

police authorities, we should have let people know what was happening in these instances much more than we did. DPI has, for instance, decided with their counsel's authority that they no longer have to notify the mental health board which committed an individual when they are about to release that individual and that seems to me to be very unwise and I think this change in the law alone is enough to warrant its approval. But I have heard of cases at the Lincoln Regional Center where an individual has been sent to the Regional Center by police. He was convicted of a crime, found to be mentally ill. That person was in the Regional Center and then released and no one was notified of it, no one was notified, and yet this person had been taken into custody because of a crime he had allegedly committed. And so we have a situation then where the police had to track this person down again and take him into jail because he had gotten over his mental illness through the Regional Center's activity and had to bring him back into jail and then convict this person of that crime. Well, that seems to me to be a very ridiculous situation to be in, where someone has committed a crime, the police have taken him into custody, he needs help because he is mentally ill, they take him to the Regional Center and the Regional Center takes care of him and then puts him back out on the street again without notifying the mental health board or the police or anybody who brought him in in the first place so that his original circumstances can be dealt with. That change is very important to the bill. I think that another change that is important to Lincoln, particularly, is the question about the jailer having the authority to have emergency admissions to the Regional Center. We have had situations in the City of Lincoln where again people have been taken into custody for disorderly conduct. They are obviously mentally ill. Something has happened to them. They need immediate attention. They are dangerous. They are put into a strait jacket and they are taken to the Regional Center and they don't have any room for them and the jailer can't commit them formally and so they are in the back of a cruiser, a police cruiser, and going around the City of Lincoln for several hours, and finally a hospital will take them in. This has happened more than...well, this has happened more than once and this in the last year I would say there are a number of times when situations like this have arose in the city and certainly we should give the jailer the authority when this person is obviously mentally ill and has need of immediate attention should have the right to take them to the Regional Center and get attention for them. Beyond that there are a number of other changes in the bill that again deal with the public's concern about the fact that people