

SENATOR GOODRICH: Don, what about the small community that a lot of these senators represent small communities that don't have a mental health center or a drug abuse center or that sort of thing in their community? How have you provided for those people, the law enforcement people that would have to be picking these people up? What have you provided for how they shall handle the problem?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Goodrich, it would be no different than the way they now handle it for the alcohol abuser or the mentally ill. Again, the bill only adds drug abuser to the people that would be covered under this. If they don't have those services, and there is not an appropriate service in the community this person comes from, when the commitment act is formalized, through the Mental Health Commitment Board, the services are available at the state level through the regional centers. So that is why you have many of the outstate residents that need mental health services in Hastings and Norfolk and Lincoln. If you have a community based program, and we do have more of these in the rural areas now than we used to, and that is the appropriate place to place them, that would be where they would be sent to utilize the services.

SENATOR GOODRICH: All right. Now if the local law enforcement officer of some small community, for example, that doesn't have one, with 50, 60 miles away before they can get them there, where do they put them when they pick them up?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, I'm sorry. You might be confusing this with another issue dealing with mental illness and placing them in jails. This doesn't deal with that subject. But right now they could place them in a jail as a last resort. Another bill would take that option away though, if they can't get to some place very quickly.

SENATOR GOODRICH: In other words though the local law enforcement officer, when he picks one of these people up, is he going to have to transport that person 50, 60 miles away to the nearest center or reception place? You know we don't...we don't all have regional centers in our community.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.