

of local funds, and also, as I understand it, four years ago there was, in fact, a cap on Medicaid, and there was a legitimate, rightful concern at the Department of Institutions level that since they were pretty much close to that cap, if they implemented it for local programs, it could have a serious effect. However, two years ago, even though Senator Warner didn't object to it, I have to add this so you will all understand, because this is very important budgetwise, that, if, in fact, it is implemented, it will help and seriously go a long way towards offsetting some of the costs at the local level. So, you may or may not know that at the institutions level there is high, low, and intermediate type of care. Even though it is an institution, and the certification is very important at the state level, it is important for you to recognize that there are about 311 adults in Beatrice who fall into the high category of need, but there are over 500 people in that same high category of need that are served in local programs, and, in fact there is no high institution cost. I think it is important for us to implement, as soon as possible also next year, Senator Warner and everybody, the waiver for Title 19 monies. This, again, will go a long way towards offsetting the cost at the local level. I would share with you one more bit of information. I don't know why we haven't, but we should be in the process, in the State of Nebraska, of applying for case management funds. As I understand it, one state now has, in fact, been provided with those funds. It is fairly new. But think of this as an impact, if, in fact, going into next year we have implemented a case management program, we could save...or could recover \$2.7 million, or almost all of the cost which is now relegated for state management by local programs, I'm not sure how many hundreds of thousands of dollars at the institutions level. These are big dollars and big bucks. The reason I throw this amendment in is so that this Legislature and the Appropriations Committee will have access to these numbers, because if, in fact, we have a serious crisis, as we are told next year, you ought to understand this so that we are not pitted like we are at the present time, and have been for a long time, between local programs and institutions and their priority. The only thing that counts, really, are the people that need the service and how they are served. There are a number of alternatives. But at the present time it seems to me that enough of us don't understand the difference between the funds that are developed, and how many people are served, and what, in fact, is indeed fair. I'm surprised, in fact, that some people in this Legislature aren't aware of these things. We should be involved, when I heard so much about responsibility here in this