

next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. Senator Wesely, even though they're working together, when push comes to shove they still have their individual identity, do they not. So when push comes to shove, each of those identities will still be fighting for its turf. And at some point I assume then they'll go through and the chief decision-maker, I forget the name that we have for that, that person would eventually make the final decision. Would that be correct? It would go to the Governor, and the Governor would make a final decision?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, essentially the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services will have to bring the different elements of his department together in terms of what service needs there are and then work with the policy secretary, I think that's who you were referring to, to try and make all of this match up. And again, as Senator Chambers asked, if that doesn't work, who do you turn to? You turn to the Governor, ultimately, who's the ultimate authority and responsible party.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, so if I have it correctly, and I try to...I have to look in pictures, that's how my mind works. I keep telling Senator Maurstad he has to draw me pictures, and he thinks I'm teasing, but it's really true, I'm a very visual type of person. But as I'm picturing this I have three entities or five entities, and I'm thinking just OJS, DPI, for the most part, and DSS, dealing with youth or people that are...that need mental facilities, mental health counseling, whatever the case may be. If they each end up at some point competing for the dollars that are there, that are less, at some point they will have to go to a higher entity, and some higher entity will come and solve that problem. My question, I guess, from that understanding is, how is that really any different from what we have now?

SENATOR WESELY: Well the difference is that higher entity is the one department, and the services are all under the one department. So the director of the department has to solve the problem and meet the need and can't find somebody else to turn around to and shift the problem to. And that's what we've had, you know that. In some of these departments they've said, that's...those children aren't our problem anymore, the court's got to take care of it, or, you know, this or that agency has