

own to look at if that permanency plan is being carried out. In addition then we had the State Foster Care Review Board, which would do what was called an external review. They would do selected cases at random, people would bring them cases, different ways that they would do it, but they weren't doing everybody in the system, not all children in the system, they were only doing parts of it. And it was called an external review. That is done by volunteers, they put an awful lot of information together that is probably more information than what DSS does and tries to put the whole thing together and look at a, more of a total picture of, and reviewing what is happening to this child who is placed out of the home. In addition, the court system in Nebraska does a review by the court every six months. Now it's my understanding that federally, the courts are only required to do one at, one every 18 months, but that in Nebraska, the courts are obligated to do a review every 6 months. There also are what they call CASA programs, I think there's three Nebraska counties at the time of this report anyway, that did CASA programs which provide a pool of trained volunteers available for judges to appoint as advocates in individual cases of children in foster care. I think what we're looking at is to try and decide what kind of a system we want to see in Nebraska for review of cases of children who are placed out of the home. And I think that's worthy of some time and discussion, looking at the different components when we're looking at trying to restructure government, efficiency, access to services, all those things that we're concerned with right now, what is the best way to go in reviewing children placed out of the home? And will what Senator Avery's offering be an improvement, be cost effective, be an additional benefit to what we currently have? And I think that's what I'm going to be looking for today is what are we going to gain in this state by offering this review, taking it totally away, a review, an internal review that's done by the Department of Social Services, taking that completely out of DSS and having the external review, that's being done by the Foster Care Review Board now on, on a random basis, and turning that whole sense of responsibility, that whole area of reviews, over to the Foster Care Review Board? Looking at fiscally what will it mean now with the pilot projects and in the future, because the purpose of this is to do eventually to have the Foster Care Review Board do all of the reviews. What will that mean fiscally in the future, what will we gain, what kind of reviews, and how will that benefit children? And I think this debate should go on