

September 2005

TO: Members of Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
FROM: Mary Jo Nichols, Grants Administrator
RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

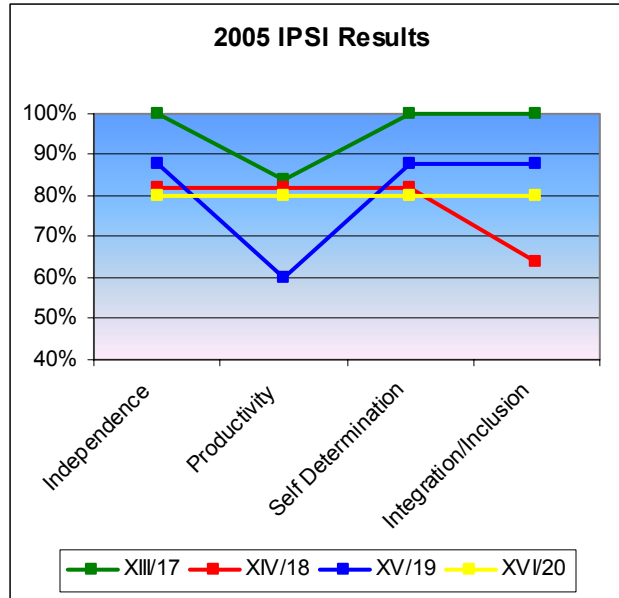
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Tom Zirpoli, Ph.D. and submitted September 1, 2005. This study includes Partners Years XIII through XVI (Classes 17 through 20) for a total of four classes.

The overall response rate for this survey was 32% (35/109); our goal was 40%. This compares with a 31% response rate for the longitudinal study completed in February 2004.

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

IPSII Results by Year/Class

	XIII/17	XIV/18	XV/19	XVI/20
Response rate	24%	41%	27%	37%
↑ Independence	100%	82%	88%	80%
↑ Productivity	84%	82%	60%	80%
↑ Self Determination	100%	82%	88%	80%
↑ Integration/Inclusion	100%	64%	88%	80%



Can get services*	80%	82%	100%	100%
Skills help me to get appropriate services**	100%	91%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills*	100%	91%	100%	90%

* good-excellent

* most/some of the time

Partners graduates identified **significant life changes** in the areas of housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, and other areas that they attribute to their Partners experience. Highlights are as follows:

Housing: Can now get a Section 8 voucher.

Education: Child's educational plan tailored to desired goals; son is a full time college student; son/daughter fully included in a regular classroom (3); child in an appropriate educational setting; accepted into a graduate school program.

Employment: Son is now receiving rehabilitation services; hired as parent advocate; able to keep a job.

Family Support: Secured waiver services (4); secured funding for in-home supports; established a special needs trust.

Care Management: Receiving case management services.

Health Care: Getting needed health care services.

Technology: Getting a free computer through volunteer work for a nonprofit organization.

Friendships: Friendships have been strengthened; new friendships made.

Other: Elected to school board;
Serving as President of an international organization for a specific disability;
More involved in community and city improvement activities;
Successful in securing continued state funding for people with epilepsy;
Chair of Hennepin County Mental Health Advisory Council.

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

- Legislative advocacy (7)
- Personal advocacy (6)
- Assertiveness (4)
- Resourcefulness (4)
- Communication skills (3)
- Networking (2)

Other comments:

- I continue to be involved in committees in my local area.
- Partners is an excellent program, very professional, good speakers and group activities.
- I'm not afraid to ask or speak up.
- I learned to be more productive in lots of ways.

- I know my child best and am his best advocate.
- I'm more comfortable meeting with legislators.
- I've become more of an advocate on my own health care team.
- I was successful in getting my daughter to finish high school.
- I learned how to advocate for myself in two minutes or less.