

services to deliver what's needed.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely, just to carry it off from there, and I concur with your rationale, at least of what would happen. But what happens when we have fewer dollars coming in, when the federal government, you know, does balance the budget, assuming it does after the election sometime, we do have fewer dollars, even though they may be more open in block grants for the state to make those tough decisions. But now we have fewer dollars and the dollars really could go to OJS, it could go to Social Services, it could have gone to DPI, whatever. How is that decision going to be made about where...who gets the dollars, when they're beginning to compete for those dollars? Because you have...some of those groups have much larger entities that they're working with, and so it would seem that they would have much more weight. But if you can take some time to talk about that concept.

SENATOR WESELY: Again, an excellent question.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: The idea would be that the finance side would know what resources are available and indicate to the service side, well, here's what we've got available. And then services would have to sit down and they're, they're all in one department now. They would have to work through the question of allocation of who's going to get what in terms of what might be available. And some of it will depend on whether there's like money that's come in with direct funding strings attached so it has to go a certain place, and then others may be block granted, as you said. But I see the decision making as the service side talking about need, establishing need, prioritizing need, working with finances on funding availability, limits, options. And then they all sit down, through the cabinet, and between them try and reach an agreement that maximizes dollars and maximizes the good it can do.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely, if, and I've got my light on again so we can continue this a little bit. If, for example, there gets to be a competition in each of the entities, even though they are working to...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is