

June 2009

**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, 2009. This study includes Partners Years XVII through XX (Classes 21 through 24).

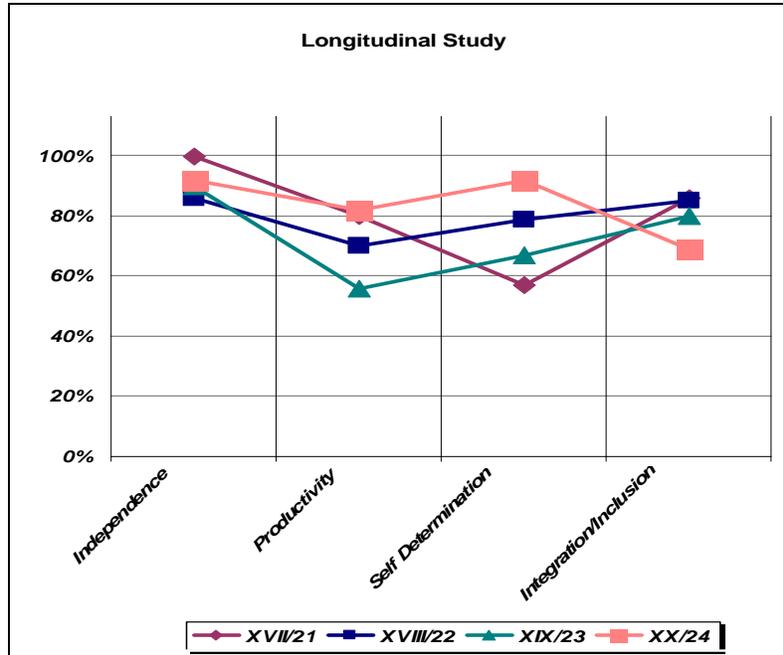
The overall response rate was 45% (44/97); our goal is 40%.

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

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

	<b>XVII/21</b>	<b>XVIII/22</b>	<b>XIX/23</b>	<b>XX/24</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	28%	58%	42%	54%
↑ <b>Independence</b>	100%	86%	90%	92%
↑ <b>Productivity</b>	80%	70%	56%	82%
↑ <b>Self Determination</b>	57%	79%	67%	92%
↑ <b>Integration/Inclusion</b>	86%	85%	80%	69%

### Longitudinal Study



	XVII/21	XVIII/22	XIX/23	XX/24
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	100%	100%	90%	100%
Current leadership skills**	100%	100%	80%	92%

\* 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: More knowledge of IEPs and educational services; my son is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and in football, basketball, and baseball with his peers; strongly advocating for my son and his peers to be included in regular classrooms; working on a local Transition committee; son is more included in school meetings; much better transition for son to junior high.

Employment: Made a career change and now work in the disability advocacy field, working on self employment; new job working as a Nursing Assistant; pursuing a career in advocacy; earning better wages.

Housing: Moved to a better environment; improved living conditions.

Family Support: Much improved services.

Health Care: Getting better health care, testing and counseling services; seeking additional health care services.

Friendships: More productive friendships.

Other: My daughter is attending Class 25; becoming more active in the community and getting involved on boards; am part of a People First group and voted Vice President of the group; serving on a children's mental health board;

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 (7)
- Assertiveness (6)
- Legislative advocacy (6)
- Self advocacy (4)
- Negotiating (3)
- Networking (3)
- Creativity (2)
- Organizing (1)
- Problem solving (1)
- Researching (1)
- Team building (1)

Other comments:

- Great program.
- The program changed our lives. Since participating, I've been able to approach difficult situations more confidently, prepared, more objectively; and take my personal feelings out of it, and focus on what my son needs and deserves.
- More breakout sessions and more graduate workshops.
- More time in small groups.
- An awesome experience.