

interpreting here before I go on with the rest of the bill. Interpreting and translating are two different things. When you interpret for a person from a foreign language or to the hard of hearing you must get across the essence of what the person is saying to them. If you've ever watched a person sign at a musical play or any other kind of play or public performance, they use body language, they move their arms, they...when they're interpreting a song or whatever, so you understand, if you were hard of hearing, so you understand what those words mean and what the whole essence of the play or the performance is. So I always bring that up because, as I said at the beginning of that particular little paragraph, interpreting and translating are two different things, and interpreting is what we're talking about with the hearing impaired. Treatment programs, the people that work in those know how to treat people for chemical dependencies and alcohol abuse and mental illness, but it's less likely that they know about the barriers serving this particular population. Unknowingly, the treatment program may lack the appropriate assessment and evaluation tools or the staff might have difficulty interacting with these particular patients. The deaf and hard of hearing persons likewise may not know how, where to seek help. This bill charges the commission with breaking down these barriers and ensuring access to programs for mental health and drug abuse. The Americans With Disabilities Act mandates access to services and programs for persons with disabilities. The commission must comply with this act and, therefore, the commission wants to help make other agencies and programs aware of how to provide access and successfully serve the deaf and hard of hearing persons. The commission will work with the Office of Community Health and the Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, with the Department of Public Institutions. These divisions will adopt and promulgate regulations to ensure full access to mental health, alcohol and drug abuse services for the people that we're trying to help today. Included in the bill is an Advisory Committee appointed by the commission. This...the role of this committee would be to assist the implementation of LB 25, and in that membership would be three counselors with expertise in mental health, alcoholism and drug abuse disorders, and deaf and hard of hearing persons, and two human service professionals. DPI, the Department of Public Institutions, and the commission would each have a nonvoting member. The committee would be volunteering their time and energy, would not receive compensation or reimbursement for their expenses associated with serving on the committee. These people, as you can see from what I've said,