

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

April 14, 2004 LB 297, 1083

successful in the past. And I want you to understand that I don't want to condemn the people who are providing the services in that particular group home, but we have many, many providers of services across this state, from one end to the other, from our regions to our private not-for-profit providers, both in developmental disabilities and in mental health, that do an absolutely fantastic job of providing service, and we don't want to forget that. LB 1083 is going to help us put into a plan something that desperately needs to be done to address these issues. We have scores of individuals on the streets everywhere that are not receiving any type of services or that are underserved with a disability, with a mental illness. Not only will LB 1083 help us with this, but you have wisely moved forward LB 297, which also assists us with planning in what services do people with disabilities need, who are overserved, who are underserved, what can we do in the planning process to make sure that that's happened. I'm chairing an interim study that we started last year that we're carrying over that the university is help...the University of Nebraska in Lincoln is helping with us now at looking at service coordination and what is it that we're expecting of our service coordination individuals in the disability field; how are we...ask them what kind of training are they receiving; what are we asking them to do; and are we expecting more; are they carrying too heavy of caseloads. That's all part of what we're doing. So everything that I think we're doing at this point is moving forward in a positive way...

SENATOR JONES: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...to address these issues. The law enforcement...Police Chief Casady is a wonderful person. I agree with Senator Beutler. Police Chief Casady at this point is being plugged into every single part of the planning process for Lancaster County. The region is plugging him in. Bryan LGH, as they've built a huge new wing to their hospital on the west campus to deal with mental illness, is plugging law enforcement in. They're plugging in all of the officials that need to be part of this process. I'll speak another time, and I don't want to delay this, but because what we need to do is move LB 1083 forward. And what Senator Jensen and what the Governor are