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FLOOR DEBATE

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community-based programs contracting with the Department of Health and Human Services; the capacity of all state-operated and privately operated behavioral health institutions and community-based residential and day treatment centers; all federal, state, and local funding sources for all state behavioral health services and the most recent amounts; the levels of expertise of all medical, psychiatric, and psychological staff serving state-operated and privately operated behavioral health institutes and contracting with the community-based behavioral health programs. Senator Stuthman pointed out the very commendable job that they've done in Platte County, neighboring county to Madison, and he pointed out, I hope proudly, he should be proud of it, that they did it without any taxpayer money. They did it with federal funds and some other grants. And I wonder if that becomes a statewide program if the federal funds and the grants are going to be there. And if they are not there, where is the money to come from? We could be all dressed up and have no place to go. Senator Johnson said something here a few minutes back, remember the patient. I think we need to know what we have, and what we have to replace, and what is already in position to form a part of that replacement. We did have a shortage of psychiatrists in Norfolk and they handled that very, very well. They changed the table of organization and equipment, saying that we didn't need them, but we're no longer giving outpatient services in some of the outlying towns and haven't for about three years, four years. I worry about that. I look upon that as a declining standard of service, and I think that we're going to have legislation in the next session, what's it going to be based on? Do you have a plan that shows what you have now? Do you have a road map that says we start here and we have to go through this to get to our final destination? We have a load of so many people, patients, the ones Senator Johnson wants us to remember. So we're going to start next January and have some plan. And I'm sure it's going to be a real comprehensive plan if we start next January. This says start now. All we're trying to do is get some information on which a plan could be made. Now I realize there is probably going to be some people object to that. I don't know how they make plans. I know how I do. I think this is a good bill. Of course, I thought that, too, twice before, but I think this is a good bill, and I urge that