

wrong here, so I'm asking your guidance. Region II, on some of these areas, they contract themselves. And it raises a flag again that when DPI will contract out, what would that do to Region II?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Yeah, as I was trying to answer for Senator Robinson, the regions are the primary structure to deliver mental health services. But DPI can and does contract directly and the regions do contract directly. And so this does not preclude the private...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: ...providers getting resources. And you're right, Region II is the one exception where I don't think they do any on their own, but they do contract out. This shouldn't discriminate between public or private, it doesn't have any of that sort of bias in this.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And if for some reason we find that there is a problem, once the option is secured, once we know what's going to happen, there would still be something put before us again another year that would...that would...

SENATOR WESELY: Oh,...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...specify how it's going to be done, or would it simply be done by the rules and regs then?

SENATOR WESELY: Well they would operate through...I mean the agencies would be given authority through this to go forward, but obviously we can always review and intercede and object. But I can tell you now in terms of intent, I'm sure Senator Robak agrees, that there is no desire not to include the private providers. In fact, we need to...I know the department's intent is to really help them build up.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Good.

SENATOR WESELY: We need an infrastructure there, and they're the ones to provide it.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Good, I appreciate that and I also appreciate Senator Robak's work on this area because I know she's worked very, very hard on some of the interim studies and