

May 2015

TO: Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM: Mary Jo Nichols

Grants Administrator

RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

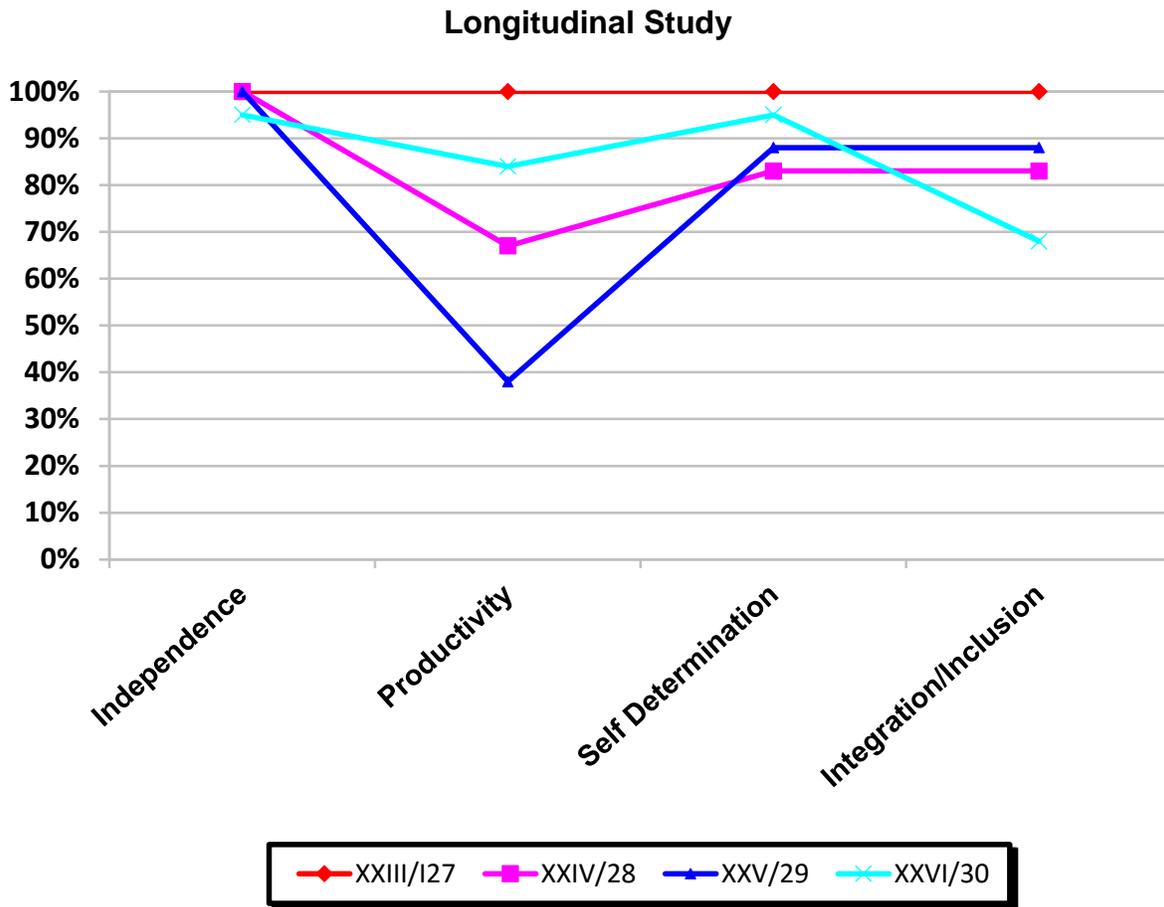
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University, and submitted on April 30, 2015. Partners Years XXIII through XXVI (Classes 27 through 30) are included in this year's study.

The overall response rate was 37% (40/109); 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

	XXII/127	XXIV/28	XXV/29	XXVI/30
Response rate	30%	21%	29%	68%
Î Independence	100%	100%	100%	95%
Î Productivity	100%	67%	38%	84%
Î Self Determination	100%	83%	88%	95%
Î Integration/Inclusion	100%	83%	88%	68%



	XXIII/27	XXIV/28	XXV/29	XXVI/30
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	100%	100%	100%	95%
Current leadership skills**	100%	100%	100%	89%

* Most/some of the time
 ** Good-excellent

NOTE: Beginning with the 2014 Longitudinal Study, a statement was added regarding contacting or working with public officials about employment issues, services and supports, and the quality of employment services. For the 2015 Study, a total of 27 Partners graduates responded “yes” to this question - 27/38 (71%).

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:

- Inclusion in school.
- My son has graduated from high school and working on employment.
- Schooling for my child has greatly improved.
- We have achieved the greatest success in the areas of education and employment for our son.
- Education has really changed. We are getting the best services for them now.
- Academically, our child is thriving in his environment and made his first attempt at employment.
- My son graduated from high school and my daughter entered middle school.
- Biggest positive change for my son is in education.
- Better educational experience.

Employment:

- Full time employment (2 mentions).
- Changed careers; I now work with people with developmental disabilities.
- My son is working through his high school in a work experience program that didn't exist until I brought the parties together.

- My son got a job soon after graduating but lost it, partly because of autism issues. I still count this as a success because it helped both of us see what kind of work he needs to attain his goals. He's also gained a lot of insight into his disability, including questioning his diagnosis which I consider healthy. It's slow going but he's very intent on independence.
- I'm doing better with my employment situation and taking more responsibility for my decisions.

Friendships:

- My friendships have gotten stronger and I'm a stronger advocate.

Housing:

- We have accessible housing thanks to advocating for waiver services to help pay for additions in my new house for my children with disabilities.

Public Policy

- I go to the Capitol more than I did before Partners.
- I have gained the ability to think and work in the political system and the confidence to be able to network in that area.
- A better understanding of politics, how it works, and how to influence public policy.

Services/Supports

- I'm more aware of the rights my son has and the resources available to him.

Other:

- Inclusion in the community.
- More independent (two mentions).
- I'm more aware of the rights that my two children with disabilities have.
- I have run for school board and have been certified as a parent advocate.

- As the parent of a teen with a disability, family advocacy has improved 100%.
- I'm proud of my disability and understand a lot of things I thought were wrong with me that are simply caused by my disability.

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 (8)
- Confidence (5)
- Assertiveness (4)
- Communication (3)
- Mentoring (3)
- Networking (3)
- Resourcefulness (2)
- Teamwork (2)
- Community activism/community organizing (1)
- Creativity (1)
- Researching (1)