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**MINNESOTA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® PROGRAM
YEAR XXVIII, CLASS 32
SIX-MONTH FOLLOWUP SURVEY**

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December 16, 2015

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Class 32 6-Month Follow-Up Survey Report
Nancy Miller, MS, LCP, HS-BCP, Associate Professor of Human Services
Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul, MN
December 16, 2015

Total class: 25

Surveys emailed: 24

Surveys mailed by USPS: 1 mailed by USPS on November 3 & 17, 2015

Dates of email requests (four times): October 29, November 6, 17 and 25, 2015

Total responses: 12/25 (48%)

Response rate Class 32 six month survey - 12/25: 48%

Response rate Class 31 six month survey - 15/25: 60%

Response rate Class 30 six month survey - 18/28: 64%

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	8	67%
Very Good	3	25%
Good	0	0%
Fair	1	8%
Poor	0	0%
Total	12	100%

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

Strongly Agree	11	92%
Agree	1	8%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	12	100%

3. Please evaluate your ability to secure necessary services.

Excellent	3	25%
Very Good	6	50%
Good	2	17%
Fair	1	8%
Poor	0	0%
Total	12	100%

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

Strongly Agree	7	58%
Agree	5	42%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	12	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	11	92%
No	1	8%
Total	12	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	10	83%
No	2	17%
Total	12	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	10	91%
No	1	9%
Total	11	100%

Answered question - 11; 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	12	100%
No	0	0%
Total	12	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	9	75%
Agree	3	25%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	12	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	6	50%
Agree	6	50%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	12	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 6
Total est. contacts: 5

Yes, State 7
Total est. contacts: 17

Yes, Local 8
Total est. contacts: 49

Answered question - 9; skipped question - 3

12. Since graduating from the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials on employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services. If yes for any or all of the items listed, enter the estimated number of contact for each.

Yes, Federal 6
Total est. contacts: 4

Yes, State 6
Total est. contacts: 5

Yes, Local 6
Total est. contacts: 9

Answered question - 6; skipped question - 6

13. 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 6
Total est. contacts: 21

Phone Calls 7
Total est. contacts: 28

Office Visits 4
Total est. contacts: 4

Emails 9
Total est. contacts: 39

Answered question - 9; skipped question - 3

14. 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 5
Total est. contacts: 4

Presented to Parent 7
/Community Group
Total est. contacts: 38

Presented at Conference 4
Total est. contacts: 2

Served on a Committee 5
Total est. contacts: 4

Appeared on TV or radio 6
Total est. contacts: 3

Articles/Editorials Published 6
Total est. contacts: 8

Answered question - 8; skipped question - 4

15. 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	2(40%)	1(20%)	1(20%)	1(20%)	5(100%)
Presented to parent or other community group	4(50%)	4(50%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	8(100%)
Presented at a conference	2(33%)	4(67%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	6(100%)
Served on a committee	2(29%)	4(57%)	0(0%)	1(14%)	7(100%)
Appeared on TV or radio	1(14%)	3(43%)	3(43%)	0(0%)	7(100%)
Articles/editorial published	3(43%)	2(29%)	1(14%)	1(14%)	7(100%)

Answered question - 9; skipped question - 3

16. 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. It has really opened my eyes more to issues that will be forth coming as my son is reaching adulthood in 3 years never too early to start transition things
2. Every citizen should be able to know their rights and especially those for advocates to also help express the needs for these policies.
3. It gave me confidence & a vast understanding of the systems I have to navigate.
4. The program was such a source of inspiration and hope for me and my child with disabilities. Every session I came home with knowledge of resources that helped me help my child discover a better way of life. I have also reached out and become a resource to other parents and self-advocates in the area seeking information and help. I have also been able to use what I have learned in the program in my professional as a community health nurse. Thank you Partners!!
5. It has given me a lot of confidence both personally and professionally, to work as an advocate. I'm able do more advocacy work because of the contacts I've made there.
6. The program is wonderful. An absolute necessity for anyone with a disability or a child with a disability. Before the program I assumed anyone that worked with my child had his best interest at heart. This program opened my eyes and will make my child's future the best it can be.

7. It has given me a voice to advocate for my son & others in our community. Because of Partners, I no longer accept what school, the county, etc. tell me. I challenge their decisions. I encourage other adoptive parents to be more proactive to get services & help educate them on what services may help them.
8. Excellent
9. Very valuable. Looking at the big picture, the Partners program itself was limited as to how much it could provide as two days a month over eight months isn't enough time to teach everything; however, the continued support and advice from classmates, alumni and staff help me learn about disability rights every day.

Answered question – 9; skipped question: 3