

May 2006

TO: Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM: Mary Jo Nichols  
Grants Administrator

RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

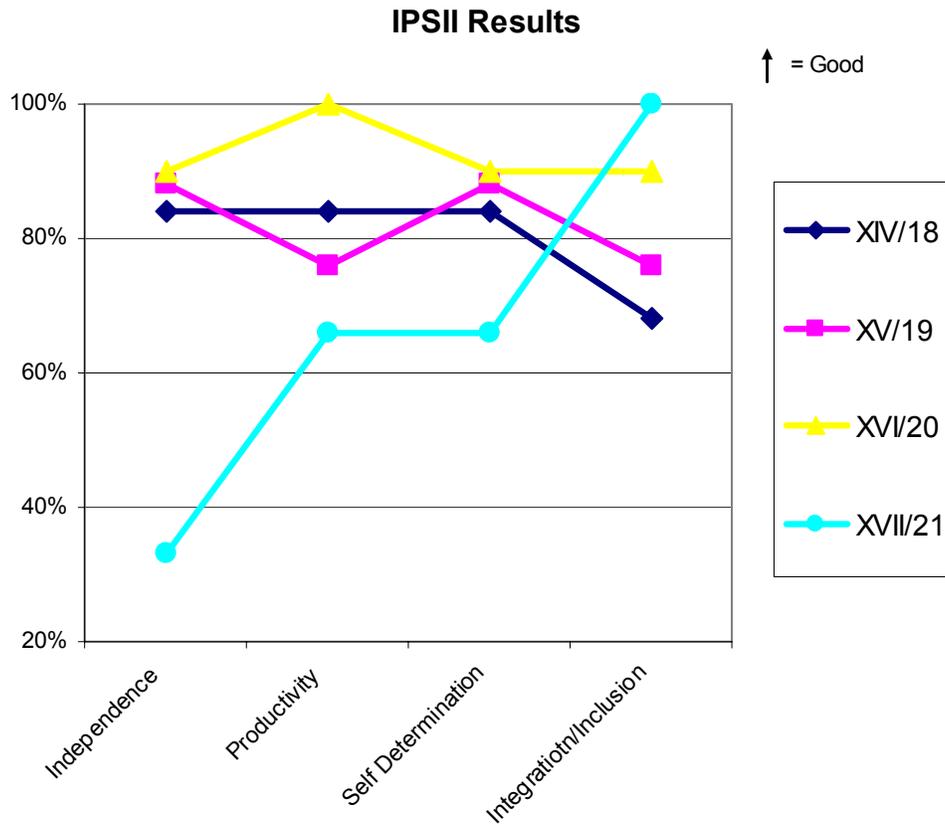
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Tom Zirpoli, Ph.D., and submitted on May 22, 2006. This study includes Partners Years XIV through XVII (Classes 18 through 21).

The overall response rate was 32% (35/111), the same response rate for the longitudinal study completed in September 2005. Our goal was 40%.

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

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

	<b>XIV/18</b>	<b>XV/19</b>	<b>XVI/20</b>	<b>XVII/21</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	27%	53%	34%	13%
↑ <b>Independence</b>	84%	88%	90%	33%
↑ <b>Productivity</b>	84%	76%	100%	66%
↑ <b>Self Determination</b>	84%	88%	90%	66%
↑ <b>Integration/Inclusion</b>	68%	76%	90%	100%



	XIV/18	XV/19	XVI/20	XVII/21
Skills learned help me get To get appropriate services**	84%	94%	90%	100%
Current leadership skills*	84%	86%	80%	100%

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

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

Highlights are as follows:

Education: Improved IEP; started a new program at the University of Minnesota; greater school inclusion;

Employment: Returned to work on a more regular basis; salary increase;

Family Support: Better able to take care of family needs; successful in getting PCA services for child;

Case Management: Successful in appeals resulting from adverse service decisions;

Health Care: Health has improved; better able to address health and safety issues for greater community inclusion for child;

Friendships: Have friendships now;

Other: Aware of available services and how to use them; knowledgeable about rights, services, and laws; greater understanding of rights; know how to seek out funding and services

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 and value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Legislative advocacy (9)
- Personal advocacy (5)
- Communication skills (4)
- Self advocacy (3)
- Self confidence (3)
- Assertiveness
- Negotiation skills
- Perseverance
- Problem solving

Other comments:

- Everything was beyond my expectations.
- Thank you for the privilege of attending.
- The program has been an excellent too for me.
- I am much more confident in advocating for my child in the school system or with elected officials.
- Partners helped me tremendously with confidence.
- I have a greater understanding of my child's rights.
- I now look at a situation not only from my perspective but how it's impacting others.
- I am more collegial and collaborative.