

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
February 07, 2014

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2014, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Kathy Campbell, Chairperson; Tanya Cook; Sue Crawford; Mike Gloor; and Sara Howard. Senators absent: Bob Krist; and Dan Watermeier.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: This afternoon, we have gubernatorial appointment hearings on confirmations and then we'll have a report from Director Pristow on the Community Services Block Grant Program hearing. I think we've got that all right. Welcome to all of you. I know that you take time out of your busy lives to be with us, and it will seem like it's a very short time that you're with us, but we are required to talk to the folks who are coming for gubernatorial appointments. And I would like you all just to relax because basically what we're going to do is just have a conversation with you. We'd like to, you know, hear a little bit about your experiences or your background that brought you to the appointment to the board. So it's not like we're going to ask you very grueling questions at all. But we much appreciate your taking time to come. The clerk has already talked with you about the orange sheets. If you have a cell phone with you, or a tablet, please make sure it's on silent or turned off. We try to remind everybody of that. And we won't use the lights today because it will be sort of a back and forth conversation. Am I forgetting anything, Brennen? Okay. We'll start with introductions of the committee so you know who we all are and we'll start on my right, Senator.

SENATOR HOWARD: I'm Senator Sara Howard. I represent District 9 in midtown Omaha.

SENATOR COOK: I'm Senator Tanya Cook. I represent District 13 in northeast Omaha and Douglas County.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm Kathy Campbell and I serve District 25, east Lincoln and eastern Lancaster County.

SENATOR GLOOR: I'm Senator Mike Gloor, District 35, which is Grand Island.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Sue Crawford, District 45, which is eastern Sarpy County, Bellevue and Offutt.

BRENNEN MILLER: I'm Brennen Miller. I serve as committee clerk.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we have two pages with us who assist the committee, Emily and Stuart. They're both students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Stuart is majoring in English and is from Lincoln. I'm trying to do this from memory. And Emily is

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majoring in political science from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, original hometown. And Stuart and Emily are just great help to the committee. We very much appreciate that. And the gentleman standing over there is known by everybody in the Capitol as Chuck and Chuck keeps everything moving, literally, so. Senator Krist is ill today and will not be with us, and Senator Watermeier has bills up in other committees. And our legal counsel, Michelle Chaffee is with her mother who had a medical procedure yesterday and is doing fine and she will...Michelle will be back on Monday. With that, we will start with Becky...is it Ri-ken (phonetically), Becky? [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: It's Reek-en (phonetically). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Reeken (phonetically). Okay. For the audience, Becky is on the phone with us today and Becky is a new appointment to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Becky, welcome on the phone to you, and we generally start in our conversations with you telling us a little bit about yourself and your interest in the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: (Exhibit 1) Okay. Well, I live in Kearney, Nebraska, and I am married and have two children. One of them is blind and I guess that's kind of where my interest lies. I have been enjoying raising my child right now. She's obviously grown now and she's in college and doing quite well. I guess what I bring to the table is the perspective of a parent and knowing that the nurturing and teaching of independence and just knowing that your child can be what they want to be as long as you give them direction. And also I am in the process of becoming a teacher for the visually impaired too, so I also bring that perspective to the board too, I guess, and just feel like that it's important to have different perspectives and to have an open mind to what can be brought forward. And I've just been looking forward to having different perspectives and maybe offering a little bit of my own life experiences and the opportunity to maybe be of service. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Becky, for the record, would you spell your name so the transcribers make sure that they get it correctly. [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: Last name is R-i-e-k-e-n, first name is B-e-c-k-y. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. Becky, I noted in the information that we have that you volunteer for the Arc of Buffalo County and also you volunteer for the Nebraska Association of Blind Students. Tell us a little bit...I've not heard about the Nebraska Association of Blind Students. Can you tell us a little bit about that? [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: My daughter is a part of that and I guess we started just kind of helping her a little bit, but in the midst of helping her, we just became acquainted with her friends and with a different aspect favoring to the lives of children that are blind. And

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it's just an association of students here in Nebraska that go out and draw interest to other kids that are maybe still in high school or even younger, and just show them the abilities of the blind, and the possibilities of a person that is blind. And just encourage them and are advocates for them and it's just, I guess, just something that is a very good cause and it just opens the eyes, I guess you could say, of children to know that there are people out there that have been there, done that, and are doing it. And to encourage all to just be their best, and do their best, and who knows what can become of your life. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Questions or comments from the other Senators? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. And Becky, this is Senator Mike Gloor. I'm the Senator from Grand Island. It looks like you're a very busy individual and I note you're also a working parent. Will you be able to make the time commitment to participate in this? Are you concerned about that at all? [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: There are times where I am very busy, but I've always been one that excels on adrenaline, I guess you could say. But while I am busy, but I know my priorities, and I guess I just am the type of person who likes to do things. I'm not one that likes to sit and I guess I use my time wisely and have always been that way with studies and such, just I guess when I'm busier is when I accomplish more and feel better about myself. So no, I don't see any problems with time commitments or anything. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, thank you for your willingness to volunteer. [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: Thank you. You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Hello, Becky, this is Senator Crawford and thanks again for your willingness to serve. I just thought we...so we have in front of us and you've spoken eloquently about the experiences that you will bring as a parent. I just wonder if you might speak just briefly about what you see that the commission does, like what you understand in terms of some of their activities or their role that you're particularly excited about being a part of. [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: I guess a lot of what I think is just so exciting is technology because without technology, the blind are not able to compete with sighted people in today's world. And my daughter is just, I guess, a technology freak. She just consumes technology and I just love that and I feel like the commission has offered her so many

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options and has enabled her to compete with kids her age, and students her age, just because of having adaptability products that just allow her to do the same thing that they do, and it's just, I guess, technology and the way the commission allows kids to perform and just right up there at the top with everybody else. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Excellent. Thank you. Thank you. That's very helpful.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments? Becky, I'm sure that I speak for all the members of the committee. We very much appreciate your willingness to serve on the commission. And I have to say this is, Senator Cook, Senator Gloor and Senator...and my sixth year on the Health and Human Services Committee, and I do not think that we have had a parent of a blind student before. So we're very encouraged about the perspective that you will bring to the commission, and thank you very much for your support of all students across the state who are blind, and I bet you are an inspiration to them, to other parents. [CONFIRMATION]

BECKY RIEKEN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thanks, and you have a great afternoon and that concludes the hearing on Becky's appointment, so we will move to the next appointment. And next on our list is Dr. Paul Salansky. Am I saying that correct? Is Dr. Salansky here today. Okay. He may be running late. We'll go on to the next person. I've got to make sure I've got it here, and the other is Jerome (phonetic) Warner...Jeromy Warner.
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Jeromy Warner. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I got that right. Sorry about that. And let's see. This is an appointment to the State Board of Health representing mental health. Am I correct on that? [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: That's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got interested in serving on the Board of Health. [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: (Exhibit 2) All right. Well, I am a psychologist, licensed psychologist in the state of Nebraska. We've been in Nebraska for about ten years now. I got interested in the Board of Health, actually Dan Bizzell worked with me at that time and I knew that he was leaving, and so I actually have, prior to this, I served to complete his term and so I've actually technically been on the board since about two Octobers ago. So this is my first...my own term. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: All right. And they are considering your reappointment, so, not a new... [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Yeah, okay, that works. So, yeah, so part of my interest was to become more involved in a lot of the process related to mental health.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You are working on your board certification to be a neuropsychologist and I can't remember the board. It's a very small percentage of psychologists that reach that level of board certification, is that correct?
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: It is. Most psychologists don't apply for board certification and then for neuropsyches, it's even smaller. When I first came to Nebraska out in Hastings, we had four neuropsychologists and now we have none in my area. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Really. [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: So I get patients from outside of Nebraska as well that come in.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, very interesting. Yes, I looked at your resume and the application and I read Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, and said, how did this gentleman get to Hastings? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Yeah. Internship, international...national internship application, you can go anywhere. We were only supposed to be here for a year, but...
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We're glad you're here for more than a year that's for sure.
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Yeah, we got interested. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And you teach at Hastings College also. [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: I do. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is that pretty typical that the college will use people from the community as adjuncts? [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: I think they have in the past. The individual actually who had the

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classes that I have now was also practicing in Hastings at that point in time, so.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You bring a lot of experience to this position. And talk a little bit about, you've also served on the Brain Injury Board. Are you still serving there?
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: I am still. I'm still on the board for the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska which is kind of atypical to other associations. I guess it's really more of a...it began because the state contracted with and provided funding to vocational and rehabilitation in Nebraska and they initially began the board for the purpose of being able to review brain injury in the state of Nebraska to assist families in the state of Nebraska. I also have a history of head injury myself, so I'm both a member, professionally, and I guess as far as experience, life, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Interesting. Well, we appreciate your service. Questions or comments? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell and thank you for your interest. We share a couple of things in common. One is I'm a Hastings College graduate and a University of Utah graduate, so I'm a Ute also. (Laughter) And we could have used you pulling people off the floor to talk to them about a brain injury as we talked about the helmet law this morning. A frustration for those of us who don't understand why it keeps coming back year after year, but it's the nature of what we do. What are you looking forward to serving on the Board of Health? When you decided to do this, there had to have been an upside for you something other than the volunteering your time and energy. [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Right. I...you know, being out in Hastings, it's more in the center of the state, I guess two things kind of motivated me. One was that I mentioned earlier, there was all these psychologists and neuropsychologists where I was. Most recently I've even tried hiring a psychologist and they've all gone. And, you know, professionals keep leaving our area of all types. And so retaining and sustaining professionals and also making sure that they're well educated and monitored in our state is something that has been an interest of mine since well before the board. I used to work for the state before I worked at Mary Lanning and I guess I saw a lot of opportunities and this was the only way that I thought I could become more involved in that process.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for your willingness to serve.
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Thank you. Appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, you were state employee of the year. (Laughter)
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Yeah, yeah, that was back in 2008. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Two thousand eight, but it's important there. I have to ask you because I kept thinking, I'm sure I should understand this, but I don't. Explain the poster presentation because you won a recognition and tell me a little bit about that.
[CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Right. Well, the research that I had done was an interest about psychologist's perceptions of personal therapy. So we have a lot of, not just psychologists but medical practitioners who can become impaired, or they have their own issues and then fail to go and receive therapy or treatment because of the way that it might look to themselves. And so, I actually...I surveyed, I can't remember the number now. It was a long time ago, but I surveyed quite a few practitioners on how they perceived therapy, when the last time was that they actually participated, and limitations, and presented that back to actually the same group there in Arizona. And yeah, that's what that was related to. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You were also on a team. Is that when you were working for the state, you worked on a team at BSDC? [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: I was, I worked actually for Bridges, which I know some of you are familiar with, last year, and was the first psychologist out there and actually worked also with Lee Slomki and others to help establish it initially. And so I was out there, but I also through BSDC was able to perform...we had a group called OTIS which would go across the state and do risk evaluations of different individuals in the providerships. So I have been in just about every providership for the intellectually disabled in the state. And then, yeah, so there's a lot of different small services that at that time were all kind of tied together. Now they're all separate and some are done by other private agencies.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, the committee, the Health Committee works, and it's very dependent upon the advice that comes from the Board of Health. We pay close attention when we hear from them. We meet with them on an annualized basis. In fact, that meeting was in the last couple weeks and we sit down and have lunch and have a chance to talk to them about issues. And I know that it can be a very demanding volunteer, but we are very grateful for the people who serve, that's for sure. Any other comments from the Senators? Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: So from your experience as a practitioner and on the Board of

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Health already for a few meetings and the few issues that have been discussed, do you have any specific issue or direction that you think is particularly important or making sure that we have quality mental health in the state from the actions or initiatives or emphasis of the Board of Health? [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: A lot of different things that I can think of. You know, I think more generally and having also gone to the other boards in their...such as the...for me it's the Board of Psychology and the Board of Mental Health I've attended and I think having standardized measures of quality as well as competency across all those groups, which currently I don't know that I feel that we do. And that's something that I think...it's something that's currently in development and I think that's kind of a big priority right now. That also impacts who is interested in working in these areas and regulating closely those who attempt that might not be ethical or effective. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: And is that an interest of yours, quality measures and...? [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: I think it...I guess it is, yeah, a little bit, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Yeah, okay. Excellent. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments? Thank you so much for your service and we appreciate your willingness to be reappointed, so. [CONFIRMATION]

JEROMY WARNER: Thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Thanks for joining us today. Our next presenting on...and I'm actually going to change because I've got the order, I think, in my notes here, and go to Lisa Knoche. Am I saying that correctly? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: You are. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Because in my packet all of your information comes next, so we're going to start. And you are a new appointment, I think that's correct, to the Child Abuse Prevention Board. And so tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: (Exhibit 3) Sure. I work at the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a research associate professor and assistant director of research. So I do research and intervention and prevention programming specifically focused during the early childhood period. So I'm very interested in the role of families and supporting young children as we get them ready for educational career. Yeah, I think that's... [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: I noted and, colleagues, if you look at page 3 of Lisa's application or appointment, you are doing...I'm going to read it so I make sure I get it correctly. Recently engaged in a study to consider the economic benefits of early childhood investment for Nebraska and is interested in policy implications of this work. We could have used you last year. (Laughter) Because we had a bill on the floor of the Legislature and quite honestly a number of our colleagues would ask questions just exactly directed at the study. Can you tell us a little bit about that? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Sure, I can tell you a little bit about it and then I'd be happy to share more information. I worked with two economists at UNL on this particular study and it was of interest to First Five Nebraska here. They were the ones that were interested in this work, so we were essentially contracted to take a look. And we were looking at the Nebraska specific kind of effect so we know from large scale studies what some of those dollar returns are, but those weren't based on communities here in Nebraska. So we used some of the economic data here in terms of employment, cost of education, a variety of other indicators that we know result from high quality early childhood services. So we looked at what those economic numbers were for the state and came up with some estimates in terms of what the savings might be for a given investment here in Nebraska. And I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, so I'd be hesitant to share those. But that was the nature of that work. So it is available in a report form and be happy to share it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is it in a digital form? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: It is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Would you...if you go to the legislature.com, all of our addresses, or you can send it to me, I would really like to see the study and have it for the files because we get asked about it and, of course, there was just a recent column in the [World-Herald](#), Matthew Hansen's column, in which he spent a lot of time looking at data apparently. And he looked at [The New York Times](#). I think it was an article about Head Start, but then he went and actually looked at the research. I was impressed with that. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Yeah I...we did a quite extensive search. First, it was a two-phased project, so the first phase was identifying what some of the key outcomes would be, and then we in the second phase actually put dollar figures to those outcomes. You know, high school graduation is one that comes up quite frequently. Being held across grades, for example, could be a result of not having high quality early childhood education. That's a cost, of course, to districts, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Questions? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell and thank you for your interest. Do you remember who you worked with in Grand Island within the school systems and...?
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Yeah, sure. I worked...we were working with the Early Childhood Program there so Pam Dobrovolny was the supervisor of the Early Childhood Program that we worked most closely with. Also in partnership with Head Start, so Deb Ross and her team out of Head Start Child and Family Development in Hastings.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: How long ago was that, do you remember? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Yep, that was about 2008, 2009, that we were working on that specific early literacy project. It was really exciting. I'm interested in ecological contexts of developments so bringing home and school together and kind of bringing all of the players together to support the well-being of children is what I'm most interested in.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I would think that your background in the research of the studies that you have done would be particularly helpful to the child abuse prevention.
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: I hope so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Because of the grants that they review from communities.
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Yeah, yes. I hope to make a contribution. I'm committed to that in my work in doing research and this seemed to be another way to extend that interest.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: My colleagues that have been with me for a long time are probably tired of hearing me say this, but...(laughter) No, it's not Andy this time. I'm probably...you know, there's a lot of things that one does in your life and you say, I'm really proud of that. I was a part of a small group of people who lobbied and got the Child Abuse Prevention Fund passed in the Legislature and was a first member of the board. And we started from scratch and so, I have a very fondness in my heart for this board and very appreciative of the people who are willing to serve on it because we need people from a lot of perspectives, but yours would bring a very unique one, I think, to it. Any other questions? Thanks. And don't forget to send us the study.

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[CONFIRMATION]

LISA KNOCHE: Okay. Thank you. I know that's why I'm going to make a note or I will.
(Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: All right. Thank you so much. Next on my list is Brandon Verzal. Am I saying that correctly? And, Brandon, you are a reappointment to the Child Abuse Prevention Board and I have to tell you that I had the pleasure of hearing your wonderful story at the...it's the GOAL... [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: The GOAL Awards, yeah, correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes. So tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be interested because you have a very unique perspective. [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: (Exhibit 4) Thank you. I actually grew up in Omaha and in 2008 my wife and I worked for Texas A&M University athletics in the athletic department. We are both video producers, is our background. And our daughter, Alexis, was the victim of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, at day care in College Station, Texas. And severely hurt, barely survived, and coincidentally, the only hospital in the country that would take Alexis was here, Madonna Rehab Hospital, which we're so fortunate to have here in Lincoln. And we came here, lived in the hospital for two months, and it was the best place for us so we packed up our house and moved to Lincoln and have been here every since. So it's always been a part of our commitment is to do everything we can to help other families and make sure other families, hopefully don't ever go through what we've had to go, and so that's the interest in the board, obviously, was a big part of that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And tell us how your daughter is doing. [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: She is doing tremendous. She just turned seven on Tuesday. She's a first-grader. She's in a normal classroom. When she got to Lincoln in 2008, she was blind. She couldn't move her arms and legs, literally couldn't move. It was like having an infant again. She was so severely injured. We were told she would likely need nursing care probably for the rest of her life. Now she's walking on her own. Her eyesight is back to 90 percent. I mean it's a complete miracle and a lot due to the rehabilitation she's had. And I'd also say to the Department of Health and Human Services, the support we've had through DHHS, I mean it's a big reason why she's not in nursing care now, she's in a first-grade classroom doing multiplication. I mean, it's because of the support we've had here and because of people in this room.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: It's just, it's just a wonderful story. And I saw your story really

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shortly after... [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: Yeah, about a year after, I think, is when we had that.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, yes. A very touching story I might add. Questions that you might have? I do want to mention that you're very instrumental in getting a major contribution for Madonna to continue that work, and I know have been involved in the children's like garden and area there. [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: Yeah, the Git-R-Done Foundation, of course, Larry the Cable Guy, donated \$1.2 million. In fact he even named the hospital after Alexis. It's the Alexis Verzal Children's Rehab Hospital at Madonna and they've just done a tremendous job. They continue to support it. They still every year take a project and buy new equipment and new technology and just make it so people can get better. And that's...it's been so, so important. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, I toured that because my husband and our company did some of the landscaping and plant selection there, and so it was sort of a command performance that I go over and see it. But it's very impressive and the perspective that you would bring to the Child Prevention Board is just critical and having a parent who's actually experienced what you all have, that will be very helpful to the board. Any other comments? Thank you so much for your service and we're really glad to hear we're into multiplication and that. (Laughter) We're being forward. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

BRANDON VERZAL: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: The next person I have is Donald Harmon. Mr. Harmon is a reappointment, is that correct? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, we're awfully glad to have you. Welcome.
[CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Harmon's appointment is to the Board of Emergency Medical Services and you are employed at the Beatrice Hospital. Am I saying that right, Mr. Harmon? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Can you just tell us a little bit about yourself?
[CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: (Exhibit 5) Sure. Well, as you indicated, I live in Beatrice. I work for the Beatrice Hospital, but my primary role is in a rural clinic in Wymore, Nebraska, between Beatrice and the state line, so to speak. So what really motivated me several years ago with EMS is that periodically we'll have a patient in the clinic who needs emergent care and needs to be taken to Beatrice emergency, Lincoln, wherever, and the only way they're going to get that if they have an ambulance to take them. So in Wymore, as in many communities in the state, it's staffed by a volunteer group of dedicated people who commit time to provide EMS service for their community and specifically Wymore. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And what exactly is your job title in working in the...or the Beatrice Hospital? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: I'm a physician assistant and work, like you say, I work in clinical medicine in that clinic. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Ah, I bet you get to see a lot in that role. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: There's a wide variety. Not so many emergencies, fortunately, but we do see a lot of different things. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. Well, I noted also in the information that you gave us that you served on the Region V Behavioral Health Advisory Committee and that you also have been president of the Beatrice Board of Education. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you for your public service. Are you still serving on the board? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: No, I've been off the board for about four years. I'm still on the Region V Committee though. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Are you? So, you've kind of explained how you came to the Board of Emergency Medical Services. What do you think are some of the major issues there that as legislators we ought to know about? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Well, I think, as I indicated before, if no one is there to take care of the patient, then we're in trouble. And so access to emergency medical services across the state, I think, is very important. Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island are blessed with

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highly trained rescue units that, you know, provide wonderful service. But you get out far into the state, even, I guess, what's called frontier areas, and you kind of wonder exactly how we're going to continue to provide quality emergency medical services to them. And, you know, we relied for a long time on volunteers and I hope that continues to be the case, but you got to believe it's going to be a challenge. For instance in Wymore, when the call is out, ten years ago there were a lot of people working in town that could respond to this call. More commonly now, I think they're working in Marysville at Landolls, or in Beatrice up in the factories there, and they're not available for calls. So from my perspective in a small clinic in rural Nebraska, I'm concerned about that. Also concerned about kind of keeping up with the technology and the training and all because it's fast moving and those people are very dedicated and they want to do the best thing for their patients. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Right. And for some people in small communities, that really is the person that they have to count on to help them in any medical situation.
[CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Yes, it is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell, and thank you for making the trip up here and for your interest and involvement. Senator Campbell and I have an initiative that takes our two committees, this committee, her Health and Human Services, and mine, it's Banking, Commerce and Insurance, and we're trying to do some visioning 15-20 years into the future on what we think our healthcare system needs to look like to provide some degree of guidance, hopefully for us and for the senators who fill our term-limited positions in consistency. And you know, one of the issues that comes up all the time is access, but access has a lot of different meanings to it. It has to do with whether you have insurance, has to do with whether you have a car, has to do with even if you have a car and insurance, do you have a provider, and then you get to emergency medicine and as you've already pointed out, you may have a hospital in town, but if you don't have a rescue squad that can get you there, then access has an even different meaning. In your meetings that you've been involved in so far, are you grappling with that, or do you have discussions about what some of the solutions might be to access as relates to emergency care? And I'm asking it from the standpoint of feedback that could come into our initiative and things that we should be working on legislatively that addresses what you may see as problems or challenges.
[CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Right. Well, I think, you know, Nebraska has relied on volunteer EMS. And I think in the future we're...you know, I'm not saying...I'm speaking more for myself, is this going to be the best way to do that or do you, for instance in Kansas,

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have counties responsible for EMS care. Those are political, economic, you know, issues there that are going to be very complicated. As far as excess to care, that's tough because we deal with patients that can't get to our clinic because they don't have a car or they don't have the gas or something like that. And so the question is, how do you provide that care to them when you can't, you know, see them, so to speak. You know, there's a lot of nice technologies out there which I think will serve well in Nebraska such as telehealth, telemedicine, that type of thing, but I think that's, again, the person has to be in the room to sit in front of the camera in order to do that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, and as relates to specific emergency care, you have to have a trained technician who knows how, can get to the scene and hook up that equipment so that somebody who is more knowledgeable someplace else can help them. And once again, you're back to the warm bodies and it's admirable that we have volunteers who do that, but there's a limit to the amount of time volunteers can put into training or be available to take those phone calls, especially in counties that don't have very many individuals in the first place. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Right. Yeah, I don't know. My wife is from central Kansas and they fly helicopters out of there three and four times a day out of a small hospital and boy, that...I mean that's the quickest way to get them to the hospital where they need to receive care but it's an expensive way of doing it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Pretty expensive. I use to run the hospital in Grand Island, so. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Oh, well, yeah, you know very well. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: We don't have a helicopter. We didn't want a helicopter. (Laughter) We were afraid there's so many in the air already that we'd have a traffic problem. Thank you for your service. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And is it Don, or Donald? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Don. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Don, I have to tell you, I was so impressed with the educational background because you've been at the University of Kansas, the University of Iowa, a college of medicine, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. You bring a wealth of background to certainly your position, but also to this board and that's terrific. Senator Gloor and I might put your name on our list. We did a conference and had 160 people from all across the healthcare spectrum, a number of senators were with us too, to begin looking at the visionary process. So if you wouldn't mind, we may add you to our list because we have not had anyone to my knowledge at the conference that was a

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physician assistant. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I think we might have had one. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: One. But your experience would be helpful, so.
[CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: I would be happy to help if I could. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That would be great. Any other questions? Thanks for joining us today and your service, absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Thank you. Nice to meet you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Our next appointment is Trisha Crandall. And Trisha is an appointment to the Child Abuse Prevention Board and is also a new appointment. So tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: (Exhibit 6) Well, as you said, my name is Trisha Crandall and I'm from Burwell so I represent a frontier area. We're less than rural they tell us now, so we're a long, long way away from here. My husband and I have lived there for a long time and I actually grew up there. I've always liked working with kids, always. And my husband is the county attorney and years ago I started working with him doing child support. And it became apparent quickly how desperate some families can get and how low income of which our areas...I represent Garfield, Loup, and Wheeler Counties. I'm a director of the Children's Council out there. But in the beginning it became apparent how...the stresses that families have. And over the time the cases that Dale would have and I progressed from there and for probably about six years I did a community wraparound program working in the schools with referrals from teachers where we would form a team around children, youth and their families with the question of, what can we do to help make your life better? What do you need? And you learn quickly there's just some very basics. I mean, some families need a friend. Some of them, it's income, some, it's education, and abuse comes from some of those problems. I think it's very important that we educate children in the schools as to what abuse is and how that happens. Our schools are small, our budgets are smaller. Our county budgets are probably smaller if you had them here to talk about that, and so we are a long way from resources, whether it's physical resources or even resources that are paper products in education. And I think that kids need to know, as I said, what abuse is. Young women, young men need to know what the grooming process is. They need to know those things and be prepared when that happens and know that they can say no. And some of those teaching aids are not in our schools. Now the schools just can't do it so our coalition has tried to pick up and do that. And I have been active as director of the Children's Council since 2003, maybe. And we work on prevention of alcohol, tobacco,

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other drugs, prescription drugs and all of those things. And our statistics are great in what our education has been able to do. The Children's Council has been lucky enough that we have put a part-time teacher in each of our three county schools and that teacher uses science-based proven strategies on prevention and they teach that. They give...we give the schools one hour of free time to teach a class if they want to, whatever, but we spend a lot of time with our youth talking about prevention of all of these things. And we've been surveying them through the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey since 2003 and you can see the difference that prevention makes. And prevention comes from education and I think where I live, we need to have a voice. So that's why I'm interested. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And I think you have identified it exactly because a number of communities, you know, I think they're reticent to apply for some of the funds out of the Prevention Board because they think, well, you know, we don't have a very big program or, you know, like you would have in Lincoln or Omaha. And I used to always say, but the networks and the community does all of that. They just may not identify it as an agency. And you were...for my colleagues, the additional information that Trisha has provided, you've been a one-person volunteer everywhere in Burwell. Thank you. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: I grew up with a family of volunteers. That's how I was raised, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, I appreciate that. I know I should have picked up what this acronym means, but what is GLW? [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: GLW represents Garfield, Loup, and Wheeler Counties. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, duh. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: And we...well, no, it makes sense to us but, you know, we should probably...we just tried to shorten the long, you know, when we applied for our 501. We just tried to shorten it a little bit, but we've worked together as counties forever. You have to out there. You know, whether it's through 4-H or the schools. A lot of our schools combine for sports and stuff now, so we have a great network. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yeah. Questions? Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you, Senator Campbell, and thank you so much. I look at all of these networks that you have out there and the prevention work you've done already. And so I'm very excited about the potential. You have to go out and really help

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people see the possibilities of applying for some of these funds or using those same networks to really beef up prevention in this area. Is there a particular grant area or program area that you're most excited about working with, that maybe you've already started talking to some people in your network about? [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: You mean as connected to child abuse? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Yes, uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: Well, I worked with Kathy Stokes for years and they have a grant and it's small, but we have, so far we still have our office and our coalition. It's about \$2,000 and if you're in the city you might not think that Pinwheels for Prevention is a big deal. But where I come from, we put out over 200 pinwheels in front of the school last year and then we also put them downtown in front of the banks. You know we had them in these pots and everybody was like, what's this blue and white pinwheel thing all over town? It started a conversation and, you know, that's important. We go to the health fair every year with those funds. The kids especially, you know, everybody wants something, you know, so we have the little stress balls or whatever it is that year that we're giving away. But it gives us that chance to stop the families, to stop the youth and say, look, I'll toss you this, but first you've got to listen to me. You know, that type of thing. And it does make a difference. It may be a little difference but it's a start. So that's one way, you know. And I'm talking to the schools now. They used to have, and I don't even know where this fits in the spectrum, but they used to have the good touch, the bad touch in the schools, and they're not doing that anymore. And I really think that we need to get some programs back in the schools because our little coalition can't do all of that. But if you don't educate, you don't know. And I see some of the kids that have come through Dale's office that have been abused that I had no idea they were being groomed. They...you know, that was kind of a shock. Or kids that have been hit or kids from families where there's alcohol abuse, maybe drug abuse. There's no food. We have a food pantry there. We take food up to the school to try and make sure all the kids are fed, but just because you offer free breakfast doesn't mean some of the mothers are going to get the kids there. And those things all fall in line and then you see kids that are abused and maybe they don't know any better. Maybe that's the only way they live. And as you know, and as my husband will tell you, almost every case that he has had of abuse, the abuser was abused. And so this cycle has to stop. And I think the only way you're going to do that is education, and we do not see a lot of it out where we live. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yes, thank you. I get up to Burwell quite a bit and farther. Members

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of the committee, you do yourself a disservice if touring Nebraska you don't stop by Burwell. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: Thank you. It's a beautiful place. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: The Sandstone Grill or the Pizza Palace. I mean, there is a lot going there and it's a...I'll add this to my list of sort of surprising things about how active that medical community is whether it's the physician practice or the community outreach or the Calamus Half Century Bike Ride that the county rallies behind. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: Oh, yeah, we've done that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I do that. I've got to get it organized to get that done this year, but I hope to do that. But this is sort of a nice another surprise to look at how active clearly you've taken this on. But given the benefits to not just Burwell, but to the surrounding communities, congratulations to you, and thank you for your commitment. And I've got to ask. Years ago I was a counselor at Kamp Kaleo. What does Kaleo mean? [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: Oh, wow. I'm on that board. That's a great resource. Kaleo is an Indian word that has to do with the river running through it and... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I figured, because it's right on the river. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: They are a great help. We have a seventh-grade retreat that we put on every year for all the seventh-grade students. And we get 100 percent from Garfield, Loup, and Wheeler Counties and these kids come out, they stay overnight at Kamp Kaleo and then we do breakout sessions all day long on what we want them to hear and then all the fun stuff. And they get to go canoeing and so. Yeah, that's a great...we're lucky to have that resource for the kids. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah, it's a very nice resource. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Without a doubt, you're going to be a great addition because your perspective is needed to understand that small communities can do great things for kids and you're certainly a walking billboard for what can happen in a small community in Nebraska, so thank you so much. And, you know, I should have said at the beginning, we now forward the names to the full Legislature and they vote on them, but we are always so impressed with the people who volunteer to be on boards, the talent in Nebraska is just amazing. So thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

TRISHA CRANDALL: It's a great state. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. That concludes our gubernatorial appointments for today and we will move to the hearing for the Community Services Block Grant Program and we are required to do this every year, so Director Pristow is here. I think this is an annual requirement, is it not? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Did we get everybody? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Kathy, did we get Paul Salansky? We skipped Paul.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I called the name and he did not appear.
[CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: And is this the letter that is in support of him? If you could all just leave it on your desk, something maybe he had it wrong on the calendar, I'll take them back and then when we get him rearranged, I'll bring them back and hand them out.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: All right. No, I'm sorry, I did call his name and probably some foul-up in his schedule or whatever. And so it's semiannual (sic) we do this.
[CONFIRMATION]

THOMAS PRISTOW: It's once every two years, so it's semiannual (sic--biennial).

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So, Director, go right ahead and start.

THOMAS PRISTOW: (Exhibit 7) Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the committee. My name is Thomas Pristow, T-h-o-m-a-s P-r-i-s-t-o-w, director of the Division of Children and Family Services for DHHS. I'm here to speak today concerning Nebraska's state plan for the CSBG, Community Services Block Grant, for federal year 2015 and 2016. Nebraska submits a plan every two years to the Office of Community Services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services laying out what the state of Nebraska and Community Action agencies both do in that specified period. The CSBG Act governs this federally mandated program and the act requires a legislative hearing once every three years. I'm sorry, Senator, I thought it was once every two years, once every three years. CSBG funds are federal funds distributed to the states earmarked by federal law for distribution to eligible entities that in Nebraska are Community Action agencies. A formula based on each state's poverty population determines each state's grant amount. Nebraska receives approximately \$4.7 million annually and that's less than 1 percent of the federal allotment. CSBG funding provides a range of services and activities to assist the needs of low-income individuals. Community Action agencies are required to provide services and activities addressing

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key areas. The services and activities are determined locally through needs assessment and other community-based tools. Agencies report outcomes and activities twice a year and send an annual report on to the federal funder every February. Nebraska recognizes nine Community Action agencies serving all 93 counties. The board of each Community Action agency is comprised of one-third of low-income representatives, one-third elected officials, and one-third of private sector representatives, all who live in the community where the Community Action agency service area is. Community Action agency board members are responsible for planning, management, operation of the agency and the state is responsible for monitoring and oversight. Guidance on the federal fiscal year 2015 and 2016 state plan will come out this April. Nebraska will submit its state plan to the federal Office of Community Services by this September. Copies of the plan will be available for public comment prior to the submission per CSBG Act requirements and we do anticipate level funding. Per federal law, 90 percent of the funds go to Nebraska's nine Community Action agencies. The state may use up to 5 percent of the funds for state administration of the grant and the remaining 5 percent of the funds are discretionary used to provide training and technical assistance. The Community Services Block Grant is only one funding source for Community Action activities. It is the base funding to allow agencies to leverage additional private and public dollars. Last year, agencies leveraged over \$79 million more dollars. Thank you for allowing me to present Nebraska's intention to submit the Community Services Block Grant state plan and to provide you a small sampling of what Community Action does in our state. If you are not familiar with the Community Action agencies in your district, I invite you to visit those agencies. I have included a handout that gives some examples of activities and a list of the nine Community Action agencies in Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Director. Questions that the committee has?
Senator Crawford.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you, Senator Campbell and thank you, Thomas. Could you tell us a little bit about the 5 percent of discretionary funds for training and technical assistance, about what that looks like in Nebraska?

THOMAS PRISTOW: Yes, as far as how much money that is exactly, or...?

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Or just what we do with that, what that looks like.

THOMAS PRISTOW: Actually I will turn to my CSBG expert.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We'll probably have to have you come forward.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: That's fine. I can ask it again if we're going to have multiple people, or what do you think?

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, because the transcribers won't pick it up. That's okay. We can move up another chair and have her identify herself, and there we go. Because we have had this, and we need to have her identify herself. Okay. So go right ahead.

JILL SCHRECK: Good afternoon, I'm Jill Schreck, J-i-l-l S-c-h-r-e-c-k. I'm the deputy director for Division of Children and Family Services for economic assistance.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And Senator Crawford, you had a question?

SENATOR CRAWFORD: So I noticed in the report it said that 5 percent of the funds can go to state administration, 5 percent can go to training and technical assistance, so I just wondered if you could speak a little bit what that looks like in Nebraska, or how we use those funds.

JILL SCHRECK: I believe we help them with any computers that they may need to purchase. But also this year our Community Services Block Grant person is Jennifer Dreibelbis and she works very closely with them. And I understand her to be working with them on a new training opportunity. And I'd like to point out our Community Action agencies are also community partners for ACCESSNebraska, so they assist our clients that are seeking assistance, economic assistance or Medicaid to apply for benefits or other services. I can't give you a lot of details on that, but we can get back to you on, you know, more about the training if you like.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Oh, okay. Oh, that's helpful. So basically training for ACCESSNebraska, computer and...

JILL SCHRECK: Training in general for things that they, Community Action Services, do.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Gloor.

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you. This really isn't a leading question. (Laughter) But, I mean, most of us who have been in Human or Health Services for a lot of years are familiar and interacted with their Community Action agencies in some way, shape, or form. And the weatherization programs have always run out of the Community Action agencies, haven't they?

JILL SCHRECK: As far as the additional...using the LIHEAP funds to help...

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. Yep, yeah.

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JILL SCHRECK: Yeah, I believe they work with them as well as many other services that they do.

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, you know the State Auditor's report about monies being returned. Was that monies that could have been used by a Community Action agency? And trust me, I understand that you return monies that you don't use because nobody asks to use them, which I know is part and parcel of some of the challenges there, but were the Community Action agencies caught up in some of that?

THOMAS PRISTOW: They can access those funds like other constituencies can throughout the population, so yes, and the broad answer is yes, they were caught up.

SENATOR GLOOR: Do they get a fair share, or if you had one Community Action agency that was...felt they were especially in need of weatherization dollars, could they make a request that would maybe shift a preponderance of the money to their particular district or region?

JILL SCHRECK: I don't know exactly the process, if it's an application process or based on the numbers they serve, but we could get back to you on that.

SENATOR GLOOR: Because I was thinking of having a conversation with our Community Action director when we get back. You know, we're not in session anymore and talking about it a little bit. I don't get a lot of inquiries about it, but I drive around my community and I know, gee, there are a lot of homes that could use it and so I'm wondering whether we're being proactive enough within our Community Action agency about that program in particular.

THOMAS PRISTOW: The Community Action agencies, I mean they do Head Start, early Head Start, AmeriCorps housing, homeless services, housing services. I mean there's a whole menu approach of different activities they do. The energy piece is one of them. We can get more specific information out to you. And when you do speak to your local Grand Island Community Action person, we'd be glad to be...if you think it would be helpful, be part of that conversation or afterwards.

SENATOR GLOOR: Sure. Yeah, I mean, I probably won't just because I don't want to...you know, I'm not getting investigatory here. (Laughter) Can I help and is there something that we ought to be doing that might be more helpful, not to just my constituencies, but obviously they serve at least four or five other state senators' districts as far as I know. I have Loup City and so they've got a pretty good chunk of central Nebraska.

THOMAS PRISTOW: Where I came from in Vermont and Virginia, the Community Action agencies were absolutely instrumental in helping get services out to

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disadvantaged folks across the state. I mean, they were a prime partner that I've used in all the states I've been in.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Campbell and thank you for coming to us to talk about the Community Services Block Grant. How are the funds distributed amongst the agencies? Is it based on the number of people that they serve, it's a population?

THOMAS PRISTOW: Population within their area.

SENATOR HOWARD: And then what outcome measures do you use in order to monitor their efficacy?

THOMAS PRISTOW: My understanding is that there are federal outcome measures attached to the grant that are...that we have to have them answer as part of the grant award each year. I mean, I don't know this. I can get the specifics to you, but it's...federal government has gone to outcome measures over the past years which have been pretty significant. So we could get a list to the Senator...to you Senator, what is actually allowed. I just don't know them offhand.

SENATOR HOWARD: That would be great. Thank you.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senators, well, we've got three from Omaha, well, one from Bellevue. (Laughter) Do you have much interaction with the eastern Nebraska? Senator Howard does.

SENATOR HOWARD: And they're great. I mean, people really like what they're doing, but they don't do really intensive case management. Most of our folks go there for tax help rather than...yeah, it's mostly tax help.

THOMAS PRISTOW: The food shelf has been a big activity that a lot of Community Action programs have across the state to help folks. They run out towards the end of the month. I'm sorry, Senator.

SENATOR COOK: I was...the thing that I know that they do at the one that used to be called the eastern Nebraska...well, GOCA is what it used to be. And they did a senior...I won't call it day care, but I was the speaker for example, just to get everybody out during the day, interacting with one another, get a meal, so a senior activities center.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, I can say that the Lincoln Action Program here is very much a part of the community and has a number of programs.

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JILL SCHRECK: I believe they got the grant for the Navigator, for Affordable Care Act. Actually had a phone call from the Department of Labor yesterday who was asking for who the representative is in northeast Nebraska, so I directed her to Community Action Program.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other comments that you have, Senators? We kind of forget about this report until it comes around again and then we go, oh, yeah, so and so, of course. We know what it does because of the communities that we've worked with, so.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: And they're very important.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. Very important to the structure across the state. So thanks for the report.

THOMAS PRISTOW: You're welcome. Thank you, Senators. Have a good weekend.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And if there is no other comments, we will conclude the hearing today and we are finished.