

Karen Stevens, will staff, as chief staff person, the commission and be responsible to the commission. Senator Wesely is going to bring up a suggestion on this later. Karen Stevens will not, 100 percent, sign off on this. Karen Stevens would prefer not to have a commission. She and I met together and discussed that, and I agreed that I saw the cumbersomeness of that, perhaps, from her point of view, given where she is right now. But upon taking this back to interested community groups and some of these other advocacy groups, they felt that the commission was a key piece in making this whole process work. They want the commission left in. Karen has been on vacation for some time and is still going to be on vacation for some time. And I guess I feel like right now that we cannot accommodate her wishes. And I'm not convinced that it's the wisest thing to do anyway. We further clarify in this amendment the role of the center and the commission with respect to evaluation. And you can take a look at that page 2, or page 3 on your handout, under evaluation. When we had the negotiating meeting, one of the things that I was able to understand better was that people were defining evaluation differently, depending on what their perspective was. The center was seeing it as evaluating the policy environment, fine-tuning programs and so on. And the issues that were being raised by Carol Stitt and the Voices for Children representatives and others, they were looking at evaluation more as a auditing and monitoring procedure. And that made perfect sense to me, and we can accommodate that. So, under the amendment, we put, under the commission, their role is to audit and monitor this project to see how many clients the program is serving, has the program or service expended funds wisely. And the Center for Community, Families and Law, at UN-L, takes a look at our prevention and early intervention services now available and accessible to communities, are families receiving services, and how satisfied are clients with the program or the service, and have the programs or services had an effect on children's safety, and are children safe who remain in the homes, are children safe who remain in the homes, are children safe who have been removed from the homes? So it more carefully divides out who is responsible for evaluation and what kinds of evaluation will be required. So the commission does the auditing or monitoring, which is perfectly appropriate for a group like that, and they also have the authority to evaluate the center, which was a concern, a legitimate concern that people raised. The commission can contract to have this evaluation done. And, finally,....Let me just say one more thing about evaluation,