

to read through this report and I'm not getting very far, but under the statutes that exist for foster care now it requires the Foster Care Review Board to review at least once every six months the case of each child in a foster care placement to determine what efforts have been made to carry out the plan. Then I look in the report that's been done and it says that they review 60 percent of the cases in DSS custody. Now I don't know if that means they review even less of those that are not in...fewer of those that are not in DSS custody. But why is it that they've reviewed only 60 percent of the cases when the statute says they should review each case?

SENATOR AVERY: The...what has happened is that...my contention is they've always been underfunded in order to have sufficient to do the complete review. And I'll bet it's not the first time that there are situations in statute where an agency isn't following through completely with what it says in the statute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I remember, when we created the Foster Care Review Board, the big argument was that there were loads of volunteers here that were really interested in participating in the process and getting the job done. And the job that they represented that they could do they have not been able...they have not been able to do, apparently. These reviews are being done by the volunteers at this point in time, is that right?

SENATOR AVERY: Right, it's a volunteer board that has one paid employee that helps coordinate the process.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And so if they were doing these periodic reviews then the volunteer boards would go back to doing nothing and we'd have paid employees. We would substitute the volunteers for...we'd substitute paid...they'd be new bureaucrats that would be doing this instead of the volunteers. Is that correct?

SENATOR AVERY: No. With these employees, each...and I'm not sure each one, but each employee would essentially create...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR AVERY: ...a board or have two or three boards that they will work with to review additional cases. You've got to remember that in order...