

with children we send out of the home, we really have no system on how to handle those people. Can anyone tell me how many people are placed out of home...children that are with disabilities are placed out of home for their education? How many students with disabilities are placed out of the state for their education? How many state dollars are expended for young people? I can tell you. It goes into the millions of dollars. What is the cost per student with disabilities that are placed out of the home and also out of state? Where does a parent go or a judge go to gain knowledge about the services available for young people with disabilities? There really is no one place for them to go. And, finally, what services are needed for young people with disabilities? Basically, these are the questions we want to answer in this year's study. What we will do is we will have a planning team which will be appointed by the Governor. There will be 10 people on that planning team. They will review out-of-state and out-of-home placements. They will review the funds that are spent out of...from DPI, Department of Education and Social Services. And, hopefully, when the plan comes out we can use more prudently the money that is spent. Hopefully, there will be more options for programs to keep people within the state. Can you imagine that one student, we're going to end up spending close to \$380,000. I'll bet you we could come up with a plan with that kind of money. The money would be spent in Nebraska. What are some of the needs for the young people with disabilities? We need, as Senator Dierks mentioned, an array of services. We need a comprehensive and family educational system. We need a coordination of the state agencies which we do not have now. We need to follow up on any out-of-state placements. Hopefully, with the fulfillment of this plan, we will have a minimum of out-of-state placements. They must be community based in a least restrictive environment. The planning team will come back to the Legislature on January 1st, '92, with a plan for the Legislature and, hopefully, there will be some legislation to follow with that. What are some things needed in the plan? The number of children and their needs, description of the programs to be provided, proposals for funding and development of new programs, duties of state agencies and a process to disseminate the rules and regulations which facilitate the involvement of communities and families, and a procedure for case review. Hopefully, one thing that would come out of this would be an interagency decision-making group which would handle out-of-home and out-of-state placements. They would explore all programs before a student...before a young person would be placed out of the