

May 2011

**TO:** Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

**FROM:** Mary Jo Nichols  
Grants Administrator

**RE:** Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

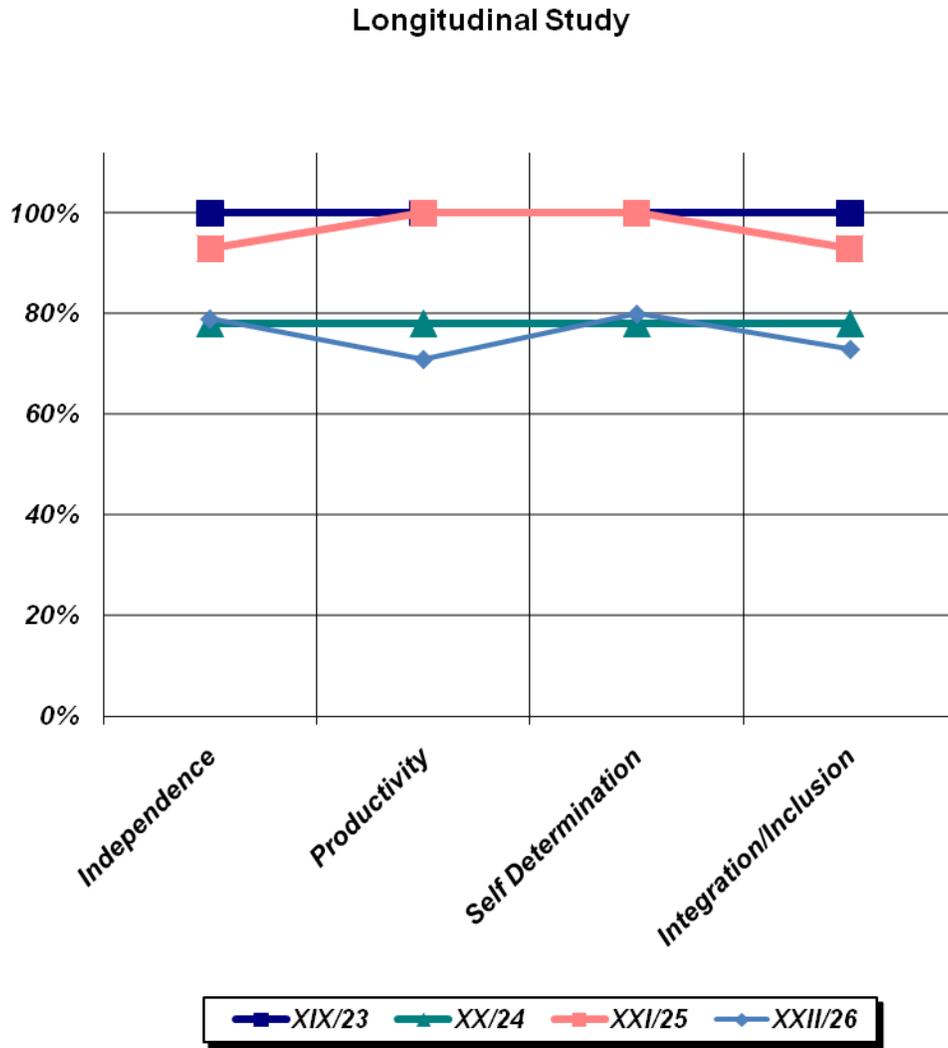
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University, and submitted on April 21, 2011. This study includes Partners Years XIX through XXII (Classes 23 through 26).

The overall response rate was 47% (49/105); our goal is 40%.

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

#### **IPSII Results by Year/Class**

	<b>XIX/23</b>	<b>XX/24</b>	<b>XXI/25</b>	<b>XXII/26</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	45%	41%	50%	48%
<b>Î Independence</b>	100%	78%	93%	79%
<b>Î Productivity</b>	100%	78%	100%	71%
<b>Î Self Determination</b>	100%	78%	100%	80%
<b>Î Integration/Inclusion</b>	100%	78%	93%	73%



	XIX23	XX/24	XXI/25	XXII/26
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	90%	100%	100%	86%
Current leadership skills**	80%	100%	93%	86%

\* Most/some of the time  
 \*\* Good-excellent

Partners graduates identified significant changes in the areas of education, employment, housing, family support, case management, health care, friendships, assistive technology, and other areas that they attribute to their Partners experience.

Highlights are as follows:

Education:

- Continued inclusion in middle school.
- Started home schooling and setting up our own ways of educating and creating opportunities for participation in recreational and social activities.
- More involved in school advocating for my son and more secure in my knowledge.
- I'm going to school, working on bettering my life
- I've become a stronger advocate for my son, won't take no for an answer. The school situation for my child has improved.
- I learned about inclusive education and I advocated for my son.
- More involved in and better understand the IEP process.
- I continued my college work at the University of Minnesota.
- My son has been more involved in regular education classes.

Employment:

- I have a job that I like.
- Got a job, part time but permanent.
- My job is really a lot better.
- I got a job in the community.

Health care:

- My son has better health care.

Housing:

- Better housing option.

Family Support:

- Building connections with other families.

Assistive Technology:

- We have a new communication service that better fits my son's needs.
- I was successful in getting a wheelchair for my daughter.
- I was able to purchase equipment through the waiver that made a big difference in our child's school participation.
- I have technology at school.

Case Management:

- Control over choice of case manager.
- Better case management.
- Case management has improved. I was able to get a waiver.

Friendships:

- I have new friendships.
- I have friendships within my class.

Other:

- Overall satisfaction with living life.
- Better able to navigate systems – school, medical, government.
- Everything has changed for the better in one way or another. I have made some major positive changes in my life.
- I have more self confidence to be a better advocate.
- I found more services my son was eligible for because I didn't give up – kept searching.
- I have more services now.
- I'm involved in the Capitol Fellowship Program.
- I'm a better advocate for my daughter. I'm more involved in making proper decisions because of my knowledge.
- I learned how to advocate for myself and my son/daughter.

Partners graduates identified skills learned during the program and ones that they continue to use today in both work and family life. This is an indicator of the long term benefits can value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Personal advocacy (11)
- Assertiveness (6)
- Communication (5)
- Legislative advocacy (4)
- Self confidence/self assurance (4)
- Problem solving (2)
- Resourcefulness (2)
- Creativity (1)
- Diplomacy/tact (1)
- Negotiation (1)

Other comments:

- More opportunities for continued learning.
- I loved it! All of it! Wish I could do it again!
- Less homework.
- Fabulous program.
- Make the program more accessible. For example, have several classes going in different locations at the same time so more people can benefit without being too inconvenienced.
- Maybe more on local government.
- Keep it as it is.
- Once a year open house for ALL graduates – guest speakers – seminars so we keep up, and keep focused on the issues, and keep the support system.
- I think the program is wonderful!!
- Longer to learn more.
- Shorten the program.
- How to deal with the transition between elementary school and middle school.
- More time for presenters.
- I think the program needs to be updated. It brings too many “experts” from out of state when Minnesota has its own experts who are just as good or better.
- You’ve done a great job with materials, handouts, and teachers. The group activities were fun and enlightening. Keep up the great work.
- Some people cared only for their own position, were not respectful of the speaker’s time, spoke in side conversations, showed lack of respect for time and resources.