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

April 25, 2005 LB 40

there are definitions. HHS asked us to put those in there. They felt that this made it very clear as to who these were for. defines "adult with serious mental illness." It defines "housing-related assistance" to include rental payments, utility payments, security and utility deposits, and other related costs and payments. It also has a definition for "very low income," and that was at the request of HHS. The second thing it does is it divides up the funds. There was some concern. We know that any fund that we start has a growth. Any purpose that we find has a growth factor, and there was a concern among those who have been using the Affordable Housing Trust Funds that with the occurrence of mental illness in our society they may encroach and eat up that entire fund or certainly a great deal of that fund. So we divided the funds within this amendment that is You'll find it on page 6 and 7 of the amendment. before you. AM1227. It's Section 4. And it would designate that \$2.25 contained in the bill thusly: 50 cents to the county, as currently; 25 cents to the homeless fund, that is current; \$1.20 would go to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and 30 cents would be designated to the Behavioral Health Services Fund for rental assistance. The purpose is in Section 3 on page 4 of the And because we have designated and broken the fund streaming, you will find that on page 3 the words "rental assistance" as an allowable use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is stricken. That is because now those dollars would flow through the Behavioral Health Services Fund. And then in Section 1 on page 2, lines 10 through 12, there is a one-time appropriation or transfer of \$2 million. Those are the dollars that I referred to earlier that are currently sitting in DED and we need to make sure that they would get them out to the regions, and they would be used to expand capacity. Since we would not want to do double the rental assistance in one year and not be able to continue that in following years, we thought the best use for those dollars sitting there would be, in fact, to allow them to increase capacity with some new construction. Those are the elements of the amendment. I hope that Senator Jensen and Senator Synowiecki may share with you their perspective on this amendment. We had a lot of players and a lot of input, and I want to thank everyone that was involved in putting together this amendment. I think it's a good solution, and I would ask your endorsement and vote in the positive.