

June 2010

TO: Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM: Mary Jo Nichols
Grants Administrator

RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

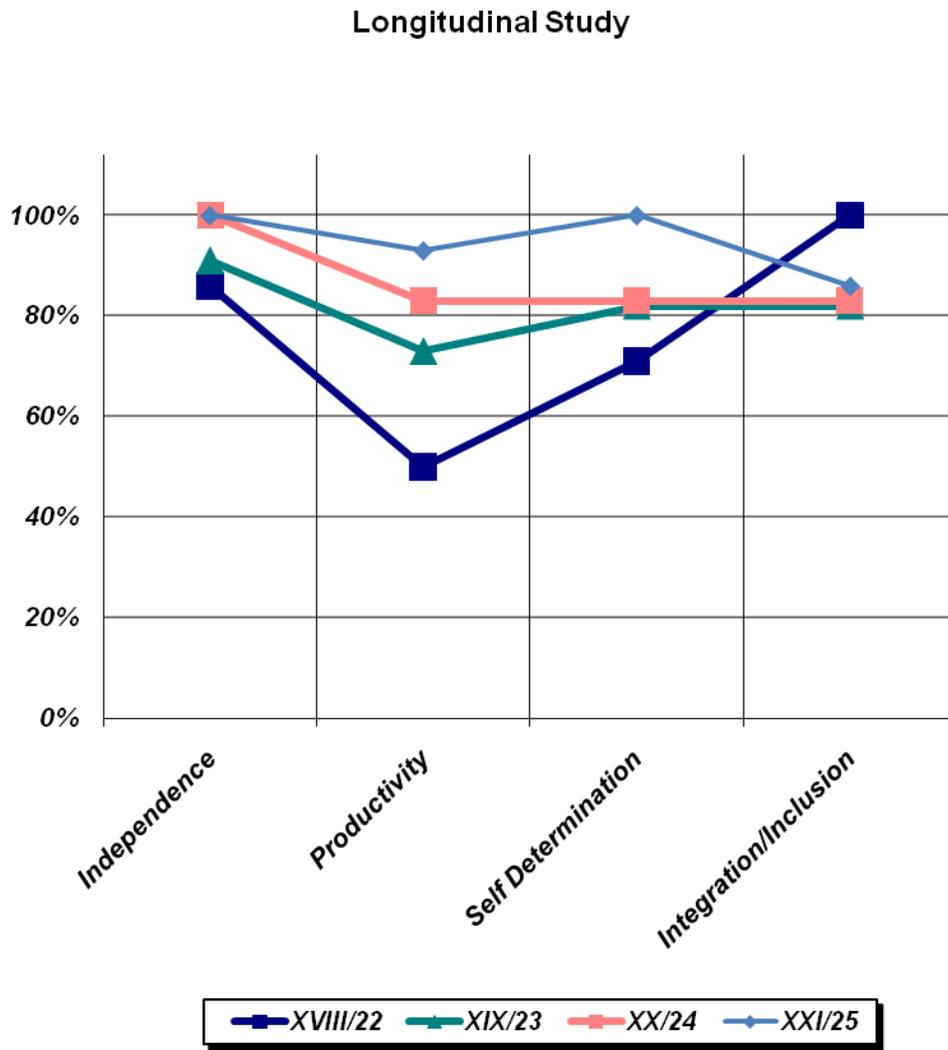
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University, and submitted on May 7, 2010. This study includes Partners Years XVIII through XXI (Classes 22 through 25).

The overall response rate was 43% (44/103); 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

	XVIII/22	XIX/23	XX/24	XXI/25
Response rate	29%	46%	50%	45%
Î Independence	86%	91%	100%	100%
Î Productivity	50%	73%	83%	93%
Î Self Determination	71%	82%	83%	100%
Î Integration/Inclusion	100%	82%	83%	86%



	XVIII/22	XIX/23	XX/24	XXI/25
Skills learned help me get appropriate services*	86%	100%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills**	100%	91%	100%	93%

* 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:

- Now have a four year college degree.
- I'm a better advocate for my son at school; his educational experience has greatly improved.
- I'm working more with the school to meet my son's needs.
- I'm getting better results with my son's IEP.

Employment:

- I'm working to get more hours; got a job that I like.
- I'm working full time.

Housing:

- Housing has improved and I'm on my own.
- I'm living independently.
- My son is now on the DD waiver.

Family Support:

- I'm more knowledgeable about making choices for my child as relates to the well being and healthy functioning of my family.

Case Management:

- More assertive when meeting with case manager.
- My daughter has a new case manager and her own place; she's using all the resources I have for her.

Friendships:

- Being out and volunteering in my community has given me a sense of well being and making new friends.

Other:

- Now in my 4th year serving on our local school board.
- I'm a stronger advocate for myself and others.
- I know what resources work to meet the needs of my child.
- I'm more confident and independent.
- Networking has been key; professional and personal contacts have proved beneficial.
- I feel more confident when advocating for us and others.

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:

- Communication (7)
- Personal advocacy (7)
- Assertiveness (6)
- Persistence (3)
- Self advocacy (3)
- Self confidence/self assurance (3)

- Legislative advocacy (2)
- Negotiating (1)
- Perseverance (1)
- Resourcefulness (1)

Other comments:

- Very grateful for the opportunity.
- Most impressed with Community Organizing session. It changed the way I see and do things!
- Fabulous program. I've referred several people to it.
- Excellent program.
- Great and very empowering.
- NEVER STOP!
- More on working with local officials.
- Everything was excellent.
- Have people repeat the program. There is so much information.
- Continue to have more workshops after graduation.
- I deeply value my experience in the program.