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**MINNESOTA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®
LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

**YEARS XXIII THROUGH XXVI
(CLASSES 27 – 30)**

PREPARED BY

**NANCY MILLER
METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY
APRIL 30, 2015**

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey
Class 27 April 30, 2015
Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC, HS-BCP
Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University

Class 27 – total 24: 7 responses (30%)

First email: 3/30/15 - 19 emailed – 3 responses as of 4/10/15*

First Mailing sent USPS 3/10/15: 5 - 1 response as of 4/10/15

Second email: 4/10/15 – 1 response as of 4/20/15

Second Mailing sent USPS 4/10/15: 4 - 1 response as of 4/20/15

Third and final email: 4/20/2015: 1 response as of 4/27/15

*All surveys, including those received by postal mail, were entered on SurveyMonkey.

- The return rate for the 2015 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 37%
- The return rate for the 2013 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 35%
- The return rate for the 2012 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 39%
- The return rate for the 2011 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 47%
- The return rate for the 2010 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 43%
- The return rate for the 2009 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 45%.

1. Did the skills you learned during the Partners program continue to be helpful in securing appropriate services today for you or a family member?

Yes, most of the time	5	71%
Yes, some of the time	2	29%
Seldom	0	0%
No, not at all	0	0%
Total	7	100%

2. Overall, how would you rate your current advocacy skills?

Excellent	6	86%
Good	1	14%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Total	7	100%

3. 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.

Yes	7	100%
No	0	0%
Total	7	100%

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

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

Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%
Total	6	100%

Skipped question: 1

**Productivity* means starting employment or a positive change in one's employment situation (better wages, hours, benefits, improved status, or job advancement).

5. Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased.

Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%
Total	6	100%

Skipped question: 1

**Self-determination* means the freedom to choose where and with whom to live or taking personal responsibility for personal decisions about needed supports and services.

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

Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%
Total	6	100%

Skipped question: 1

**Integration and inclusion* means using the same community resources that are available to other citizens or fully participating in community activities.

7. Since graduation, have you increased or decreased your use of government funded services?

Increased	0	0%
Decreased	5	71%
About the same	2	29%
Total	7	100%

8. My (or my family's) quality of life is better because of my participation in the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	7	100%
Agree	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	7	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.

Yes	7	100%
No	0	0%
Total	7	100%

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

Yes	7	100%
No	0	0%
Total	7	100%

11. As a result of the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials about employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services.

Yes	6	86%
No	1	14%
Total	7	100%

12. What significant changes have occurred in your life (e.g., housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, etc.) or the life of a family member with a disability which you attribute to your Partners program experience?

1. Inclusion in school and community.
2. Full time employment.
3. Independent.
4. Change of career, I now work with people with developmental disabilities.
5. Employment.

Skipped question: 2

13. What skills did you learn in the program that you still use today?

1. Advocacy skills.
2. Advocate.
3. Writing legislation.
4. That the toes you step on today may be attached to the rear you have to kiss tomorrow. I'm diplomatic.
5. Case management.

Skipped question: 2

14. Looking back at your experience with the Partners program, what recommendations would you make to improve the program?

1. Continuing education opportunities for graduates should be consistently offered. Gathering with part graduates would provide a strong network.
2. Keep training.
3. Nothing at all!
4. Keep providing the training.

Skipped question: 3

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey
Class 28 April 30, 2015
Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC, HS-BCP
Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University

Class 28 – total -29: 6 responses (21%)

First email: 3/30/15 – 27 emailed – 0 responses as of 4/10/15*

First mailing sent USPS: 2 – 0 responses as of 4/10/15

Second email: 4/10/15 – 4 responses as of 4/20/15

Second mailing sent USPS 4/10/15: 2 – 1 response as of 4/20/15

Third and final email: 4/20/2015 – 1 response as of 4/27/15

* All surveys, including those received by postal mail, were entered on SurveyMonkey.

- The return rate for the 2015 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 37%
- The return rate for the 2014 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 40%
- The return rate for the 2013 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 35%
- The return rate for the 2012 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 39%
- The return rate for the 2011 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 47%
- The return rate for the 2010 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 43%
- The return rate for the 2009 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 45%.

1. Did the skills you learned during the Partners program continue to be helpful in securing appropriate services today for you or a family member?

Yes, most of the time	1	17%
Yes, some of the time	5	83%
Seldom	0	0%
No, not at all	0	0%
Total	6	100%

2. Overall, how would you rate your current advocacy skills?

Excellent	3	50%
Good	3	50%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Total	6	100%

3. 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.

Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%
Total	6	100%

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

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

Yes	4	67%
No	2	33%
Total	6	100%

**Productivity* means starting employment or a positive change in one's employment situation (better wages, hours, benefits, improved status, or job advancement).

5. Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased.

Yes	5	83%
No	1	17%
Total	6	100%

**Self-determination* means the freedom to choose where and with whom to live or taking personal responsibility for personal decisions about needed supports and services.

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

Yes	5	83%
No	1	17%
Total	6	100%

**Integration and inclusion* means using the same community resources that are available to other citizens or fully participating in community activities.

7. Since graduation, have you increased or decreased your use of government funded services?

Increased	3	60%
Decreased	0	0%
About the same	2	40%
Total	5	100%

Skipped question: 1

8. My (or my family's) quality of life is better because of my participation in the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	3	50%
Agree	3	50%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	6	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.

Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%
Total	6	100%

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

Yes	5	83%
No	1	17%
Total	6	100%

11. As a result of the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials about employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services.

Yes	4	67%
No	2	33%
Total	6	100%

12. What significant changes have occurred in your life (e.g., housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, etc.) or the life of a family member with a disability which you attribute to your Partners program experience?

1. We have housing that is accessible thanks to advocating for waiver services to help pay for these additions in my new house for my children with disabilities.
2. My son is working through his high school in a work experience program that didn't exist until I brought the parties together.
3. My son has graduated from high school and is working on employment. I am more aware of the rights he has and the resources available to him. Although I am thrilled that the agencies up here are very encouraging to get him placement in the community!

Skipped question: 3

13. What skills did you learn in the program that you still use today?

1. I learned who I need to call when I have an issue with a problem, whether it is county, school, or a state issue. I have a ferocious tenacity not to let things slide by if they are wrong.
2. Continuing to advocate for what is best for child and look for alternative to roadblocks.
3. I have been able to better network with other agencies/resources. When talking to his case worker I have ideas in some areas she hadn't really thought of (she's brand new).
4. Exercising our rights.

Skipped question: 2

14. Looking back at your experience with the Partners program, what recommendations would you make to improve the program?

1. I would like follow up classes provided for any of those who are interested. Maybe a once a year program to keep our skills fresh and not let what we have learned fall by the wayside.
2. Encourage participant to work through to work through actual issues they may have as part of the program.
3. I don't know. I really appreciated the role playing, speakers and the relationships we established with classmates. It was a good experience.

Skipped question: 3

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey
Class 29 April 30, 2015
Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC, HS-BCP
Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University

Class 29 – 28 total: 8 responses (29%)

First email: 3/30/15 – 26 emailed – 4 responses as of 4/10/15*

First mailing sent USPS: 2 – 0 responses as of 4/10/15

Second email: 4/10/15 – 4 responses as of 4/20/15

Second mailing sent USPS: 2 – 0 responses as of 4/20/15

Third and final email: 4/20/2015 – 0 responses as of 4/25/15

* All surveys, including those received by postal mail, were entered on SurveyMonkey.

- The return rate for the 2015 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 37%
- The return rate for the 2014 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 40%
- The return rate for the 2013 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 35%
- The return rate for the 2012 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 39%
- The return rate for the 2011 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 47%
- The return rate for the 2010 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 43%
- The return rate for the 2009 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 45%.

1. Did the skills you learned during the Partners program continue to be helpful in securing appropriate services today for you or a family member?

Yes, most of the time	6	75%
Yes, some of the time	2	25%
Seldom	0	0%
No, not at all	0	0%
Total	8	100%

2. Overall, how would you rate your current advocacy skills?

Excellent	6	75%
Good	2	25%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Total	8	100%

3. 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.

Yes	8	100%
No	0	0%
Total	8	100%

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

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

Yes	3	38%
No	5	62%
Total	8	100%

**Productivity* means starting employment or a positive change in one's employment situation (better wages, hours, benefits, improved status, or job advancement).

5. Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased.

Yes	7	88%
No	1	12%
Total	8	100%

**Self-determination* means the freedom to choose where and with whom to live or taking personal responsibility for personal decisions about needed supports and services.

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

Yes	7	88%
No	1	12%
Total	8	100%

**Integration and inclusion* means using the same community resources that are available to other citizens or fully participating in community activities.

7. Since graduation, have you increased or decreased your use of government funded services?

Increased	0	0%
Decreased	1	14%
About the same	6	86%
Total	7	100%

Skipped question: 1

8. My (or my family's) quality of life is better because of my participation in the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	5	63%
Agree	3	37%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	8	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.

Yes	8	100%
No	0	0%
Total	8	100%

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

Yes	7	88%
No	1	12%
Total	8	100%

11. As a result of the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials about employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services.

Yes	4	50%
No	4	50%
Total	8	100%

12. What significant changes have occurred in your life (e.g., housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, etc.) or the life of a family member with a disability which you attribute to your Partners program experience?

1. Schooling for my child has greatly improved.
2. We have achieved the greatest success in the area of Education and employment for our son.
3. Education has greatly changed - the boys are getting the best service for them now.
4. I am much more aware of the rights my two children with disabilities have.
5. I have run for school board, i have since been certified as a parent advocate. I go to the Capitol more often than before pip.
6. As a parent of a teen with a disability, family advocacy has improved 100%. Academically our child is thriving in his environment, and started his first attempt with employment.

Skipped question: 2

13. What skills did you learn in the program that you still use today?

1. How to be a proficient advocate for my child.
2. My advocacy skills regarding the IEP process. Knowing how to vocalize what is important to elected local officials about the needs for all individuals with disabilities and not just our son. Getting other members in the community excited about the thought of inclusion.
3. How to advocate for my boys and others.
4. Advocacy, understanding the systems and how to navigate them.
5. How to tell our story to get attention of legislators.
6. The emphasis on the importance of inclusion in all areas of life and and how to advocate for this.

Skipped question: 2

14. Looking back at your experience with the Partners program, what recommendations would you make to improve the program?

1. More one on one follow up after graduation to assist people with their newfound area of making changes to better serve themselves and or their communities.
2. More time should have spent on the school process, IEP, and how it translates to overall successful skills in the community. The weekend with the county commissioners was not helpful in that those in attendance were not very empathetic to families and their struggles for funding and access to services, yet they are the main gate keepers of the funding.
3. I don't have one.
4. Keep having great speakers!
5. Nothing the training by Mary was great. Colleen Wick was knowledge and they both were very understanding of all our challenges.
6. More emphasis on the academic support - advocating stronger with elected school officials is a major area of improvement- education is the gateway to success for all individuals.

Skipped question: 2

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey
Class 30 April 30, 2015
Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC, HS-BCP
Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University

Class 30 – total – 28: 19 responses (68%)

First email: 3/30/15 – 27 emailed – 7 responses as of 4/10/15*

First mailing sent USPS: 1 – 0 responses

Second email: 4/10/15 – 6 responses as of 4/20/15

Second mailing sent USPS: 1 – 0 responses as of 4/20/15

Third and final email: 4/20/2015 – 6 responses as of 4/20/15

- The return rate for the 2015 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 37%
- The return rate for the 2014 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 40%
- The return rate for the 2013 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 35%
- The return rate for the 2012 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 39%
- The return rate for the 2011 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 47%
- The return rate for the 2010 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 43%
- The return rate for the 2009 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 45%.

1. Did the skills you learned during the Partners program continue to be helpful in securing appropriate services today for you or a family member?

Yes, most of the time	12	67%
Yes, some of the time	5	28%
Seldom	0	0%
No, not at all	1	5%
Total	18	100%

Skipped question: 1

2. Overall, how would you rate your current advocacy skills?

Excellent	9	47%
Good	8	42%
Fair	2	11%
Poor	0	0%
Total	19	100%

3. 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.

Yes	18	95%
No	1	5%
Total	19	100%

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

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

Yes	16	84%
No	3	16%
Total	19	100%

**Productivity* means starting employment or a positive change in one's employment situation (better wages, hours, benefits, improved status, or job advancement).

5. Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased.

Yes	18	95%
No	1	5%
Total	19	100%

**Self-determination* means the freedom to choose where and with whom to live or taking personal responsibility for personal decisions about needed supports and services.

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

Yes	13	68%
No	6	32%
Total	19	100%

**Integration and inclusion* means using the same community resources that are available to other citizens or fully participating in community activities.

7. Since graduation, have you increased or decreased your use of government funded services?

Increased	7	37%
Decreased	2	11%
About the same	10	53%
Total	19	100%

8. My (or my family's) quality of life is better because of my participation in the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	7	41%
Agree	7	41%
Disagree	3	18%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	17	100%

Skipped question: 2

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.

Yes	18	100%
No	0	0%
Total	18	100%

Skipped question: 1

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

Yes	14	82%
No	3	18%
Total	17	100%

Skipped question: 2

11. As a result of the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials about employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services.

Yes	13	77%
No	4	23%
Total	17	100%

Skipped question: 2

12. What significant changes have occurred in your life (e.g., housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, etc.) or the life of a family member with a disability which you attribute to your Partners program experience?

1. I would say the ability to think and work in the political system and to have the confidence to be able to network that area.
2. My son graduated from High School, my daughter entered middle school. My son got a job soon after graduating but lost it, partly because of autism issues. I still count this a success, because it helped both of us see what kind of work he needs to attain his goals. He has also gained a lot of insight into his disability, including questioning his diagnosis, which I consider healthy. It's slow going, but he is very intent on independence.
3. Some has increased.
4. Transitioning.
5. Biggest change is on the Educational aspect for my son.
6. Ability to increase my independence.
7. I am doing better with my employment situation and am taking more responsibility for my decisions.
8. I would say my friendships have gotten stronger. I feel my family relationships have gotten worse because I am a stronger advocate. Employment has not changed, and this is something I really wish would have gotten better. Housing hasn't changed. PCA supports have gotten a lot worse.
9. Technology, friendship, education
10. A better understanding of politics, how it works, and how to influence it. I also am proud of my disability and understand a lot of the things I thought were wrong with me that are simply caused by my disability.
11. Better educational experience.

Skipped question: 8

13. What skills did you learn in the program that you still use today?

1. Political advocacy and community activism.
2. I am very comfortable advocating for my kids, and IEP meetings are much easier than they used to be - I am much better at understanding the implications of small changes and questioning appropriately.
3. I still use my advocacy skills and the ability to talk to government officials.
4. Laws and my voice!
5. Research the problem, then make the contacts you need to get the problem solved.
6. Advocacy for others.
7. I still use my strong advocating skills and stand up for what is right for people with disabilities. I am still in contact with the people I made friends with during the program. I try to change people's attitudes towards disability and stand up for a stronger society for all. I am also involved on the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.
8. I am more confident now to talk about my child disability to other people and learned all my rights.
9. An overall better sense and understanding of how politics works and the ability to advocate for people with disabilities much better.
10. I have learned the hierarchy of the laws/programs that affect our family. Also, I have contacted public officials, with confidence.

Skipped question: 9

14. Looking back at your experience with the Partners program, what recommendations would you make to improve the program?

1. Fund rooms for everyone if they wish to no matter what the distance they are to the hotel. There are people that are not able to make it in time in this program on Saturday due to unreliability with DARTS bus or being in a wheel chair and not being able to make it in time. This would expand the area for people that would be able to participate in this program as well as reduce stress to a lot of people about transportation so they can better learn the curriculum rather than worry about how they will get to the hotel in time.
2. Because of my quirky learning style, I feel like I was always behind. I don't know how you could adapt to different learning styles, especially one as distinctive as mine.
3. Require people participate in a significant change say a community event or work on a specific law. Many attend this program but some have not utilized their learning past the class. IMO
4. Quarterly workshops for Graduates to review and learn about changes etc. since they took the course
5. None.
6. I would totally recommend this program to all people with disabilities. It is a great experience that will last a lifetime!!
7. I would recommend to give info on what other resources that might be qualified for certain disability.
8. Be able to house people at the hotel that are not able to easily access the hotel. For some, even though they live somewhat close transportation mixed with the difficulties of getting up and ready can be really hard early on the second day of training. This will make learning for many much easier as it will make it so they can focus on learning rather than how they will get to the morning sessions the next day and they won't miss any of the training.
9. My time and technical skills are limited. It would be helpful to have one site where I could follow the progress of specific bills or maybe a very basic class on how to more effectively use the current system.

Skipped question: 10

Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®
Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey
Combined Classes 27-30 April 30, 2015
Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC, HS-BCP
Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University

Class 27: class participants: 24 (7 responses: 30% return rate)
 Class 28: class participants: 29 (6 responses: 21% return rate)
 Class 29: class participants: 28 (8 responses: 29% return rate)
 Class 30: class participants: 28 (19 responses: 68% return rate)

Total class participants: 109
Total respondents: 40
Response rate: 37%

Survey links emailed: 99
 Surveys mailed by USPS: 10

*See additional details on result numbers in reports for each class.
 All surveys, including those received by postal mail, were entered on SurveyMonkey.

- The return rate for the 2015 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 37%
- The return rate for the 2014 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 40%
- The return rate for the 2013 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 35%
- The return rate for the 2012 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 39%
- The return rate for the 2011 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 47%
- The return rate for the 2010 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 43%
- The return rate for the 2009 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 45%.

1. Did the skills you learned during the Partners program continue to be helpful in securing appropriate services today for you or a family member?

Yes, most of the time	24	62%
Yes, some of the time	14	35%
Seldom	0	0%
No, not at all	1	3%
Total	39	100%

Skipped question: 1

2. Overall, how would you rate your current advocacy skills?

Excellent	24	60%
Good	14	35%
Fair	2	5%
Poor	0	0%
Total	40	100%

3. 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.

Yes	39	98%
No	1	2%
Total	40	100%

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

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

Yes	29	74%
No	10	26%
Total	39	100%

Skipped question: 1

**Productivity* means starting employment or a positive change in one's employment situation (better wages, hours, benefits, improved status, or job advancement).

5. Since graduating from the Partners program, my self-determination (or the self-determination of a family member with a disability) has increased.

Yes	36	90%
No	4	10%
Total	40	100%

Skipped question:

**Self-determination* means the freedom to choose where and with whom to live or taking personal responsibility for personal decisions about needed supports and services.

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

Yes	31	79%
No	8	21%
Total	39	100%

Skipped question: 1

**Integration and inclusion* means using the same community resources that are available to other citizens or fully participating in community activities.

7. Since graduation, have you increased or decreased your use of government funded services?

Increased	10	26%
Decreased	8	21%
About the same	20	53%
Total	38	100%

Skipped question: 2

8. My (or my family's) quality of life is better because of my participation in the Partners program.

Strongly Agree	22	58%
Agree	13	34%
Disagree	3	8%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total	38	100%

Skipped question: 2

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.

Yes	39	100%
No	0	0%
Total	39	100%

Skipped question: 1

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

Yes	33	87%
No	5	13%
Total	38	100%

Skipped question: 2

11. As a result of the Partners program, I have contacted and worked with public officials about employment issues, and needed services/supports or improvements in the quality of employment services.

Yes	27	71%
No	11	29%
Total	38	100%

Skipped question: 2

12. What significant changes have occurred in your life (e.g., housing, education, employment, family support, case management, technology, health care, friendships, etc.) or the life of a family member with a disability which you attribute to your Partners program experience?

1. Inclusion in school and community.
2. Full time employment.
3. Independent.
4. Change of career, I now work with people with developmental disabilities.
5. Employment.
6. We have housing that is accessible thanks to advocating for waiver services to help pay for these additions in my new house for my children with disabilities.
7. My son is working through his high school in a work experience program that didn't exist until I brought the parties together.
8. My son has graduated from high school and is working on employment. I am more aware of the rights he has and the resources available to him. Although I am thrilled that the agencies up here are very encouraging to get him placement in the community!
9. Schooling for my child has greatly improved.
10. We have achieved the greatest success in the area of Education and employment for our son.
11. Education has greatly changed - the boys are getting the best service for them now.
12. I am much more aware of the rights my two children with disabilities have.
13. I have run for school board, I have since been certified as a parent advocate. I go to the Capitol more often than before pip.
14. As a parent of a teen with a disability, family advocacy has improved 100%. Academically our child is thriving in his environment, and started his first attempt with employment.
15. I would say the ability to think and work in the political system and to have the confidence to be able to network that area.
16. My son graduated from High School, my daughter entered middle school. My son got a job soon after graduating but lost it, partly because of autism issues. I still count this a success, because it helped both of us see what kind of work he needs to attain his goals. He has also gained a lot of insight into his disability, including questioning his diagnosis, which I consider healthy. It's slow going, but he is very intent on independence.
17. Some has increased.
18. Transitioning.
19. Biggest change is on the Educational aspect for my son.
20. Ability to increase my independence.
21. I am doing better with my employment situation and am taking more responsibility for my decisions.
22. I would say my friendships have gotten stronger. I feel my family relationships have gotten worse because I am a stronger advocate. Employment has not changed, and this is something I really wish would having gotten better. Housing hasn't changed. PCA supports have gotten a lot worse.
23. Technology, friendship, education
24. A better understanding of politics, how it works, and how to influence it. I also am proud of my disability and understand a lot of the things I thought were wrong with me that are simply caused by my disability.
25. Better educational experience.

Skipped question: 15

13. What skills did you learn in the program that you still use today?

1. Advocacy skills.
2. Advocate.
3. Writing legislation.
4. That the toes you step on today may be attached to the rear you have to kiss tomorrow. I'm diplomatic.
5. Case management.
6. I learned who I need to call when I have an issue with a problem, whether it is county, school, or a state issue. I have a ferocious tenacity not to let things slide by if they are wrong.
7. Continuing to advocate for what is best for child and look for alternative to roadblocks.
8. I have been able to better network with other agencies/resources. When talking to his case worker I have ideas in some areas she hadn't really thought of (she's brand new).
9. Exercising our rights.
10. How to be a proficient advocate for my child.
11. My advocacy skills regarding the IEP process. Knowing how to vocalize what is important to elected local officials about the needs for all individuals with disabilities and not just our son. Getting other members in the community excited about the thought of inclusion.
12. How to advocate for my boys and others.
13. Advocacy, understanding the systems and how to navigate them.
14. How to tell our story to get attention of legislators.
15. The emphasis on the importance of inclusion in all areas of life and how to advocate for this.
16. Political advocacy and community activism.
17. I am very comfortable advocating for my kids, and IEP meetings are much easier than they used to be - I am much better at understanding the implications of small changes and questioning appropriately.
18. I still use my advocacy skills and the ability to talk to government officials.
19. Laws and my voice!
20. Research the problem, then make the contacts you need to get the problem solved.
21. Advocacy for others.
22. I still use my strong advocating skills and stand up for what is right for people with disabilities. I am still in contact with the people I made friends with during the program. I try to change people's attitudes towards disability and stand up for a stronger society for all. I am also involved on the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.
23. I am more confident now to talk about my child disability to other people and learned all my rights.
24. An overall better sense and understanding of how politics works and the ability to advocate for people with disabilities much better.
25. I have learned the hierarchy of the laws/programs that effect our family. Also, I have contacted public officials, with confidence.

Skipped question: 15

14. Looking back at your experience with the Partners program, what recommendations would you make to improve the program?

1. Continuing education opportunities for graduates should be consistently offered. Gathering with part graduates would provide a strong network.
2. Keep training.
3. Nothing at all!
4. Keep providing the training.
5. I would like follow up classes provided for any of those who are interested. Maybe a once a year program to keep our skills fresh and not let what we have learned fall by the wayside.
6. Encourage participant to work through to work through actual issues they may have as part of the program.
7. I don't know. I really appreciated the role playing, speakers and the relationships we established with classmates. It was a good experience.
8. More one on one follow up after graduation to assist people with their newfound area of making changes to better serve themselves and or their communities.
9. More time should have spent on the school process, IEP, and how it translates to overall successful skills in the community. The weekend with the county commissioners was not helpful in that those in attendance were not very empathetic to families and their struggles for funding and access to services, yet they are the main gate keepers of the funding.
10. I don't have one.
11. Keep having great speakers!
12. Nothing the training by Mary was great. Colleen Wick was knowledge and they both were very understanding of all our challenges.
13. More emphasis on the academic support - advocating stronger with elected school officials is a major area of improvement- education is the gateway to success for all individuals.
14. Fund rooms for everyone if they wish to no matter what the distance they are to the hotel. There are people that are not able to make it in time in this program on Saturday due to unreliability with DARTS bus or being in a wheel chair and not being able to make it in time. This would expand the area for people that would be able to participate in this program as well as reduce stress to a lot of people about transportation so they can better learn the curriculum rather than worry about how they will get to the hotel in time.
15. Because of my quirky learning style, I feel like I was always behind. I don't know how you could adapt to different learning styles, especially one as distinctive as mine.
16. Require people participate in a significant change say a community event or work on a specific law. Many attend this program but some have not utilized their learning past the class. IMO
17. Quarterly workshops for Graduates to review and learn about changes etc. since they took the course
18. None.
19. I would totally recommend this program to all people with disabilities. It is a great experience that will last a lifetime!!
20. I would recommend to give info on what other resources that might be qualified for certain disability.
21. Be able to house people at the hotel that are not able to easily access the hotel. For some, even though they live somewhat close transportation mixed with the difficulties of getting up and ready can be really hard early on the second day of training. This will make learning for many much easier as it will make it so they can focus on learning rather than how they will get to the morning sessions the next day and they won't miss any of the training.

22. My time and technical skills are limited. It would be helpful to have one site where I could follow the progress of specific bills or maybe a very basic class on how to more effectively use the current system.

Skipped question: 18