

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004      LB 1083

least restrictive environment consistent with consumer clinical diagnosis and a plan of treatment; funding that is fully integrated and to support the consumer and his or her plan of treatment. State leadership of the Behavior...Public Behavioral Health System: changes in LB 1083 are intended to strengthen state leadership of the behavioral health system and to make state leadership more focused, more accountable. The bill creates the Division of Behavioral Health Services, referred to as a division within the Department of Health and Human Services Department. The administrator of the division is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Legislature. The chief clinical officer and program administrator for consumer affairs are appointed by the Director of Health and Human Services. The bill establishes an office of consumer affairs within the division. Qualifications and duties for the chief clinical officer and program director for the consumer affairs are provided. And then Sections 7 through 9 are pertaining to changes in LB 1083 that are intended to address issues raised before the Health and Human Services Committee related to the fragmentation caused by separate state and regional behavioral health bureaucracies and perceived by or actual conflict of interest when behavioral health regional authorities are both administrators of the funding and providers of the services. The bill intends to place regional behavioral health authorities more specifically under the division and oversight of the division. That really is the essence of Sections 1 through 9 of LB 1083, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, I am trying to figure out exactly where we are in terms of the divisions, but I rise to support this division, to support the amendment and the bill, the underlying bill. Behavioral health reform is about what we do for people with mental health needs, not where we do it. And it is about doing it with the person, as close to the person. I'm a proponent of this bill because I believe that it embodies true community-based individual-centered care. I'm a supporter because I believe in the work that our Health and Human Services Committee has done in putting this together. I think that they have tried in every way possible to address the needs of the