Partners in Policymaking®
LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

For parents of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with disabilities

Class 38
Year XXXIV

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING is a leadership training program designed for parents of young children with disabilities and adults with disabilities. The Partners program was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities more than 30 years ago, and has been offered nationally and internationally. Partners teaches leadership skills and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services that you and/or your family use. Partners is accessible, informative and empowering.

Since 1987 and anticipating Class 37 Partners graduates, more than 1,080 self advocates and parents will have graduated.

Participation in PARTNERS requires:

- A commitment to attend all eight weekend sessions
- An interest in learning and practicing new skills in a comfortable and safe environment
- A desire to build and strengthen a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences
- A willingness to learn from national and state experts who share our vision and values

Topics to be addressed through a variety of informative and interactive sessions include:

September — Friday & Saturday
History of Disabilities and Services
History of the Parent, Self Advocacy, and Independent Living Movements
How Partners Has Changed My Life!
Person Centered Thinking and Person Centered Planning

October — Friday & Saturday
Inclusive Education
Roundtables with MN Department of Education Staff
Civil Discourse

November — Friday & Saturday
County Role in Developmental Disabilities
Creating a Future Vision
Meetings with County Commissioners

January — Friday & Saturday
Supported Living and Customized Employment

February — Friday & Saturday
Community Organizing
Data Practices and Parliamentary Procedure
The Role of the Media

March — Sunday & Monday
Minnesota's Legislative Process
Mock Legislative Hearings
Governor's Open Appointment Process
Legislative Update
Visit to the State Capitol - Meeting with Legislators

April — Friday & Saturday
Introduction to & the Role of the Federal Government
Federal Issues Update
Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staff

May — Friday & Saturday
Beyond Partners - Moving Forward
Personal Growth
Graduation

THE ODYSSEY GROUP LLC

Partners in Policymaking® LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®

Who is eligible to participate in this program? This program is designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with disabilities.

What is the time commitment required for those who are chosen to participate in this program? Participants are required to attend all eight weekend sessions (September through May with no session in December). The sessions run from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Day One and from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Day Two. (NOTE: Sessions are held on Friday and Saturday except in March when the session is held on Sunday and Monday.)

Where are the weekend sessions held? All the sessions will be held in the Crowne Plaza Aire in Bloomington, MN (3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425).

Is there a fee to attend this eight-month training? No, there is no fee to attend. Program costs are covered in part by a Congressional appropriation from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council). These funds are used to carry out the Partners program for those chosen for the class.

Do I have to pay for my overnight accommodations and travel expenses?
No, overnight accommodations are provided for those who drive a distance to attend. Class members are matched and housed in double occupancy rooms. Mileage reimbursement is also available for class members.

What other expenses does the Partners program cover?
The following expenses are also covered by the Partners program:
- Meals
- Speaker handouts, resource materials, and publications
- Interpreter or language translation services

Is there financial assistance available to help pay for respite/child care or personal care attendants? Yes, reimbursement up to a maximum dollar amount per weekend session is available for participants needing these services when another funding source does not pick up these expenses.

PLEASE NOTE: The Partners program does not provide onsite child care services. Family members are not permitted to stay at the hotel during the weekend training sessions unless a family member is serving as a personal assistant to a class member.

Is there work to be done between monthly sessions? After each session, a homework assignment that builds on and supports the topics addressed, must be completed by each class member and turned in at the following session.

Who does the training? Speakers are national and state subject matter experts or practitioners.

How are class participants selected? A Review Committee, which includes Partners graduates and representatives from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, will select participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 35 participants.

Partners in Policymaking® is a program of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, financed in part by a grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, under provisions of P.L. 106-402

The Partners in Policymaking® program is about achieving greater

INDEPENDENCE
PRODUCTIVITY
SELF-DETERMINATION
INTEGRATION
INCLUSION

Class 38 Dates

Friday & Saturday
September 11 - 12, 2020

Friday & Saturday
October 2 - 3, 2020

Friday & Saturday
November 20 - 21, 2020

Friday & Saturday
January 15 - 16, 2021

Friday & Saturday
February 19 - 20, 2021

Sunday & Monday
March 14 - 15, 2021

Friday & Saturday
April 16 - 17, 2021

Friday & Saturday
May 21 - 22, 2021

To learn more about Partners visit:
www.partnersinpolicymaking.com

Want to apply?
Still have questions?
Contact us at:
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