February 2004

TO:   Members, Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM:  Mary Jo Nichols
        Grants Administrator

RE:   Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

Tom Zirpoli, Ph.D. has completed a longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners graduates for Years XII through XV (Class 16 through Class 19). The overall response rate was 31% (36/117); our goal was 45%. This compares with a 47% response rate for the longitudinal study completed in March 2003.

A copy of the complete study is available upon request. Following is a summary of the results:

**IPSII Results by Year/Class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>XII/16</th>
<th>XIII/17</th>
<th>XIV/18</th>
<th>XV/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response rate</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Determination</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration/Inclusion</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partners graduates identified significant life changes in the areas of housing, education, employment, family support, technology, health care, and friendships that they attribute to their Partners experience. Highlights from these areas are as follows:
Housing: In my own apartment with SILS support; housing situation greatly improved;

Employment: Trying to increase hours at current job;

Education: Better educational services for daughter; successful in getting an IEP and extended school year services (ESY);

Family Support: Receiving waiver services; getting family support services (3 mentions);

Technology: Needed equipment is now in child's classroom; getting technology for children without paying out of pocket;

Health Care: Can better manage health care needs;

Friendships: Have made lots of friends and keep in touch for advice and networking;

Partners graduates identified **skills learned** during the Partners program that they continue to use today. This is an indicator of the long term value of the program:

- Advocacy (4)
- Assertiveness (2)
- Communication (6)
- General leadership skills (3)
- Interpersonal (2)
- Networking (2)
- Partnerships/collaboration (3)
- Perseverance (2)
- Researching (3)
- Visioning/goal setting

Other comments included:

- Partners was a wonderful experience.

- I learned what services are available, how to speak up and get services.

- I learned that what my son has is because I stood on the shoulders of parents before me; now it’s my turn to continue.

- To be a good leader, we need to be a good follower and a good listener, how to give and how to take.

- I now come to meetings with appropriate preparation on the issues and knowledge of the policy players.