

can make better decisions from that process and everybody is informed of the situation.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, do I understand you to say that DSS did not share their reports with the courts?

SENATOR AVERY: Right. I believe that's right.

SENATOR HILLMAN: I guess I'm not too sure about that. I know there were some problems between DSS and the Foster Care Review Board as far as sharing reports. And I also understand that that part has been satisfied as far as I know, at least with our local Foster Care Review Board, that DSS is sharing those reports once more, there's a much better understanding, and what it came down to a lot of it was just the time that the DSS workers had in working overtime in trying to meet with the Foster Care Review Boards because they always meet in the evenings because of the timing with their volunteers and so forth that need to work outside of their work time, which I can understand. And not having the kinds of staffing and time that they needed, DSS had a difficult time meeting with those boards. But it was, when we were looking at the study, we worked with DSS and the Foster Care Review Board, as you're aware of because you were there at that time also,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...Senator Avery, and that DSS is complying much more, is working much closer with DSS that the volunteer board, anyway in my area, said the relationship is greatly improved and they have access to information and to those workers and, which is what they were seeking that helps their review process. In looking at how we can refine the system, my concern is that we were going to take, what is it, established program in one area and do a citizens review eventually, totally on all of it. And I know the pilot programs are there to test it, but still the final goal is to have the Foster Care Review Board do all of it for an external review. My concern is the expectations of the people of what will change with the Foster Care Review Board doing all the reviews will not be fulfilled.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Landis followed by Senators Crosby, Wesely, Stuhr, Pedersen, Schimek, Avery, and Bohlke.