to Ms. Kelley Shinn.

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** [Inaudible] She's online.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** She's online.

>> Kelley Shinn please go ahead and introduce yourself please. [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** Just give me one second. Give her [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay.

>> **Kelley Shinn:** Can you ask that question one more time please?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** How are you doing Kelley? Just introduce yourself for them [Inaudible]

>> **Kelley Shinn:** Likewise. Would you introduce yourself

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Would you introduce yourself for me?

>> **Kelley Shinn:** I can hear it but it's [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Can you hear me now?

>> **Kelley Shinn:** A little bit better. Yes.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. All right. So, will you introduce yourself for me? [Inaudible]

>> **Kelley Shinn:** Hi, I'm Kelley Shinn and I live on Ocracoke Island. And I'm sorry I can't be with [Inaudible] today.

>> **Owen Thomas:** Owen Thomas here. Mayor pro tem, city of Lumberton.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Owen Thomas, appreciate that.

>> So now we'll move onto Mary Perkins-Williams. [Inaudible]

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** Hello. Good afternoon to all of you here and beyond. [Inaudible] Pitt County Board of Commissioner Mary Perkins-Williams and [Inaudible] association.

>> I'm not going to tell much about my own personal story because it still hurts. But when I became a county commissioner in 2014, this seat was vacant as a county commissioner and the community wanted me to [Inaudible] they thought I would be a good person to represent.

>> I had flooded, completely lost my home with Floyd, that's as much as I'm going to tell you about that. And so I became a commissioner, got elected and, I thought that they want me accessible. So I organized a nonprofit called the North Pitt County Improvement Association, and we organized from there, and I became their executive director, but the board makes all of the decisions and [Inaudible] I guess it's a lot of positive made, but [Inaudible] I did all of the work. [Inaudible]

>> North Pitt County my district, is 238mi², the organization [Inaudible] in North Carolina [Inaudible] being accessible, we had opportunity to get a facility for the board. And we have our home office in the district where I represent. And that's [Inaudible] road [Inaudible]

>> We serve the district is 233mi² [Inaudible] district is. But I can serve all of Pitt county. I do not just keep my talents of information exchange just for my district. If anyone comes to me in Pitt county and when [Inaudible] Because Edgecombe County bumps part of my district. So that's [Inaudible] County and Beaufort County.

>> It's, it's a piece [Inaudible] I love people, anyone who is a resident [Inaudible] they may come to me, I will refer to them [Inaudible] good information about where to go to address their needs.

>> I flooded. I will tell you that Floyd was [Inaudible] I'm a victim of that flood. And I help everybody with Matthew. And that was another one. Florence. Florence. I help them as well. Well, like I said, I love people and my district is my family. That's the way I look at them. My district residents are memories of my house. We get along. We may argue [Inaudible] be respectful to anyone I send them to. [Inaudible]

>> I don't have any more. Oh, yes, I do. We have the most mobile home residents, I think, in the area and they have great needs and the [Inaudible] and rehabilitation program and most homes, mobile homes, need repair. [Inaudible] Mobile homes.

>> I would love to see, those mobile homes moved out in their own back lot. [Inaudible] build a house so that they have a permanent home that they can use for their families of a as an emergency. And that would cause the family to gain more resources.

>> [Inaudible] almost everywhere [Inaudible] the 233mi² and [Inaudible] and every time there is a storm, I do try my best to [Inaudible] I do constituent services in the county at the home office. [Inaudible] My current project is a park because there aren't any parks over there, and I think if they get out of those that'll give them something to do other than worry me and [Inaudible]

>> But I enjoy and I like working with them. They wanted me to serve them and they are

[Inaudible] I'm the only county commissioner [Inaudible] to the public in a facility. [Inaudible] Now, the county manager does have an office [Inaudible] I like being [Inaudible] So they can feel free to come.

>> That's about [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you. [Inaudible] We appreciate that. It gives us an abundance of information for sure. We do appreciate you doing what y'all doing. We appreciate what you're doing in the community.

>> We're gonna move along to the next person, which would be Jimmy Tate. Jimmy Tate I believe, is all virtual and [Inaudible] and whenever you get a moment to allow him to unmute himself [Inaudible]

>> **Jimmy Tate:** Hey. Good afternoon, I'm Jimmy Tate, and I'm privileged to serve here as the founding director of Mount Calvary Center. We're located in southeastern North Carolina.

>> Having been a community college president in the northeastern part of the state at [Inaudible] And, and then, served about ten years my first time as a county commissioner then ran again in 2022, I think it was, and went through that whole political experience and resigned off our board and returned back to my work here, with Mount Calvary, never left it.

>> And I also served with USCW Board, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, Board of Trustees, having worked in North Carolina Central.

>> I'm also a victim of hurricane, the hurricane that happened too, Hurricane Florence. In 2018, my house was totally flooded, I lost everything I owned, a beautiful home overnight, was worth \$400,000 before the flood and had bought. Then afterwards, it was worth about \$50,000 in a nice community. So I, I know how it is feels to lose everything you own, you don't have any flood insurance and have to rebuild.

>> So we do work with a lot of clients from we serve about 20,000 clients a year or more through our six counties that we serve. We have youth services that we provide with the court systems and a statewide program that we wrote as well.

>> We do a lot of work with colleges and universities in helping grassroot communities. But one of the programs I'm most proud about is our Healthy Opportunities Programs. With that, we work, we have to help those who are, really need services from housing to other supportive services to help them be successful.

>> We do a number of health care initiative programs as well and just have a lot of partnerships going on, and we are involved in rent writing constantly. I thought I would escape that when I left academia world, but I found that I continue to do that and doing and doing that all the time to provide more services for our region.

>> So I'm blessed with a very wonderful team here at Mount Calvary, a team of leaders who are much smarter than myself, who many of them, follow me from community colleges and universities and grassroot work in the communities to come here to be a part of our center and help us serve the people we do.

>> So thank you for allowing us to be here. Looking forward to learning a lot about this important topic we're going to be discussing today.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you, Mr. Tate. Appreciate you and those words.

>> So now let's move along to the next person, which would be, I'm not sure if Kitti Hardison is on the call. Alright. So Kitti Hardison, if you would introduce yourself [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Mr. Chair, Kitti Hardison said they're having difficulty with their [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. Thank you. [Inaudible] I appreciate that. All right. Well, whenever they get that together we'll move along.

>> Okay. Thank you. So what we'll do, there [Inaudible] LaTasha McNair is she on the call? All right, if you would introduce yourself, Ms. McNair?

>> **LaTasha McNair:** Okay. Good afternoon. Can you all hear me?

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Yes.

>> **LaTasha McNair:** Okay, great. My apologies. I was having some issues with unmuting.

>> I am LaTasha McNair. I serve as the housing unit manager with Trillium. Formerly, I was with East Point. We provided permanent supportive housing programs to individuals who are chronically homeless. So that is the focus of the work that I did with Trillium.

>> I've been in housing work with for the past probably 20 years, working from home ownership to work with individuals who are homeless. So, with Trillium, we serve a total of 46 counties, and that has been my housing history in the housing work over the last few years.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. McNair.

>> **LaTasha McNair:** Thank you.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you for being on. I'm not sure we have, Lisa Williams on the call virtually or not?

>> Brad Lovin?

>> Or. Geraldine [Inaudible]

>> All right. Here then we'll move along. Thank you all for introducing yourselves here today. We do appreciate you for being here. [Inaudible] the agenda [Inaudible] All right.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. I didn't [Inaudible] say that. All right. Next [Inaudible] some housekeeping administrative [Inaudible] If you have questions regarding the Homeowner Recovery Program we have some case managers on hand to help with questions regarding your application.

>> If you were involved with such a problem [Inaudible] Please silence your phone, put it on vibrate before we go into to the business meeting [Inaudible] But again, if you have any questions regarding the Homeowner Recovery Program please meet with one of the managers here today, we'll be, they'll speak with you in another room.

>> All right. So, who knows, maybe it's [Inaudible] All right. It's on the record. So I would say that [Inaudible] I'd like [Inaudible] to approve the minutes, unless we have questions prior to.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right, that motion's on the floor. [Inaudible] under discussion. [Inaudible] Hearing that and seeing that, all in favor say aye. Any opposed, say nay. Motion carried.

>> All right, moving onto [Inaudible] public meeting. [Inaudible] approval of the agenda that we wanted to approve the agenda for. For. [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible] 15 minutes [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** I would like a motion to move forward with the agenda as presented that is on the floor. [Inaudible] Is there accepted [Inaudible] to move [Inaudible] under discussion [Inaudible] under discussion. [Inaudible] in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. Motion carried.
>> All right. So.

>> **Charles Wright:** Back up a little bit [Inaudible] agenda has [Inaudible] agenda moved forward since the public [Inaudible] As far as upcoming agendas [Inaudible] I just wanted to make a comment [Inaudible] physical data from our last meeting. It's very compelling. They talked about 4,981 applications [Inaudible] buyouts [Inaudible] I just want to put a suggestion out to the staff folks [Inaudible] I know you have a lot to do already [Inaudible]

>> But what I'd like to see [Inaudible] how [Inaudible] Before maybe 1 or 2 weeks before our next meeting, that you could update so we're saying it's 4,000 [Inaudible] and then just let us know, here's a new update on our old numbers. It's now 3,000 not [Inaudible] so whatever, [Inaudible] 1,000 since the last meeting [Inaudible] and all the folks [Inaudible] buyout [Inaudible] to say this is what was happening at this time, then we can update, and say right before the meeting, so this is where we're at now.

>> So that way we go back to our constituents, wherever they are, whether that's city or governmental. We have some good news to give them. You know, hey [Inaudible] and not just take advantage of a lot of people [Inaudible] Rather than Facebook because I do get calls [Inaudible] on Facebook. [Inaudible] So that's just a suggestion [Inaudible] to bring that up.

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** I think that's a wonderful one. And I'd like to add to that [Inaudible] of saying where it is and [Inaudible] And that sort of thing [Inaudible] progress. It's quick [Inaudible] Okay. [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you very much for [Inaudible] So having said that we can move on to [Inaudible] chair [Inaudible] five [Inaudible] So, currently we have myself as the current chair [Inaudible] vice chair. [Inaudible] it's going to be remembered.

>> Mr. Keith Graham [Inaudible] the committee member, Kelley Shinn, committee member, Lisa R. Williams, committee member [Inaudible] for the next term. Geraldine [Inaudible] and Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Williams, you're agreeing to stay on as committee member [Inaudible]?

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** [Inaudible] Absolutely.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you very much. That's again, for the record. Geraldine [Inaudible], is she on the call? All right. So, we have an additional person doing the content with Geraldine. [Inaudible] to the committee as well. And let's see, I think we have some terms that are going to expire on the 25th May, which Mr. Brad Lovin, Mr. Jimmy Tate, Kitti Hardison, Laressa Witt, LaTasha McNair, William B. [Inaudible]

>> So my question is, are any of those [Inaudible] that are expiring on the 25th of May, are you willing to stay on the committee or do you wish to retire?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Mr. Mayor, their terms expire next year in 2025.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. Next year. All right. Well good. Thank you. [Inaudible] All right. So thank you very much for that. So we do have just one [Inaudible] All right.

>> So now, we'll go to the [Inaudible] set for the fall meeting date. So what does it look like for August, September on a meeting date for a fall meeting, [Inaudible] so looking at August, September. [Inaudible] up today [Inaudible] Thursday [Inaudible] It's Thursday, is Thursday a better day for everyone? Looking at August or September. [Inaudible] I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't ask the date I think [Inaudible] So do we prefer a Friday or a middle of week type of thing? And I just want to make sure it's [Inaudible] I understand folks [Inaudible] NCORR [Inaudible] would be a better day than that.

>> Okay. All right. So [Inaudible] community [Inaudible] the middle or the end or the beginning of September. [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Mayor Hardy we have a suggestion online from Kelley Shinn for September.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** September? Okay. Does anybody disagree with the month of September? All right. Want to look at the beginning September?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Maybe the 13th? Maybe the 13th? All right. [Inaudible] personal vote virtual or hybrid.

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** We'd love to offer a hybrid option again if that works for everyone on the committee.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** A hybrid option? If anyone disagrees, speak up, but I think the hybrid is probably a better option for people to travel across state, I believe. Right?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** We have some comments, Mayor Hardy. Laressa Witt suggests September as well. And I think she says yes to the hybrid option. And LaTasha McNair as well.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. So those the, the 13th is a date throughout September. I'll leave at the same time frame?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** I think so, unless there's a time that's best for the committee.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Yeah. Okay. So looking at [Inaudible] So we're doing, would 12:00 on September 13th work for everyone?

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Yes.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** So, question is, what location would we meet in? What would be [Inaudible] particular location.

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** I know we had talked about potentially rotating the location, so yeah I'd love to hear what your thoughts are on that.

>> Kelley Shin also says that September 13th looks good on her crystal ball. So, so I think whatever works best for the committee.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** All right.

>> **Speaker:** Yes.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** Thank you.

>> **Speaker:** All right.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Charles Wright:** Testing 1, 2, 3

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Charles Wright:** Testing 1, 2

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** Try this one.

>> **Charles Wright:** Testing 1, 2. That sounds a little bit more like me [Inaudible] I want to ask [Inaudible] Do you or staff [Inaudible] members send out invites for particular counties and location or does NCORR staff do that? Whoever, that that time that September the 13th, I wouldn't mind if we look out to the next hosting, so, you know, maybe some counties like down [Inaudible] out in New Bern or somewhere close to the [Inaudible] So that way before we meet, I just want to be where [Inaudible] car pick up [Inaudible] you know, it'd be close to [Inaudible] while we can enjoy the warm weather, but I wouldn't mind if one of those locations, on our eastern coast and some of the water activities, would want to volunteer. So I just thought I'd put that out there [Inaudible] And when it comes to [Inaudible] Father [Inaudible] Thank you.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you, Mr. Wright. So I think that and I know we're sitting in the heat, so I want make sure we're strategic [Inaudible] In the New Bern area. Probably in the west also, in the west [Inaudible] There you [Inaudible] But. [Inaudible] Okay.

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Yes. Yes, you also have a suggestion, I'm sorry, you also have a suggestion online from Kelley, Mayor Hardy. She says "I'd like to suggest that the state provide a night at the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching Ocracoke, and we could have the meeting there."

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Ocracoke. It's on the water for sure.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** [Inaudible] We do appreciate that invite as well, which is entirely on, on the board. [Inaudible] so that we can figure how to logistically get there in September. I think. [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** So. So what would [Inaudible] it would be like a, a survey on Google to vote on that to make sure everybody [Inaudible] So, so I just want to make sure that everybody's okay with where we're going [Inaudible] We'll take a look at, Ocracoke, Ocracoke Island, New Bern. [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay. And [Inaudible] that we want to make sure that the staff is and good to go [Inaudible] those areas. So, that right there is that we can see that for sure. I just want to make sure that [Inaudible] we are [Inaudible] We'll do what we need to to make sure we have a proper set up as far as, the [Inaudible] So, so that's the, I guess that's what [Inaudible] Who has the better connection for set up that we do have, or that we may need for the hybrid session.

>> All right. So we have we have now three of those location points.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Yes, ma'am. What we'll do is we'll forward all of this over email because, [Inaudible] one particular vote. [Inaudible] without going through a long, a really long, drawn out process, each individual, location. And they not know what each location [Inaudible] because it'll probably change based upon that infrastructure that we need. [Inaudible] So, what we'll do is we'll do it like that [Inaudible] I just want to make it fair for everyone. And really clear for our staff as well. So that's, that's what we're doing. Thank you, [Inaudible] Commissioner.

>> Now we're going to move it to the, the [Inaudible] NCORR team. And I'll push it to Dianne [Inaudible] introduction [Inaudible].

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Sure, thank you. I think this is on. Can you hear me?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** I think everyone wants [Inaudible] Hello everyone. It's so nice to meet you, if I haven't already. My name is Dianne Sanchez, and I am a policy and planning analyst with the NCORR team. [Inaudible]

>> **Matt Arlyn:** Good afternoon. My name is Matt Arlyn. I'm the Chief Recovery Officer for NCORR.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Matt Arlyn:** We also have Jeff Royal, Tracy Colores, Jenny Johnson, and...

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** Chris Avery.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** Thank you, Chris Avery, Jackie Barraza [Inaudible] Jessica Southwell, and Bridget Munger in attendance.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you very much. Good to see y'all. And, hello again and thank you for being here. All right, so now, we've done that we'll go to the overview of the CDBG mitigation action plan. Matt Arlyn, Chief Recovery Officer, whenever you're ready.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** Great.

Descriptive text for title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Citizen Advisory Committee Public Meeting. May 17, 2024.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** Are you all able to view that alright on the screen?

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Looking good. Yes, I can see it. Those on the call, can you see the screen? You can just raise your hand. Okay, I see a thumbs up. Okay. Good to go. Great.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** Good afternoon everybody. Thank you, committee. Thank you members of the public who have joined us today. It's an honor to be here to speak with you all about our ongoing community development block grant mitigation, mitigation programs, including changes to our mitigation program recently and our action plan and our ongoing efforts to make our state more resilient, more ready to field future disaster, prevent future loss.

>> We had an excellent [Inaudible] Mr. Charles Wright about sharing additional information about our progress in the mitigation grant and our disaster recovery grants. We are proud to have increased transparency in that regard with a new website where you can see up-to-the-minute changes, maybe not up to the [Inaudible] but very recent changes in our productivity for our various grant programs.

>> That website is rebuild.nc.gov/recovery-process

>> We'll make sure to circulate that to members of the public and the committee, for their review. And, we will ensure that you're updated, with charts and graphs to see how we've been performing recently.

>> Again, my name is Matt Arlyn. I'll introduce myself again. But, as a chief recovery officer, my team and I are charged with designing and implementing the various programs for disaster recovery and mitigation. And so I'll begin speaking about changes to our action plans and I'll turn it over to my team to talk about specific updates in their program areas.

Descriptive text for Slide 2: Summary of changes to the CDBG-MIT Substantial Action Plan Amendment (SAPA) 5

>> **Matt Arlyn:** All right.

Descriptive text for Slide 3: Information on CDBG-MIT overview

>> **Matt Arlyn:** So first, our content today is really going to focus on our Community Development Block Grant mitigation program. As we said at the or Mayor Hardy already had said at the beginning, if you do have an issue or concern about your particular recovery in the Homeowner Recovery Program or a disaster recovery program that is not included in our mitigation grant, we do have staff and case managers here to assist you with that.

>> The content today is primarily going to focus on the mitigation grant. The mitigation grant was provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to the State of North Carolina, following the 2016 Hurricane Matthew and 2018 Hurricane Florence disasters. This is a very unique funding source from HUD. They do not provide standalone mitigation grants any longer, and you see a revision to their grant making process, which includes mitigation grant funds along with disaster recovery funds.

>> And so some of the few states that have these unique funds available to us. These funds are made available in two tranches, one in public law, 115-123, which was an initial allocation of \$168 million. HUD later granted an additional \$34.6 million for our use. We have both funds available to us, and we described their use in a single action plan for our CDBG mitigation funds.

Descriptive text for Slide 4: Information on CDBG-MIT activities

>> **Matt Arlyn:** In our CDBG Mitigation Action Plan, we defined the use of these funds for various programs or activities. That includes our Strategic Buyout Program, the Public Housing Restoration Fund, the Infrastructure Recovery Program, the Affordable Housing Development Fund, the Homeowner Assistance Program, the Housing Counseling, which is associated with the Homeownership Assistance Program, Code Enforcement Compliance and Support Program, and some additional planning funds as well.

>> These activities are driven by an analysis of the mitigation needs for the state, and there are two requirements specifically for these funds, of note: At least half of the funds must be sent, spent, sorry, and counties determined by HUD to be most impacted and distressed by hurricanes Matthew or Florence. And at least half of the funds are dedicated to communities that are low, rather communities or households or individuals who are low to moderate income. That's also known as 80% of the area median income.

Descriptive text for Slide 5: Information on criteria for program or project actions that require a substantial action plan amendment, or SAPA.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** When NCORR is reviewing its action plans and its programs, there are a few factors that come into play when determining how to amend its action plans. The Substantial

Action Plan Amendment criteria include a change in program benefit or eligibility criteria; the addition or deletion of an activity, and in this context, when we say activity, we might mean program, the same turn of phrase there; an allocation for a reallocation of \$15 million or more; and the addition of a CDBG mitigation defined covered project—this is a definition from HUD and what it is, it's any infrastructure project that's has an investment of \$100 million or more. And at least \$50 million of that comes from a CDBG source that includes disaster recovery, the National Disaster Resilience Grant, which is similarly a one-time grant provided by HUD, or CDBG mitigation or disaster recovery.

Descriptive text for Slide 6: Information on key changes for SAPA 5.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** So let's talk through some of the changes made and Substantial Action Plan Amendment 5 to the Mitigation Action Plan. NCORR has updated the Unmet Needs Assessment in the Mitigation Action Plan in reflection of the updates made to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is the foundation of the Mitigation Needs Assessment for the Action Plan.

>> We also included some additional activities that allow the CDBG mitigation grant to be more comprehensive and more encompassing, rather than focusing on one specific program. Those changes include the Affordable Housing Development Fund, the Homeownership Assistance Program, Housing Counseling for those Homeownership Assistance Program, and the Code Enforcement Support Program. My team will detail some of these programs in just a little bit.

Descriptive text for Slide 7: Key changes for SAPA 5, continued.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** In the action plan amendment, we retain the Strategic Buyout Program, although some of that allocation was changed in reflection of the current participation and NCORR's assessment of ongoing mitigation needs.

>> There are changes to the Infrastructure Recovery Program and the Public Housing Restoration activity remains in the action plan. We adjusted the Strategic Buyout Program with some policy updates and changes, including incorporation of some recent HUD waivers, the authority and the ability to grant changes to the use of the grant funds when they see fit. And we take advantage of some of those in the action plan now.

>> In recognition of some ongoing, cost increases and some changes occasionally in scope for infrastructure programs and activities identified by our local government sponsors and our partners, an additional \$8 million is allocated to the Infrastructure Recovery Program. And we have also just made some clarifications to our ongoing mitigation goals.

Descriptive text for Slide 8: Information on the updated approach to CDBG-MIT activities.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** So just a note about the updated approach, and really, what we're attempting to say here is, previous iterations of the mitigation grant primarily focused on the Strategic Buyout Program with some planning and some administrative funds, which are statutorily capped by HUD. What we wanted to do here is form a more comprehensive and broad based mitigation activity. And we wanted this action plan to stand on its own, and really impress upon the state and the community stakeholders that these funds are intended to be a more holistic response and provide some insulation against future disaster losses with additional programs besides just the Strategic Buyout Program.

Descriptive text for Slide 9: Breakdown of updated CDBG-MIT allocations.

- >> **Matt Arlyn:** So I'll go through the allocations just very briefly. The administrative costs, that is a 5% limitation on the administrative funds. 50% of those are expended in the most impacted and distressed area. Planning costs remain at the previous allocation level.
- >> You'll see in column two, the SAPA 5 total is the, updated action plan totals for these allocations. The Strategic Buyout Program is now allocated at \$58.1 million. Again, this is in consideration of the current participation of that program, and we'll go into more detail about the Strategic Buyout Program shortly, with Dr. Royal.
- >> The Public Housing Restoration Fund remains at the same funding level as it was previously. My colleague Tracy Colores will detail that program along with the Infrastructure Program. When you see that \$8 million increase there.
- >> And finally, the Affordable Housing Development Fund, is added to the mitigation grant. That fund was originally in the CDBG-MIT grant, in an earlier iteration. And it's been restored in this version.

Descriptive text for Slide 10: Updated CDBG-MIT allocations, continued.

- >> **Matt Arlyn:** The Homeownership Assistance Program, a program that I firmly believe is one of the most interesting and helpful programs in our program portfolio, has been added to the mitigation activity. And a commiserate housing counseling allocation is available to participants in that program as well.
- >> And then finally, the Code Enforcement, Compliance and Support program, that has been moved from the Disaster Recovery Action Plan for Hurricane Florence into the Mitigation Action Plan. This is a very valuable program, especially in some of our more rural communities in eastern North Carolina that struggle with an aging inspection workforce. And they just need a little bit of help to really field our increase in construction activity in these communities. And in some counties, we find that perhaps there's only 1 or 2 inspectors available to the county at any time. And this is intended to augment that support, or support that function for those counties.

Descriptive text for Slide 11: Information on updates to the community participation and public comment section.

- >> **Matt Arlyn:** We've updated the community participation and public comment sections in the Mitigation Action Plan. This is in, response to recent public comments that we've received. So you'll always find that in the action plan when we release a substantial action plan amendment, it's put out for public comment. And we've done that and received some. We've also had other activities, such as meeting with the committee, to clarify in our action plan.

Descriptive text for Slide 12: Timeline for the CDBG-MIT SAPA 5 update.

- >> **Matt Arlyn:** So just an update on where we are in the mitigation Substantial Action Plan Amendment 5 updates. The Substantial Action Plan Amendment was provided to the committee on March 1st, 2024. About two weeks later, on March 15th, NCORR published the Substantial Action Plan Amendment in a draft version and started to receive public comment on that draft version on that date.
- >> The public comment period extends for 30 days. NCORR has a number of ways receive public comment, by email, regular mail. And so we field these kinds of public responses in many different ways. We reviewed the public comments, identified any areas for improvement or clarification. In some instances, individuals provided a public comment about their unique recovery situation or another activity that is not included in the mitigation plan. And we directed

that to an internal staff resource if we're able to, to answer their question directly, but we incorporate those public comments into a final version, or maybe a penultimate version or a nearly final version, and we send it to HUD for their review and they get 45 days to turn that over internally and provide us any additional feedback, if they have any.

>> And I'll need to check this, but, we are awaiting HUD approval on this action plan. It's with our HUD team right now and we have a very good relationship with them. And so we anticipate receiving feedback in some form. And then once that is approved and received by us, we work as a team to implement any changes in the action plan, to follow the action plan faithfully. Okay.

Descriptive text for Slide 13: Title slide for the NCORR Strategic Buyout Program section.

>> **Matt Arlyn:** We're going to go into specific program adjustments and changes here. So I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Doctor Jeff Royal.

>> **Jeff Royal:** Thank you, Matt. Thank you everybody. Good to be here. Before I get started on a very brief update on the Strategic Buyout Program, I want to thank Mayor Hardy. We've worked together on several cases already, and it's just good that he was able to come in and meet in person. And, and I think that's what it's all about, being able to make that connection because we're all working on this together. And it's, it's been very good to, to see you in person and make new friends, make new friends as well. All right.

Descriptive text for Slide 14: Overview of the Strategic Buyout Program.

>> **Jeff Royal:** Strategic Buyout Program. Matt's gone over the funding, changes in the funding, etc. But, you know, a overview of the program is a reminder of some of this. Obviously it's MIT funds. It's a volunteer program, like most of our programs are volunteer programs. And we will purchase properties, deed restricted, owned, and it will be owned by the, the local government. That's key. But what that really gets into is, local government takes these over and you can do something with it.

>> And that's what we've been having a lot of discussions lately with, is what to do with what can, what can be done with these? And that kind of affects now what we're looking at, which ones we want to target for the buyout because that can be, sometimes, meeting two goals or three goals at once by getting these into local government hands.

>> Of course, it mitigates future flood impacts. We're getting people out of where it's flooding. You know, the history has this all. We all wanted to move near the water. You like being near the water. Mr. Wright's already told us he wants to be near the water as much as possible, and we all did. And it's a good reason to be, farms good to be near the water. You want to put water on the farm.

>> But we know rivers flood. And that's one of the things we, we got to get some sometimes you just have to leave the area. And that's where this really gets to the heart of that.

Descriptive text for Slide 15: Information on the offer process.

>> **Jeff Royal:** The basic overview. We're going to do an appraisal on the property. We're going to get a value, if there's a structure present, of course we're going to deal with that. That'll go into the value. That will be part of our, our, our process where it will be demolished. The land will be reverted to green space use. Everything will be removed.

>> And of course, the appraisal, like everything else we do. Program makes a determination. You can appeal it. So we always give that room for anything we do. You don't agree, let us know and we will, we will review.

Descriptive text for Slide 16: Information on types of incentives for primary resident property owners.

>> **Jeff Royal:** I'm not going to go over every little dollar value on this, that would put everyone right out. But what I will tell you what this means is what we're trying to do is incentivize people, help first, help them get a new place. If you've got to leave your home and your land, you got to have somewhere to go. You can't just buy somebody out. You know, sometimes you can. Some people have their means, others do not. This will help people do that, get another place, but also incentivize staying in the county because we want people to stay in the county. People don't want the county's people leaving, you know, when they get out and then you lose people. You don't want to lose people.

>> And of course, staying in the state, I'm not going to put anybody in South Carolina, not putting anybody in Tennessee, you got to stay in the state like that so you can buy out. You can move on your own, but we're not going to pay you to do it. So these, these are the incentives for that.

>>> You can see we've targeted that to the people that need the money. There's several here above the red line, you can get that. Below the red line, you can also get one of those. So you can just double types of incentives people can receive in this. And it's, it's a situation where, we do have to do a quite an in-depth analysis in order to try to document and calculate exactly what that number will be. To be honest, to be transparent, we're revising some of this to make it easier, make a little more efficient, and try to get this done a lot quicker, because that's been one of the problems, is trying to get that, that actual calculation done, just to get to the point where we can do the buyout. So that's one thing we're definitely addressing.

Descriptive text for Slide 17: Information on current locations for the Strategic Buyout Program.

>> **Jeff Royal:** Where are we so far? Well you can see where these have taken place. And those in those counties, those eight counties plus one up [Inaudible] And you can see we've hit the mid counties, quite well. Those are the ones that are the ones that are colored. There we go. All kinds of blues and pinks and things.

>>> Those are mid counties, defined different ways and we've hit those. You can see Edgecombe had quite a bit, Robeson County, followed by Columbus and Wayne where we've had most of those, we are certainly looking in other areas. And one way we're doing that is taking a new vision of how we're going to do this. Looking at areas, mapping them out geographically, putting more GIS into our prethink so that we can understand where is that happening? Where have we already had buyouts? Where are zones that we've had people for the Homeowner Recovery Program that couldn't be served, that can be served this way.

>>> You know, there's a lot of things. And then talking with a city where they in towns and counties, everyone's needing different things. And that's one area where we've, we've been able to make some, some, some headway.

Descriptive text for Slide 18: Example of Belhaven, North Carolina, highlighting buyouts in one location.

>> **Jeff Royal:** You can see here, Belhaven. Just put that up as an example, and this yeah, we then added more potential sites to this area where we try to get them in geographic location to each other. There is some advantage to that from a buyout perspective, to make an area, not only more resilient as an area, but also it gives the county a little more flexibility in what they could do with the land; rather than have something that's 50 by 100 ft, now you've got several of them together, you could start thinking about parking, greenspace those kind of things. Easements.

>> We've, we've got probably now, we've talked to many different areas over the past month and a half. I've been involved with this, had a lot of conversations. And we may have now up to 100 other properties that we've got on the books that are potentials to come in. So it's been, it's been quite, it's been quite productive meeting with all the, all the municipalities. And we hope to continue to do that for sure and to, to remind where some of this goes.

Descriptive text for Slide 19: Images representing the positive results buyouts facilitate.

>> **Jeff Royal:** Yes, flood risk. But like I said, one of the areas where we coordinated with, with Whiteville and the city of Raleigh, easements, a lot of times they'll need easements. It dovetails nicely with getting those in place. It could be with the green spaces and greenways. That's been very effective for many towns putting those together, so it has public space for people to enjoy. And we've had some, some new inquiries with that kind of work with that and our resilience team, who was another part of NCORR, also they've been working with doing nature based flood prevention.

>> And one thing you need for that is a piece of land. And that's where a buyout can come in, because by nature it's right there where we need to do the flood prevention. So we've got some dovetail good information from them on how we can coordinate better and, and help with the overall flooding situation.

Descriptive text for Slide 20: Title slide for Community Development Projects in Mitigation section.

>> **Jeff Royal:** Next, will be coming up Tracy Colores, my colleague. She's fresh in from Raleigh. There she is.

>> **Tracy Colores:** Thank you, Jeff. And, I'd like to say thank you so much to the committee. It's so important for us as we're out trying to spend these dollars in ways that are going to mitigate the negative impact of future [Inaudible].

Descriptive text for Slide 21: Summary of information on community development projects in mitigation.

>> **Tracy Colores:** [Inaudible]. Things they need to get done, the infrastructure projects that have negatively affected the areas where a lot of a lot of people live and provide services to a lot of folks who need it. And right now we have, with this amendment to the action plan, roughly 30 projects from the Community Development Office that are now in the mitigation grant.

>> And I'm going to talk about, very briefly, the three programs you see here. Affordable Housing Development, which is developing new, affordable housing. It's primarily rental. And it's going to be folks at maximum 80% area median income, but most of it's 60% and below area median income.

>> Public Housing Restoration, where we are working with the public housing authorities that are present, is 125 of them in North Carolina. And, and they serve folks who are, average is about 30% of area median income, so public housing authorities reached down deep to help folks who really need it. And, they don't get a lot of money, a lot of support for that. So our money helps come in and rebuild units that were destroyed and left uninhabitable as a result of the flooding from the hurricanes.

>> And then finally, the Infrastructure Program. We have a small infrastructure program that, helps places like Princeville; I know the last time I spoke to the committee, I talked about the fact that we were very grateful to be able to come into the mitigation grant because one of our subrecipients is the town of Princeville. And there's a lot of funding that's coming into Princeville to try to help them rebuild and, and restore the town in an area that is going to be more resilient to mitigate the risk of future flooding. But it takes a lot of time to incorporate all funding into disaster recovery that makes sense. And so the very fact that we were able to move the Princeville projects into the mitigation grant means that we get a little more time, because the, the time horizon for the mitigation grant is longer than what we had when we were in the disaster recovery grant. So thank you for that.

>> So all in all, we've got about \$114 million of projects that touch 11 of the 16 counties that were designated most impacted and distressed by HUD; plus HUD, Pitt, and Wilson, and also the Lumbee Tribal Boundary that's where, the projects that are in the mitigation grant from our office and community development are located.

Descriptive text for Slide 22: Images of public facilities seriously damaged by storms.

>> **Tracy Colores:** And we all know that, that flooding as, as we were talking about before the meeting, water does what it's going to do, right. And, and the picture on the left is from the Engelhard Community Center, which is in Hyde County. And, this, it was a former school, before desegregation, and after desegregation the local community said, we don't want that to be torn down, we want to use it as a community center. And it was a vibrant community center until the storms took the roof off of it.

>> And so we've been working with the local government there. Davis [Inaudible] is the nonprofit that owns and operates it. We've been working with them to secure the envelope, and some of the additional money that is coming to the infrastructure program is specifically for this project, because when it was priced out, it was only going to be \$100,000, and now it's about \$1 million more than that, because things are more expensive. And they got on the National Historic Registry, which we fully support. But in doing so, that meant that they can't replace the windows. They got to repair the original windows, and that is more expensive and takes more time. So thank you again for letting us meet the needs of that community in a way that makes sense for them.

>> And then on the right you'll see that Hilton Heights Public Housing Development in the city of Lumberton. And they had, over 100 units that that housing authority lost in four different housing developments. And they've been uninhabitable since Matthew and Florence. And if you can't put folks in those units, you're not getting any money from HUD for the rents. And, so we have been stepping up and trying to help them get to the point where, we've helped them restore their admin building, because they lost all of their administrative offices. And as we were talking before, all the records of tenants floated down the Lumber River. And so, we've been trying to help them rebuild. But again, being in the mitigation grant helps us do that more effectively. So thank you.

Descriptive text for Slide 23: Breakdown of existing community development projects by county.

>> **Tracy Colores:** I've got and included in the presentation, a list of every project by county and a little description of what it is and what the total project cost is estimated to be. And, you know, those numbers move around because things get more expensive and very rarely do they get less expensive. But we also show what our contribution is to it. And then there's an estimate of, of how close to completion the projects are. But you are welcome, if you would like any more information on any project, you're welcome to just contact me because I'm happy to...

>> Did it did it go away for y'all because it went away for me.

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible] slides for?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Tracy Colores:** She's magic. [Inaudible] But anyway, I'm happy to, to go through to some more detail with anybody about any project, so just let me know.

Descriptive text for Slide 24: Existing community development projects by county, continued.

Descriptive text for Slide 25: Images of facilities built as a result of investment.

>> **Tracy Colores:** I wanted to show you the after; I showed you a couple of before shots, so please let me show you the afters.

>> The, the, the picture on the left is the day center in Fayetteville, which serves a unsheltered population that has been encamped about a mile away or less than a mile, about a third of a mile away from this facility. And it offers, counseling, medical and dental services, job training, computer literacy, a laundry, showers. It's, it's a great facility for the folks that are trying to get their get back on their feet and get reacclimated to mainstream society.

>> And then the picture on the right is of affordable housing that our dollars built in downtown Rocky Mount. This is the Five Points Project. And, I wanted to show you that as an example. This project is not in the mitigation grant, but five projects that are similar to this are.

>> And, and so this if you are looking at it, it might not look this way, but all the folks that live in these units and all the folks that are going to live in the units that we're building with the mitigation dollars, those households are making at or below 60% of area median income.

Descriptive text for Slide 26: Breakdown of new community development projects by county.

>> **Tracy Colores:** These are the projects that are coming into the mitigation grant from the Affordable Housing Development [Inaudible] And, you see that they are reaching out into communities that you don't usually see on the list of areas that are getting new housing, because, what we found was that for a lot of, of lower capacity areas in eastern North Carolina that were hard hit by the storms, they didn't have the capacity or the resources to access these dollars.

>> So what we did was we put in two variations on the program to make it more effective for them. One we let them, they're going to loan the money to the developers that are building these housing projects. And when those dollars get paid back, the counties, the local governments, whether it's the [Inaudible] County or, you know, the, Maysville, they get to keep those dollars and reuse them for future affordable housing projects.

>> And then the second thing we did is we put into place pass through billing, which, the way that our grant works, it's on a reimbursement basis. But normally the local government partners that we have are required to pay the invoices and they get reimbursed from us. But if, if you're Princeville or if you're, you know, Maysville, you don't have a pot of money to be able to fund those kinds of improvements. So we are going to let them pass the invoices on through to us, and then we will pay them. So it's helping with cash flow in some of these communities that need it.

Descriptive text for Slide 27: Information on the Homeowner Assistance Program.

>> **Tracy Colores:** Briefly, I know I'm running on too long, but the Homeownership Assistance Program recognizes the fact that, if you are a homeowner, you are going to be more resilient in the event of a natural disaster. And, so, so many of, of these, the, the dollars are going to folks that already have a home, but these are federal tax dollars, and renters are paying their federal taxes just like everybody else. And so this is the only way we can help them get the benefit of these grants. We wish we had more dollars to put in. But what we're doing is we're serving first-time homebuyers who are buying into the local communities that have been hardest hit, so it helps with economic development in those communities. And it's actually what the local governments told us they wanted us to do.

>> And then we have an additional benefit. We recognize the fact that if you don't come from, your family [Inaudible] homeowners, you might not have as much money to put into a home.

And so if you are what we call a first generation homebuyer, meaning you're a first-time buyer and your folks don't own, then we will give you \$10,000 extra to try to make up that difference,

>> Because I, my mother is a school teacher, but she owns her home, and I was able to borrow money from her for my downpayment. But if she hadn't been a homeowner, I wouldn't have been able to do that.

>> So this is just trying to help folks get on that homeownership ladder and start to build wealth in a way that is going to stay with them in the event of any future disasters so they can be more resilient.

>> We also grant up to 5% of the house price to cover closing costs to come with your mortgage. And so we've got a little over \$4 million for downpayment and closing costs and then about \$100,000 for the mandatory homeowner education, because we don't put people behind the wheel of a car and expect them to know how to drive. And when we give folks the money to buy a house, but especially if they haven't come from a tradition of homeownership, they might not know about all the things that come along with being a homeowner. So we just give them the tools so that they can do a successful job of that.

Descriptive text for Slide 28: 2023 summary of the Homeowner Assistance Program.

>> **Tracy Colores:** This is a summary of the program we, that we had for 2023. We are happy that, we have a lot of women households and women-headed households. And about, you'll see about half, about every other dollar we spend is going to a first-generation homebuyer, which we're very happy about. And, and we also are trying to top that up, that first generation thing, so that more first-time, more, downpayment assistance programs will pick it up.

>> And there's just some basic statistics here, but you'll see that, two-thirds of our dollars so far have gone to families that are making at or below 80% of area median income, even though the, the limit for the mitigation grant is only \$0.50 on the dollar, we're performing ahead of that.

Descriptive text for Slide 29: Information on Homeowner Assistance Program geography and racial identification.

>> **Tracy Colores:** And this is the geographic location of the homes that we've helped folks Buy. And you'll notice that these are, these are the most impacted and distressed counties; we've been fortunate to get into 13 of the 16 most impacted and distressed counties. We also have, about half of our families are identifying as Black or African American families, and, and we have some representation from other groups as well.

Descriptive text for Slide 30: Call for questions from meeting participants.

>> **Tracy Colores:** And we were asked to think about questions that we wanted to ask the committee. And so we just have a few here, and we don't have to answer them now, but we'd be very interested in your thoughts on, how we can, in a respectful and considerate way, offer support to those local governments that are having trouble getting their projects done because of their own capacity constraints. And we want to do that in the right way. And we thought that y'all would be the great people to ask for that kind of advice.

>> And then the second question is just, we don't have as many dollars for downpayment assistance as we'd like to have, but can you think of other things that we can do to help folks who want to be homeowners, ways that we can use what we've learned to advise or educate or whatever. So any thoughts you have on that we'd be very interested in.

>> And finally, we would love for you to help us increase the value that we bring to the communities that we're trying to support. And you see the kinds of things that we do in community development. So if you can identify other things that we're able to do, we will travel anywhere. We'll speak to anybody. We'll, we'll, we'll do whatever you think would be helpful. So just keep this in mind for that. Thank you.

Descriptive text for Slide 31: Closing thank you slide.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. Thank you so very much. The entire team, we do really appreciate you guys. Great information, good information. I didn't know the Homeownership Assistance Program was a big deal for us. I'm sure it's a lot of folks don't know about that, and awareness, number one. So, and that's, let's talk about resources here so folks can know [Inaudible] the state [Inaudible] So, we do appreciate you guys for, for, giving that brief description of those programs. Also, there's probably a question or two from the committee. Maybe the commissioner would like to make a statement if the question [Inaudible]

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** Thank you. The Buyout Program, when we buy our property, I've learned that the people who are not home, homeowners are put down, and the homeowners are left fending for themselves. So when that happens, how do you find those people? My question is referring to an experience folks from Pitt County had where there's major flooding. The mayor was on television saying that Greenfield it's fine, when the majority of the people who flooded was in the northern section of the county, and a lot of them never got back, and they can't even get a home because, you know, it's too oh, or too [Inaudible]

>> And you brought up property and [Inaudible] there's, the Florence and Matthew [Inaudible] they bought out a lot of property in the [Inaudible] And those properties now are still vacant. And [Inaudible] in the community where people were located. So you have and [Inaudible] you deal with that, you have to look at that. The people coming in to make assessments, don't listen to

you. They listen to the elected officials who don't come across the river to where you are. And this happens.

>> And I [Inaudible] Just this past week for the first time was able to get a city manager of Greenville to come out and look how the property was growing up, how the [Inaudible] in the manholes from [Inaudible] and so maybe we can do something about that. But you see [Inaudible] ones that are happening already been available to [Inaudible] The real crux of the matter is most African Americans are not elected officials, positions, and therefore their needs are not addressed and they have to fend for themselves. If [Inaudible] In for [Inaudible] all sorts of problems, it would be good to get a wide span rather than just the [Inaudible] Because being [Inaudible] I completely [Inaudible]. In Greenville, most of the elected officials live on the south side of the Tar River, and they never travel to the north side of the town, because there is no reason for them to go from their families.

>> So a lot of us are still struggling with long ago damages, and we just give up [Inaudible] Put yourself back together and just [Inaudible] work it out. And that's what I know a lot of families are doing in my area, and in the city limits you know, it's on the north side of the river, is growing [Inaudible] and it looks like a third-world country.

>> If you ever come to Greenville [Inaudible] she said she lives in Raleigh. If you ever come on the north side of the [Inaudible] shaped like ice cream cone. And you get to the top of it and that's where Greenville is, that's the north side. And if you go on the north side, you would see that the Melbrooke area where the public, the governmental [Inaudible] Public housing is, you will find that the people are in the public housing and in a resident and living [Inaudible] and being on the other side of the street where the individuals homes are, they [Inaudible] up and you might find one here, one there, and there is no help for them. And they are making do because they [Inaudible] process.

>> So when you look at where the people are [Inaudible] like me [Inaudible] But their resources are not as large or not as productive for these, I won't say [Inaudible], for those people [Inaudible] They don't the help beyond where they [Inaudible] So the problem comes, is it makes those folks a bit [Inaudible] Those people [Inaudible] snatched something from them everybody [Inaudible] out there to work to get there. It's not that people don't work, it's just that why should I work to protect my tax dollars from my salary? And then when flood comes along I don't get any help.

>> So because that's [Inaudible] And I'm, I'm, I personally have problems finding the words. It's just that it's hard to talk about because it's everlasting for a family when there is a female household and [Inaudible] retire and trying to move out of the area [Inaudible] You can't stay when [Inaudible] the economics is [Inaudible] You have to leave, and those are the [Inaudible] And so they [Inaudible] tax dollars because the government [Inaudible] to stay there [Inaudible] so when [Inaudible] who sit on the side of the table to share experiences [Inaudible] pass that on and know that we might look like a million dollars, but you have [Inaudible] to take 20 and vacate.

>> Don't penalize them because [Inaudible] or we take what we got to [Inaudible] so that he can go out and get food for everybody on the street. So yes, we have to have some [Inaudible] and that goes for everyone here. And I just wanted to share that because the pool of what I saw [Inaudible] Pitt County [Inaudible] Edgecombe was to the west of Pitt County. [Inaudible] Craven was to the east of Pitt County and people in Pitt County don't qualify.

>>The water runs according to the rain on the property and up [Inaudible] have to be a farmer or a scientist to know it was happening. [Inaudible] so when if you could go to [Inaudible] they would take someone who have some, not [Inaudible], but some mental aspect, to the community because people, because of all of the crap [Inaudible] when he's trying to tell them

about his problems because he can't get the words out. [Inaudible] I just want to share it so [Inaudible]

>> That's what I'm saying. [Inaudible] And you can't find [Inaudible] because most of them don't have cars to get out, to where you are to [Inaudible] and [Inaudible] across the [Inaudible] and sit down in the spot where they [Inaudible] people can get to and, and then you [Inaudible] You can spend the money because [Inaudible] home [Inaudible] And I let them know how to find, how to go about finding people that can't get to you [Inaudible] because they already [Inaudible] people come together in times of disaster and they come really together for [Inaudible] on anything they can get [Inaudible] share with the [Inaudible] And people who live together know how to get along and try to help one another. So it's still [Inaudible] of importance [Inaudible] find a way to get the [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Thank you [Inaudible] Commissioner [Inaudible] Very passionate words. Any other [Inaudible]

>> **Keith Graham:** Thank you for that. [Inaudible] Passionate [Inaudible] I was looking at the presentation [Inaudible] I looked at the map of who was getting served [Inaudible] Zero. [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** [Inaudible]

>> **Keith Graham:** I would say that to this point. And it's [Inaudible] mentioned. So as if we go, and I think it's a great program [Inaudible] about your program. [Inaudible] today [Inaudible] about the [Inaudible] try to help serve those populations of people that [Inaudible] but one of the things that the Commissioner said that we noticed is [Inaudible] to be talking about [Inaudible] a place for people where they live [Inaudible] franchise because [Inaudible] So you could not get a, approved [Inaudible] they don't trust the government because funds come in to the [Inaudible] system, [Inaudible] network, and it never makes it to them. [Inaudible] reward. But it doesn't make it to a lot of communities that are the most impacted or the most needy.

>> So I remember four years ago, sitting in a meeting with Laura, and we expressed that then as well, and I'll express it again to piggyback on, on what the Commissioner said, finding a way to work with local nonprofits that honor community [Inaudible] organizations [Inaudible] a lot of the times [Inaudible] funding [Inaudible] government entities [Inaudible] they only make it to certain people, certain persons [Inaudible] parts of town with [Inaudible] local [Inaudible] resiliency.

>> So people in the community come to our organization for anything whether we have [Inaudible] or not so we try to find solutions and find resources to try to help or direct them to a solution to a problem they have so that they don't, I was going to say trust again, but they don't, don't believe that if someone can't [Inaudible] then they won't be disqualified [Inaudible] they won't [Inaudible] they won't be treated with a bias. [Inaudible]

>> So find a way to [Inaudible] with, go to the on the ground in the community working with the people who need the resources. And it works great, because they have a way, we have a way of taking their requirements, fielding the requirements [Inaudible] to where it's understood by the people. [Inaudible]

>> They may not be able to read [Inaudible] We give them a 20-page application [Inaudible] you just can't fill it out for [Inaudible] Or you ask them to drive 40 miles for an office space, and they just can't make it there without paying somebody \$20 to take them there. And so even the, the housing assistance things for homeownership [Inaudible] Not only help somebody survive, but help somebody become better, more productive, more empowered, and more engaged.

>> Each program [Inaudible] So figure out a way to [Inaudible] and I went to that bypass to recruit them making sure that they know, we tried to get to people [Inaudible] we're going to give you this money [Inaudible] to you find a way to serve the people that pay the money [Inaudible] their level. [Inaudible] serving this population of people.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Any other comments from the Committee?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Charles Wright:** I'd just like to make a short comment. [Inaudible] What I found [Inaudible] with Matthew and what HUD required [Inaudible] In their big, fat booklet [Inaudible] every county should have one [Inaudible] called a disproportionate social vulnerability index. And when you look at that index on that all the way [Inaudible] corner [Inaudible] extremely accurate, but when you look to the left column, it identifies a particular neighborhood by a 12-digit code, and Wayne County had seven of those that were most impacted neighborhoods.

>> And in that neighborhood, [Inaudible] corresponding blocks [Inaudible] The first block had to do with income, low to middle income. It was disproportionate [Inaudible] low to middle income [Inaudible] the word is disproportionate [Inaudible] so if for that reason that neighborhood had a larger low to middle income, people in that particular neighborhood, they got a check. Same thing with [Inaudible] If there was a disproportionate amount of minorities in that neighborhood, they got a check.

>> [Inaudible] Next it was a car [Inaudible] They found about 30,000 people didn't have a car, so that's [Inaudible] happened. So car, transportation. The next one was language. If there's a high population of people that have a disproportionate amount, who speak another language.

>> And the last one is disability [Inaudible] That [Inaudible] people like me, over 62, 65 years old. So I [Inaudible] my neighborhood. So when you look at that, [Inaudible] all came from being [Inaudible] HUD was trying to tell the city government, the county government, anybody that wanted to look at that, [Inaudible] hey, this is where we need to put more resources. This is where we have to have some kind of outreach in these particular neighborhoods, that these people are going to be the ones that miss out [Inaudible] six months ago we never heard about the grant, and that's terrible. But that's all I wanted to say.

>> But we do have some of the tools that help us, but sometimes we have to follow the initiative [Inaudible] in charge of things [Inaudible] that's really very [Inaudible] and grab a hold [Inaudible] But we just can't sit back all the time. [Inaudible] Rely on the government [Inaudible] lead the way. So it's advantageous to have nonprofits and we really want to help people [Inaudible] We, we need to know what's out, what things are available. Thank you.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right. Yeah. So, is there anybody on the call that would like to ask a question or would like to say anything before I do?

>> **Speaker:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** There's a comment from Kelley.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Okay.

>> **Dianne Sanchez:** In the chat. Can you see it, Mr. Mayor? Or I can read it to you as well.

>> **Dontario Hardy:** Let me see if I can read it from here. It says, “When disaster strikes, it’s all hands on deck in the aftermath of trauma. It’s about nature [Inaudible] the healing. I applaud NCORR for the commitment to listening and doing for the betterment of all humans living in the [Inaudible] area. Recovery is never comfortable. And if you’re, if you’ve experienced a devastating flood, [Inaudible] be there. I’ve been there. There isn’t a day that passes that you don’t wonder when you have to leave. So kudos to those, so kudos to those who commit their professional lives to helping people recover. And discover that all the [Inaudible] that said, I can provide you with a long list of people within the counties I have that have experienced [Inaudible] HAP [Inaudible] but going to county officials it’s historically complicated and the fact that, to my knowledge, there is still no state department that oversees the county spending of recovery funds guarantees a lack of trust from the people and the home. I’ve been [Inaudible] story [Inaudible] spending of recovery funds until something is done on that level so they can see it’s [Inaudible] going to be taken seriously.”

>> And I understand where she’s going. [Inaudible] However, [Inaudible] overseeing our money or [Inaudible] funds into the towns across our state or across America. When you start looking at the [Inaudible] model of direct funding sent down to or in the form of CDBG probably [Inaudible] something to take a look at how we access funding directly to [Inaudible] those that need it most and how do we govern those funds? [Inaudible]

>> This is why, for example, this is why [Inaudible] than the way is was [Inaudible] congressionally directed spending funding directly to the towns that, that actually, needed it [Inaudible] most affected, especially those that have [Inaudible] throughout our state. As I, as I see it and I understand now [Inaudible] looked through the comments from our community, it looks to the, you know, we talked about access, awareness. You know, [Inaudible] organization on the ground, how do we collaborate with state and NCORR? [Inaudible]

>> How do we communicate with the nonprofit organizations to figure out exactly who has issues or who needs it most in that particular area? Like you were saying the [Inaudible] is unfortunate. [Inaudible] On how [Inaudible] areas [Inaudible] one communities understand that’s highlight. We can access those that have [Inaudible] Probably would to see how we did, go directly to those communities to figure out what’s needed.

>> However, however, we almost was, like Mr. Wright said, [Inaudible] to make sure that we’re reaching out to individuals, at the local state level to figure out what’s next, to tell us what they need. How do we how we can help them. And, and I get this all the time. You know, there’s a step ahead that we’ve taken for some folks. They have to take that step to actually reach out and ask for the help or so [Inaudible] I had to go to the doorsteps and put it in somebody’s lap to understand that. [Inaudible] that’s a [Inaudible] Understand.

>> All right. So, because these are the things that I deal with on a constant basis, this is nothing that I can just talk about it’s what I know about it. And I’ve been through it, but, but understanding that there are many resources available at the local state level, which is how to have, how to get access [Inaudible] And I think there may be a portion that we’re probably working on it or doing now, probably ever state agency across our state [Inaudible]

>> How do we say, “look we’re going to walk you through this application process. If you give us a call, we have a have somebody that can help you streamline this so that you can have a better understanding of how to access, but or how to get this application started.” Maybe, there I don’t know what else we could add to you outside of the individual making the initial call. And I would say that if we call or if we show up, however, and, and talk about the issue that we’re

having, whether it relates to, you know, flooding, disaster, any type of disaster [Inaudible] community, you know, that first step [Inaudible] from the individual that's going through those issues.

>> But, but this has been very, very good. I do appreciate you guys so very much for coming down and talking to us about programs that are available. And I do appreciate the insight for the committee. [Inaudible] they gave really good insight and to talk about, you know, what's going on in your particular communities, how we need to be on to ground as far as awareness goes and I get [Inaudible] If there's nonprofit organizations in our community, we should be able to go to them and figure out, okay, [Inaudible] Who do we need to talk to? Especially [Inaudible] one that's well established in the community. Whether we know that or not [Inaudible] I guess you can start with and figure it out. But a local, local government where, we all know we, we should know, the focus of our community.

>> So if we start there, especially for a state agency calling down and saying "hey, what can we do? Who are we talking to? What about this particular area?" But, but we should have some [Inaudible] insight to what is going on throughout our communities and where are the areas where folks are [Inaudible] So, having said that [Inaudible]

>> Yes, ma'am?

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** Let me say to you, the flood has gone, we bought some property. [Inaudible] property relatively to come in and do something that [Inaudible] we tried to get a [Inaudible] share experience that I would love [Inaudible] Be able to walk around, get on [Inaudible] the ride [Inaudible] on a makeshift, highway and teach that teenager how to drive 'cause they don't know how, I mean, and when I go to a meeting like this, they don't want to hear me. I asked for a meeting [Inaudible] And when you try to go to their house to try to help them you better put on the armor of God and try to [Inaudible] so you can help them.

>> Because we do that. But what I'm saying to you, you don't want to leave. Home is home. And [Inaudible] That would give them an ounce of faith and a little bit of hope that they can [Inaudible] be positive to [Inaudible] community [Inaudible] so busy filling out other folks' applications [Inaudible] only one in my area [Inaudible] So [Inaudible] I got left out. [Inaudible] But [Inaudible] doing a little bit better [Inaudible] I want to say to you [Inaudible] what kind of [Inaudible] What [Inaudible] you can't go back [Inaudible] bought it out. That's what we [Inaudible] So what are you going to do with that damage [Inaudible] They come upon us to [Inaudible] too old [Inaudible]

>> I just, I just want to say I appreciate your coming out, and I like the fact that [Inaudible] But, the only reason I'm saying this is because we really got to do better to represent. I got to make it [Inaudible] I'm just sharing with you some of my personal experience [Inaudible] but with, with that community, God [Inaudible] you know, becomes a [Inaudible] So I'm [Inaudible] Find a sunny spot in your yard [Inaudible] That's what I tell them, and they do. So help them [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** All right.

>> **Mary Perkins-Williams:** [Inaudible]

>> **Dontario Hardy:** It's alright [Inaudible] I do appreciate your words and the input you gave. Is there any others that want to give any comments, before we move to a close? All right.

>> **Keith Graham:** [Inaudible] I want to give a personal testimony to talk about being [Inaudible] people go through the process. I was also, my home was damaged. [Inaudible] And I'm in a

hotel right now, and I ran into a SNAFU with the process, and I was talking to the NCORR people earlier about it. It's so good to have people in the process that care about people.

>> But in the spirit of [Inaudible] everybody cannot have the same [Inaudible] whether you're a contractor, whether you're someone that works over here [Inaudible] but it was good because I was at a place where they were [Inaudible] accept what they [Inaudible] So, sitting on a [Inaudible]

>> I forgot who else I talked to [Inaudible] and people rallied around me. And I've [Inaudible] and they called me on the phone and said [Inaudible] So with that type of leadership from the top that can spread down to everyone else who's involved, I think that's the type of fire.

>> And I think that's, that's marked what's made NCORR successful during this process, where the ones that came before y'all weren't quite as successful, and so we talked about reaching the people and building confidence in the people, those types of personal touches to communicate to people, let them know that they're heard, let them know that they're, they're not just a number that you're trying to slam up a house [Inaudible] repair something, to try to make [Inaudible] trying to make them whole [Inaudible] the experience they've gone through to get here.

>> So I just wanted to share that as a public comment. [Inaudible] I think it's 60 words [Inaudible] with some of the people [Inaudible] and pass that down to everyone [Inaudible] in the organizational chain. Who we talked to, we could. [Inaudible] The only people, some of the people [Inaudible] the people in the room, they see the contract [Inaudible] those people. So being able to hold them to a certain [Inaudible] So that's my comment.

>> **Dontario Hardy** Thank you, sir. I do appreciate those words. And thank you to the NCORR team because this is the thing, right, you know, people have to feel like, like you want to help them, and then we do appreciate that. And, and I can tell you this from the transition from where you were to where you are now [Inaudible] I can tell you that it's just going to make a difference on their approach, on how we respond and what's going on with those that have questions.

>> That immediate response is really, really good. So I want to say thank you for what you're doing and where we are going. We appreciate those efforts. And having said that [Inaudible]

>> **Dianne Sanchez** Mayor Hardy, I think you may have a public comment in the audience.

>> **Dontario Hardy** Is there a public comment? Yes.

>> **Speaker** [Inaudible]

>> **Kathy Reese** Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kathy Reese. I am on the mayor's task force, but I am, also a community. I'm, I'm just. I'm just community. I'm just a person. I am retired, so, I've served on a lot of committees in the community just to be part of the community and give back to the community. I raised my son here. And he's gone on to college and now on his own, but I, I live here, but I want to say about 23, 25 years now.

>> I was pretty, pretty, new here, I had gone through I want to say Matthew in Rocky Mount. But anyway, my heart has been so broken as well as so moved to see to see this community in the shape or distress that it's in. I know the mayor has worked this effort just, just put so much effort into trying to improve this community. But when you drive down the streets of what we call East [Inaudible] I'd say that the homes that are distressed, the people that are traumatized, and the people we talk about mental health, mental health have been going on since the floods and, you know, before.

>> So I see this group, this, this team bringing hope back to this area, certainly. And I know of the other counties that you spoke of as well, because we all know if Wayne or any of us moves

home, that's pretty much it. So you can see people, you know, walking around talking to themselves and whatever we see to people about, you see people, you go by houses that are dark, no electricity, you know, no, no water, the windows broken out. And these are all from, from a flood. Not just, not just poor people.

>> These are like the commissioner said. These are, these are people that were, you know, passed by or just did not have or know how to get the resources and, and the help to build again to regroup. So it is my hope today that things will continue to go forward for every county of North Carolina. I think that we certainly can build homes and repair homes and, and making this resource center [Inaudible] in Fayetteville. I think that's awesome.

>> Just, just the simple, practical things, people not having anywhere to do their laundry or get the medical or dental care, it is a, it is a big concern, certainly within myself, and certainly with the, just the city and some of the other committees I sit on. It is one thing to beautify a city or county that would have the main street and all of that. But when you don't serve like, like the minister said again, when you don't reach out to the actual community, the people of the community, then all the, all, all the beauty is fruitless.

>> So, I'm just thanking the mayor for having this meeting of the day and thanking all of you for your, just endless effort in it because it is so needed. We must think about the people. Thank you so much. God bless.

>> **Dontario Hardy** Thank you, ma'am. Are there any other public comments [Inaudible] [Inaudible] So, having said that, I'll just leave you with these last words. We must do whatever we can, however we can, whenever we can that will impact the lives of others for the benefit. That's our time. I now call this committee meeting adjourned.