

expensive; two, they were ineffective because they were done at a distance and they did not deal with the entire family; and, three, they were not always appropriate. They were far more restrictive than they needed to be but we lacked, seriously lacked mid-level services for young people who have mental health problems and behavior problems, and in response to that study, the department heads, particularly the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Public Institutions agreed to work on a plan. The Department of Social Services immediately began to offer some RFPs to promote the development of programs and to bring some of those kids back from out-of-state, and I believe Senator Robinson will talk a little bit more about those specific programs and the success of them. The Department of Public Institution took many of the ideas of the study and put together the road map plan. It was community based. It was a bottoms up, but even in spite of the fact that we had those nice principals, there were people at the local level who said because I wasn't involved this isn't the best plan. I suffer from the same frustration that Senator Day does by the fact that lack of collaboration at the state level as well as at the local level, by people who do care about our children, but because of their inability to work well together, we are left as policymakers in a quandary of whether or not we are using our dollars efficiently, and whether or not we should put our dollars into the road map. There is unquestionably a need for addressing services and programs for children and youth of mental illness and severe behavior problems. I am hoping that next year we will have the opportunity to address them in a more appropriate fashion. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would yield the remaining of my time to Senator Robinson.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I just want to echo a few things Senator Rasmussen said. My first year, my priority bill was 638 and it had to do with disabled people that were...basically young people that were disabled and sent out of the State of Nebraska. And since then there is a couple of things that have happened. There's a home at Seward, one at Columbus. I know they are planning one, I think, out in the Panhandle, and, likewise, the Omaha School for the Boys, and we are talking about taking care of these young people that have mental problems, and we are saving thousands of dollars by doing that. And what Senator Day and Senator Rasmussen is talking about is right, and we have got to continue to push o this