

read the summary of the bill is that the Department of Social Services will make a decision on the grants? Do you get this consensus ahead of that time, Senator Scofield, after that time, because I can see, you know, how do they...the rules and regs that they will develop in developing something for choosing this?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Hartnett. The bill specifically says that in order to even apply for a grant and to be considered, that the community has to use either an established child and family services team or put one together and it has to be communitywide representative so if some fringe group comes in and it isn't representative of the community and they, obviously, haven't tried to involve other interested entities in child and family issues in the community, they wouldn't even be eligible for the grant.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Can I stop...do they...are there some communities with something like Senator...at Beatrice or something? What groups are involved in it? That may be for maybe something Senator Byars might want to answer that question for me. What...what...how does it work, I guess, I'm...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I can tell you what happened in Scottsbluff, and it's somewhat sim...Beatrice really is a model. They've done such a good job of getting everybody together in that community. Scottsbluff is close enough to me that I know what they've done and essentially they brought in school people, community action people, social service workers, law enforcement people and so on and built this team. And they sit down and identify their needs and decide what their emphasis needs to be. I don't know the current status of what's going on in North Platte, but I met with people in North Platte a couple of years ago and they had identified a specific need for a holdover facility. Again, they brought in people from all sectors of their community and worked together on that. Kearney has done a little bit. We've got all these little flowers kind of blossoming out there and, with just a little nurturing, we will have more of those around the state. There is one in Norfolk that is starting that I know of. There is one in North Omaha that I know of. There is one here in Lincoln. The communities that we've really left out so far are the smaller communities and that would be the next circle in a series of concentric circles that I would like to see us reach.