

waiver, which is also back to Senator Beutler's amendment, we'll be talking about that amendment, makes a change that we can do. But the idea is that it would be Department of Social Services doing a plan amendment, giving us the flexibility to use existing dollars in the mental health system now be matched by federal dollars, taking that money into the system and then the contracting and the responsibility would be a joint one between the Department of Public Institutions and DSS. So actually DPI would be and is the lead agency on mental health services, but they would be working with the Department of Social Services in moving forward. So we're forcing maybe a shotgun marriage here, but I think it's the way we need to go forward.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely, if you could also help me then. When I go back to page 4, line 9, and we talk about the shotgun marriage between the two, and I understand exactly what you're talking about on the difficulties with DPI and social services on some of the issues, and we say contracts between the State of Nebraska and service provider, what...what...is there any problem that we don't actually establish a lead agency in that section, that we simply say I don't know who the State of Nebraska is on this contract. And is it simply the Governor now, which I don't have opposition to, but if it's...is it the Governor saying, DPI, you will do this, and he's the referee now or the executive branch is the referee? I mean who is the state on this contract?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, primarily, and I'm trying to look for the language here, it would be through the Department of Public Institutions because they're the service provider that would, I think, contract out. But again I think the reason you see the term "State of Nebraska" is to recognize the desire to jointly involve both departments. The referee in this will be the...or the minister of the marriage will be the Governor's Office, and they're committed to doing that. So that's why I think you see the language there.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And that makes sense to me because I understand how you need to have a referee on that. I just want to make sure that since we haven't done a lead agency that that's not a difficulty, and I don't anticipate it being. Senator Wesely, thank you for answering that question. And take whatever time you need necessary to continue your thought there.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, you raise a very excellent point, it's at