

May 2012

**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 24, 2012. This study includes Partners Years XX through XXIII (Classes 24 through 27).

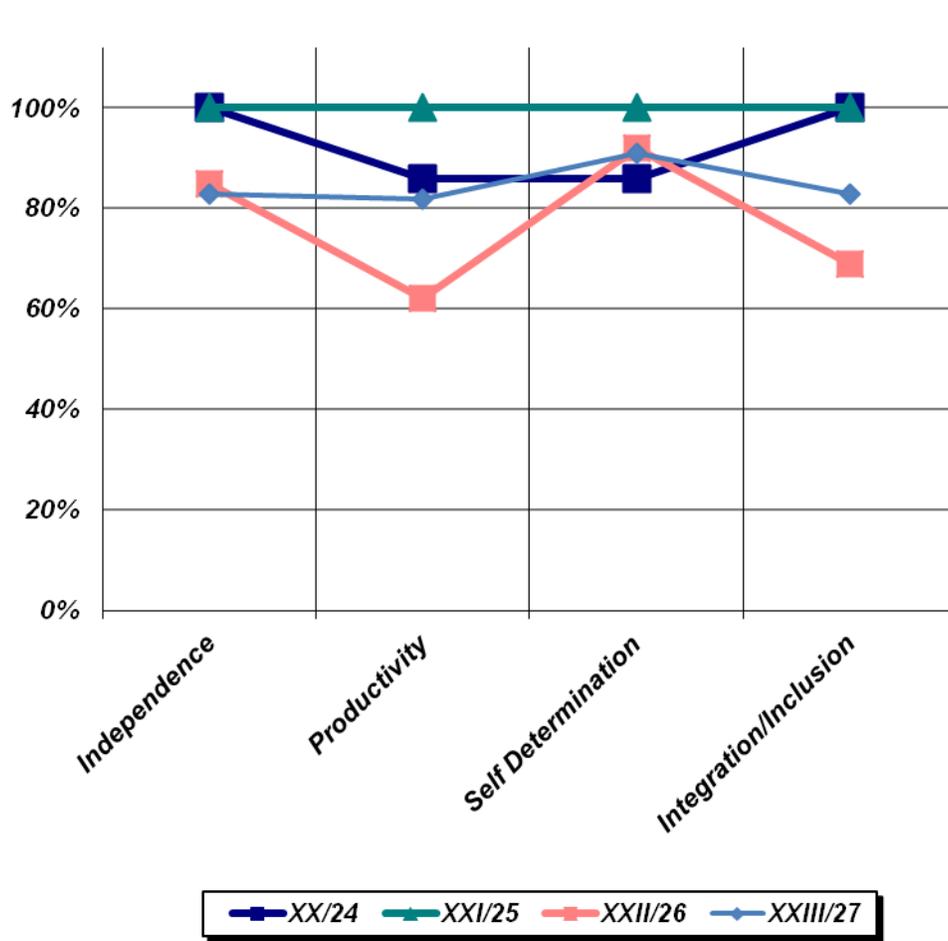
The overall response rate was 39% (44/112); our goal is 40%.

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

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

	<b>XX/24</b>	<b>XXI/25</b>	<b>XXII/26</b>	<b>XXIII/27</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	30%	39%	41%	47%
<b>Î Independence</b>	100%	100%	85%	83%
<b>Î Productivity</b>	86%	100%	62%	82%
<b>Î Self Determination</b>	86%	100%	92%	91%
<b>Î Integration/Inclusion</b>	100%	100%	69%	83%

### Longitudinal Study



	XX24	XXI/25	XXII/26	XXIII/27
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	100%	100%	92%	84%
Current leadership skills**	100%	100%	85%	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:

- Better and stronger IEPs.
- I'm returning to college.
- My son's education setting is more inclusive.
- Better IEP for my child.
- School services have increased in more inclusive settings.
- Have inclusive education.

Housing:

- I've made a change in my residence.
- My daughter lives in affordable accessible and is supported with ILS services; she drives and owns her own car.
- My son is getting a better education.
- I moved into my own apartment. I feel as if I have a wonderful handle on things.

Employment:

- My child now has a job interview.

Family Support:

- I'm taking care of my family with a lot of support.
- Family support has improved.
- I've bonded with other Partners graduates to form a support group I town.

Case Management:

- I was approved for a CADI waiver.
- More streamlined case managements services.

Health Care:

- I've gotten needed medical equipment.
- I'm working with a friend and classmate from elementary school who had a bad experience with ECT.
- I received the right wheelchair.

Friendships:

- I've been able to help several other families as well as my own family in creating/strengthening friendships.
- I've gained so many true friendships along with so many more resources.
- Building friendships with other parents.

Other:

- I have joined a couple of Boards and committees.

- I've taken on several leadership roles in my community and helped found a parent-to-parent program.
- I'm better able to advocate for my daughter and access services.
- I ran for public office.
- I'm a well prepared advocate who knows the law behind my issues.
- I'm vice president of our local Arc Board.
- I learned a better way to get my point across with different travel agents for my [travel] needs are better met.
- I'm more outspoken, helping everyone I meet find resources and provide other avenues.

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 (10)
- Legislative advocacy (6)
- Communication (5)
- Resourcefulness (5)
- Assertiveness (1)
- Diplomacy/tact (1)
- Persuasion (1)
- Problem solving (1)
- Researching (1)
- Systems advocacy (1)