

the heart of the whole issue. And going back, the Department of Public Institutions has always been the forefront, trying to move forward on this option.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: We've had the Department of Social Services objecting. But we have to have both of them working together to make it work. So the attempt here is to recognize that the administration is now in support of the bill with this amendment and has committed to working with the agencies to carry through. And in terms of your concern with the lead agency, my view is a lead agency to do the plan waiver will be the Department of Social Services. The lead agency, in carrying the money and then contracting out for the services, will be DPI. But they can't do anything in isolation, they'll have to work together, and I think that's the plan we have.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I appreciate that. I guess part of my discomfort is that it's unfortunate sometimes that we have agencies that we really need to get them together to make a decision and act, and we just can't seem to get that done on certain issues. And to me that's not only regrettable, but it's simply poor...it's poor government on the part of Nebraskans, what Nebraskans should expect of their government. And I understand the frustration you're going through and I understand the reason for this. I'm still uncomfortable as to why we have to go this route. But that's another issue, I guess. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Is there any further discussion on the adoption of the Robak amendment? Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, Senator Wesely, just a...when we're talking about community-based services, are we talking about the regions? Is that who we're talking about?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Robinson, primarily they would, yes. But it could...but the regions contract with local mental health providers on occasion as well, so it can be public or private.

SENATOR ROBINSON: So you're saying DPI will take this over for Social Service? Have I got this...I want to make sure I got