

June 2014

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 4, 2014. This study includes Partners Years XXII through XXV (Classes 26 through 29).

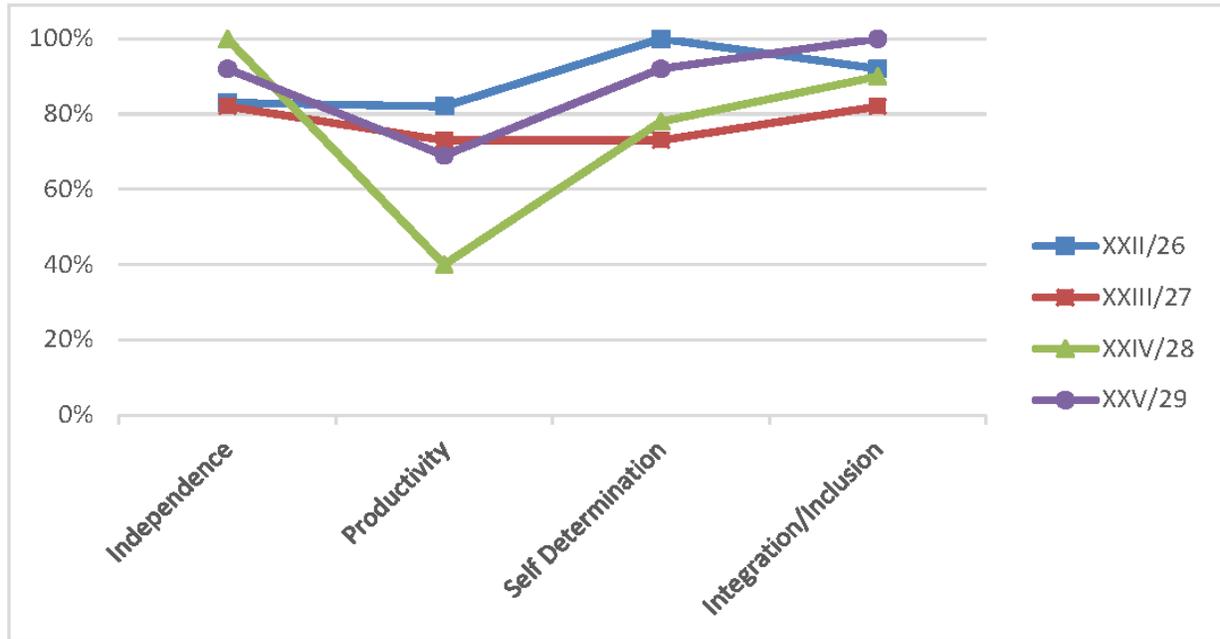
The overall response rate was 40% (46/116); our goal is 40%.

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

IPSII Results by Year/Class

	XXII/26	XXIII/27	XXIV/28	XXV/29
Response rate	38%	42%	33%	46%
Î Independence	83%	82%	100%	92%
Î Productivity	83%	73%	40%	69%
Î Self Determination	100%	73%	78%	92%
Î Integration/Inclusion	92%	82%	90%	100%

Longitudinal Study



	XXII/26	XXIII/27	XXIV/28	XXV/29
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	100%	87%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills**	100%	91%	100%	100%

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

NOTE: Beginning with Class 29, a statement was added regarding contacting or working with public officials about employment issues, services and supports, and the quality of employment services. Of the 13 respondents, 10/13 (77%) responded “Yes.”

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:

Assistive Technology

- Since my experience with the program, I became aware of my eligibility to use an audible speaking program that had been very helpful to me over the years.

Case Management:

- We were able to secure a new waiver for my son for life skill development.

Education:

- Fully inclusive education.
- Education and employment opportunities.
- Our son (and his peers) is able to remain in an inclusive school setting because of the advocacy skills at I gained from Partners.
- Our daughter is more included in school now.
- .After four years, my daughter finally received a 504 Plan.

Employment:

- I'm currently working 3 days a week on a volunteer basis at the Social Security St. Paul office and serving my first three-year term on Merrick's Board of Trustees.

Friendships:

- My friendship has grown with my boyfriend and loved even more.
- Friendships have increased, and I'm referring many other families to this great program.

Health Care

- Great changes, getting a clinic open.
- Health care and community participation.

Housing:

- I moved into my new apartment on Friday January 3 of this year.
- I have been able to utilize more programs to help keep me in my own home.
- We just finished building a handicap accessible house for our two children with disabilities. Their waivers help pay for some of the modifications and we now have a much safer house. I fought hard for their waivers for a year and then got them on waivers two years ago!

Public Policy

- I've run for a public office, gotten elected and now work for a non-profit. These have been complete career changes. I don't know that I would have had the courage to do these things if I hadn't gone through the Partners program.
- I have created relationships with elected officials to be able to share my experience and struggles.

Self Advocacy/Self Determination

- Ability to ask for things we need.
- My daughter has become more independent emotionally and knows how to ask for what she needs to be successful - without any kind of entitlement - just what is fair and reasonable and I believe that is received more positively.
- I am more independent with my goals.
- Better equipped to help my son (17) plan for his future and be successful in integrating into adult life.
- Much more confident and willing to go out on a limb for people.

- My 16 year old son (with a disability) is now speaking with me at conferences!
- Teaching my son how to advocate for himself at school. The need for a parent to intercede has decreased.

Services/Supports

- Completely off government support. Have to work three jobs to provide for my daughter's insulin.
- I was able to know who to contact to get services.

Other:

- I'm participating in many advocacy events in our state. I've joined boards and committees to secure rights for all with developmental disabilities.
- One person responded that changes had occurred in the areas of education, health care, friendship, case management

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 (12)
- Legislative advocacy (6)
- Resourcefulness (6)
- Communication (4)
- Networking (3)
- Assertiveness (2)
- Confidence (2)
- Mentoring (1)
- Negotiating (1)
- Teamwork (1)