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LB 724

discussions of LB 724. The other thing that I think is important to realize is that it's not only about treating the individual for conditions and problems that they may have. But you also look at the recidivism rate, and you look at the number of individuals that have gone through a program like we have in Region 1, and how many times those individuals come back, and more importantly, why they came back. Now, some people will just look at recidivism and say, well, the number of times somebody got back in the same situation is an indicator of the success of a program. We have actually one situation in the Panhandle where an individual requested services on their own, without being forced into an emergency situation where they were demanded to go there because they knew where their services were, they knew that they were accessible to them, and then they knew that they were in the best interests of themselves, and they were beginning to make the decisions for themselves that were responsible. And I think that should also be the goal that we face as we address the changes in the system that Senator Jensen and we as a committee have put before the body. So we're not only looking at, you know, how do we rework the system. And I think Senator Jensen has... or, Senator Johnson has captured it well, how do we focus the system even more on the patient's health? But then there are other benefits, and that is that you provide opportunities for those individuals to take responsibility for their actions, to have a community support that they need, that's essential for them to move through this stage in their life and making sure that they have an opportunity to be successful once their formal treatment has been completed. So I applaud Senator Jensen for his hard work, and Jeff Santema, our legal counsel, for all the efforts they've put into this. And I look forward to the efforts this interim on discussing and working through the proposal that we have before us. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Jones. Senator? Senator Vrtiska?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I guess I'd like a little dialogue with Senator Jensen for a minute, if I could. Senator Jensen,...