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participating, all the providers out there, and they have lessened their reliance to the regional center at Hastings dramatically. And so what you're doing, what Region (sic) West is doing is exactly what we need to do and promote, and I think we're going to end up with a much better system once we do that.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: So actually, what our health department is doing, and we've kind of initiated the program on our own with the cooperation with the sheriff's department, police department and other individuals, doctors in the area, would be something that we'd really be looking at instead of trying to EPC these people and have them in the community for three, four weeks before they ever got any attention?

SENATOR JENSEN: That is exactly correct. Once somebody is in...when they're in an EPC, there's no treatment. All they're doing is being stabilized. The quicker we can get them in to a facility for treatment, the faster they'll be back into their productive lives.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Janssen, followed by Senators Johnson, Schimek, and Thompson.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, we are in a fortunate position right now. Medical science has come a long ways in the last 50-60 to 100 years. We have learned how to treat people with mental disorders, those poor, unfortunate citizens who we need to take care of, must take care of. The facility that is in Senator Tyson's district was more or less a warehouse for mentally disturbed citizens and...but at that time, in the time that that facility was built, this is about the only way they had to take care of those poor people in those situations. It was a community all of its own. There were several buildings there. They had...they did a little farming and they had their own laundry. Was just a little city. The problem was that they were actually warehoused and they, some of them, never got out because we did not have