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**MINNESOTA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® PROGRAM
YEAR XXV, CLASS 29
SIX-MONTH FOLLOWUP SURVEY**

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Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Class 29 Six-Month Follow-Up Survey Report
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Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul
January 14, 2013

Total class: 28; 20 total respondents

Surveys emailed: 26 emailed – 1 completed by hard copy and entered in survey; 1 hard copy request not returned.

Total responses: 20/28 = 71%

Dates of email requests: November 28, 2012 (12 responses); December 7, 2012 (4 additional responses); January 4, 2013 (4 additional responses)

Response rate Class 29 six month survey - 20/28: 71%

Response rate Class 28 six month survey - 19/30: 63%

Response rate Class 27 six month survey - 18/26: 70%

Response rate Class 26 six month survey - 18/32: 56%

1. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the Partners program.

Excellent	16	80%
Very Good	3	15%
Good	1	5%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Total	20	100%

2. I (or a member of my family with a disability) was treated with respect during the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	16	80%
Agree	4	20%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	20	100%

3. Please evaluate your ability to secure necessary services.

Excellent	6	30%
Very Good	9	45%
Good	5	25%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Total	20	100%

4. Our family quality of life is better because of my participation in the program.

Strongly Agree	10	50%
Agree	8	40%
Disagree	2	10%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	20	100%

5. Since graduating from the Partners in Policymaking program, I (or a family member with a disability) have become more independent* at work, home or school.

*** Independent means the extent to which individuals exert control and choice over their own lives.**

Yes	18	90%
No	2	10%
Total	20	100%

6. *Since graduating from the Partners in Policymaking program, I (or a family member with a disability) have experienced more community integration and inclusion.**

*** *Integration/inclusion* means living, working and participating in the local community along with citizens without disabilities.**

Yes	18	90%
No	2	10%
Total	20	100%

7. *Since graduating from the Partners in Policymaking program, I (or a family member with a disability) am (is) more productive.**

*** *Productive* means starting employment; improvement in employment, such as higher wages or benefits, better or more hours, improved status or job advancement.**

Yes	9	47%
No	10	53%
Total	19	100%

Skipped question: 1

8. *Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased and I have more control or choice about necessary services & supports.*

Yes	18	90%
No	2	10%
Total	20	100%

9. As a result of the Partners program, I (or a member of my family with a disability) am/is more knowledgeable about my rights.

Strongly Agree	15	75%
Agree	5	25%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	20	100%

10. As a result of the Partners program, I am more aware of safety issues and can better protect myself (or a family member with a disability).

Strongly Agree	12	60%
Agree	7	35%
Disagree	1	5%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	20	100%

11. Since graduating from the Partners program, I have contacted public officials about needed services or improvements in the quality of services (please indicate an estimated number of contacts made at each level).

Yes, Federal 8 57%
Total est. contacts: 10

Yes, State 11 79%
Total est. contacts: 29

Yes, Local 12 86%
Total est. contacts: 44

Skipped questions: 6

12. What type of contacts have you made with public officials since graduation (please indicate an estimated number of contacts made at each level)?

Letters by USPS 5 36%
Total est. contacts: 1

Phone Calls 8 57%
Total est. contacts: 18

Office Visits 10 71%
Total est. contacts: 14

Emails 13 93%
Total est. contacts: 77

Skipped questions: 6

13. What other opportunities have you had to educate the public about the abilities of people with disabilities and how individuals, local and community decision-making can best meet the needs of each person (please indicate an estimated number of contacts made at each level)?

Testified at Public Hearing 6 40%
Total est. contacts: 2

Presented to Parent or Other Community Group 14 93%
Total est. contacts: 136

Presented at a Conference 9 60%
Total est. contacts: 12

Served on a Committee 11 73%
Total est. contacts: 31

Appeared on TV or radio 8 53%
Total est. contacts: 3

Articles/Editorials Published 11 73%
Total est. contacts: 21

Skipped questions: 5

14. For each of the public education opportunities in which you've been involved, evaluate your competency level.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Testified at public hearing	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	0	3 (20%)
Presented to parent or other community group	9 (60%)	4 (27%)	0	0	13 (87%)
Presented at a conference	4 (27%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	0	6 (40%)
Served on a committee	8 (53%)	1 (7%)	0	0	9 (60%)
Appeared on TV or radio	0	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	0	4 (27%)
Articles/editorial published	4 (27%)	5 (33%)	0	0	9 (60%)

Skipped questions: 5

15. How would you describe the value of the Partners program in changing your own life and/or helping you to work for changes that can benefit other people with disabilities?

1. The partners program completely changed my life, my perspective and my attitude toward disability. I found a voice that I am excited to encourage others to find. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.
2. I believe that Partners is a great program for all levels. I believe what I gain the most out of it was for sure the relationships and learning from others in the class. However, the most beneficial part of the class was the projects and speakers related to communication with elected officials. This gave me more confidence to feel free to contact elected officials and how to better communicate.
3. I cannot put into words what this program gave me. I am so glad I was fortunate enough to go through this when my son was only 7 years old...Because of this program my son will get what he deserves throughout his life... I am his ADVOCATE ready to make his life better!
4. It made me more aware and confident to talk to state reps.
5. It opened my eyes and gave me courage and will to fight.

6. Invaluable. The atmosphere and presentation promotes self-awareness and confidence. Very empowering. Reinforces the need to take charge of your destiny.
7. The Partners in Policymaking program empowered and inspired me and I have worked to empower and inspire my children since taking the class. I am grateful to have connected with so many wonderful people in our state and very thankful for everything I learned! Since graduating I have presented at 3 Dept. of Corrections conferences / workshops so that we can work to support people with FASD and lessen the rate of incarceration among people with this disability.
8. A new insight on the process of public government on disabilities. It inspired me to work in politics to help elect Mark Dayton, and Barack Obama and local politicians who support programs for people with disabilities.
9. Extremely valuable. I have never felt so connected to a movement of people in advocacy toward better life, increased values and care for the lives of people with disabilities.
10. Probably the most valuable and pertinent course I've taken in my life. Totally changed the way I view government and my ability to make changes. I strongly encourage everyone I know to sign up for Partners.
11. Priceless...the number of families I have been able to help and assist on their journey through the system has been a life changing experience.
12. This program by far has been the most valuable time spent in learning/advocating for our son. I have been able to encourage and empower our son to begin advocating for himself, and have seen great gains. I have been successful in recruiting a co-worker to the program who is now benefitting from the program. Please keep this opportunity on the forefront of every governor, truly a valuable service.
13. Confidence is so much greater. I also realize that I have a built-in support network of like-minded people.
14. It was very good. I do recommend the program to more people because it makes it easier to understand education and different systems.
15. I found that it just gave me a higher understanding of the history of our rights.
16. The knowledge I gained was significant. The confidence I gained was invaluable. I feel like I am making a difference in my community and helping others.