

**MINNESOTA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®  
LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

**YEARS XXVIII THROUGH XXX  
(CLASSES 32 – 34)**

**PREPARED BY**

**NANCY MILLER  
METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
April 2, 2019**

**MINNESOTA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®  
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**Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®**  
**Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey**  
**Class 32 April 2, 2019**  
**Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC**  
**Professor Emerita, Metropolitan State University**

**Class 32: Participants – 25 ; Responses – 9 (36%)**

- The return rate for the 2019 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 44%
- The return rate for the 2018 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2017 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2016 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 29%
- 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. Race/Ethnicity:**

White or Caucasian alone	8	89%
Black or African American alone	0	0%
Am. Indian or Alaska Native alone	0	0%
Hispanic/Latino	1	11%
Asian or Asian Am. Alone	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Two or more races	0	0%
Race unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. Gender:**

Male	1	11%
Female	8	89%

## Classes 32 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3. Geographic Area:

Urban	8	89%
Rural	1	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Check the statement that best describes you.

I am an individual with a developmental disability.	2	22%
I am a parent (family member) of an individual with a dev. disability.	7	78%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 5. Are you satisfied with the Partners program?

Yes	9	100%
No	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6. Please answer these questions with a Yes or No. Because of this project activity:

	Yes	No	Total
I am increasing my advocacy.	9 (100%)	0 (0%)	9 (100%)
I am better able to say what I want, and what is important to me.	9 (100%)	0 (0%)	9 (100%)
I am now participating in advocacy activities.	6 (67%)	3 (33%)	9 (100%)

## Classes 32 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

I am serving on a cross-disability coalition, 4 (44%) 5 (56%) 9 (100%)  
policy board, advisory board, governing body  
and/or serving in a leadership position.

### 7. Independence:

Since participating in the Partners program, I have become more independent\* at work, home or school.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	1	12%
4	5	63%
5 (increased very much)	2	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

### 8. Productivity:

Since participating in the Partners program, I am more productive.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	2	24%
4	3	38%
5 (increased very much)	3	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**9. Self-determination:**

Since participating in the Partners program, my self-determination has increased.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	0	0%
4	2	25%
5 (increased very much)	6	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**10. Integration and inclusion:**

Since participating in the Partners program, I have experienced more community integration and inclusion.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	3	38%
4	4	50%
5 (increased very much)	1	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**11. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the Partners program.**

Excellent	8	89%
Very Good	1	11%

Classes 32 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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?**

Skipped question: 2

1. My experience was excellent because I can support my family in IEP at school.
2. The program gave me the voice I didn't have for my son before. It gave me the confidence to stand up for him and the knowledge to know how to best advocate for my son in all situations we encounter.
3. I am unsure how helpful my data would be for this; my son, who had a disability, passed away three years ago March, and my role in the disability community has shifted significantly.
4. I am parent to two teens with disabilities. In last year, my older teen has matured in his future plans to include college and further law school. High school electives and additional exposure of my advocacy on legislative issues that matter to our lives sparked his interest in pursuing law. He will be starting PSEO for his senior year next school year, applying to Normandale College as well as a law class at Hamline University. My younger teen is more directly involved in following legislative process. She recently shadowed Senator Hoffman for an afternoon, meeting with constituents after his committee meetings were cancelled. Although he is not our legislator, he frequently champions ""our issues"" so my daughter was comfortable expressing her interests and views, which extended to an ""offer to shadow."" She too has decided on pursuing a college career, in Astrobiology already attending lectures on Physics and Quantum Mechanics at the U of MN, Twin Cities. Then perhaps a legislative career.
5. I'm a married man and very happy.
6. I've served on state councils, testified to the senate, and assisted in writing public policies.
7. We accessed a waiver, I joined my county's human services advisory committee, I work part-time for a non-profit helping other families connect with resources and advocate for their children.

**Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®**  
**Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey**  
**Class 33 April 2, 2019**  
**Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC**  
**Professor Emerita, Metropolitan State University**

**Class 33: Participants 27 ; Responses – 11 (41%)**

- The return rate for the 2019 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 44%
- The return rate for the 2018 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2017 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2016 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 29%
- 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. Race/Ethnicity:**

White or Caucasian alone	10	91%
Black or African American alone	0	0%
Am. Indian or Alaska Native alone	0	0%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0%
Asian or Asian Am. Alone	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Two or more races	1	9%
Race unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. Gender:**

Male	4	36%
Female	7	64%
Other	0	0%

Classes 33 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>
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**3. Geographic Area:**

Urban	8	73%
Rural	3	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4. Check the statement that best describes you.**

I am an individual with a developmental disability.	2	18%
I am a parent (family member) of an individual with a dev. disability.	9	82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**5. Are you satisfied with the Partners program?**

Yes	11	100%
No	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**6. Please answers these questions with a Yes or No. Because of this project activity:**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
I am increasing my advocacy.	11 (100%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
I am better able to say what I want, and what is important to me.	11 (100%)	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
I am now participating in advocacy activities.	8 (73%)	3 (27%)	11 (100%)
I am serving on a cross-disability coalition, policy board, advisory board, governing body and/or serving in a leadership position.	7 (64%)	4 (36%)	11 (100%)

## Classes 33 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

### 7. Independence:

Since participating in the Partners program, I have become more independent\* at work, home or school.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	3	30%
2	0	0%
3	4	40%
4	3	30%
5 (increased very much)	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

### 8. Productivity:

Since participating in the Partners program, I am more productive.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	1	10%
2	0	0%
3	5	45%
4	5	45%
5 (increased very much)	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**9. Self-determination:**

Since participating in the Partners program, my self-determination has increased.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	2	20%
2	1	10%
3	2	20%
4	4	40%
5 (increased very much)	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**10. Integration and inclusion:**

Since participating in the Partners program, I have experienced more community integration and inclusion.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	2	18%
2	0	0%
3	3	27%
4	6	55%
5 (increased very much)	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**11. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the Partners program.**

Excellent	5	45%
Very Good	5	45%
Good	1	10%

Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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?**

Skipped question: 3

1. I got a job working for the State Attorney General's Office, and am starting to become involved in outings with other people with disabilities.
2. My advocacy, particularly around issues of para-transit, has become more focused in terms of with whom and how I advocate. In general I'm taking steps to form an on-line community in which issues can be explored deeply and from diverse perspectives.
3. Mainly just good knowledge and awareness of what is available if needed
4. I have been able to navigate my 2 son's services at the county much easier as I understand the way things work.
5. Unfortunately, I have actually become somewhat more isolated from the disability community because of my efforts to protect PCAs and the PCA Choice program from what I consider to be the intrusion of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Although the union organizes opportunities for people with disabilities to voice their concerns, the union does nothing to directly support people with disabilities and has actually pitted some people with disabilities against their PCAs who oppose this union, a union that offers no protections to PCAs if they are accused of something on the job, or if they are harmed on the job. I am not anti-union, but I truly believe THIS union is not in the best interest of PCAs or the people they serve. But Partners did teach me that no voice is too small, even when up against a wealthy, powerful ""union"" and while my opinion may not be popular right now, I will continue to speak on it because I truly believe it is the right thing to do for the disability community and the PCAs who serve it. I have met with legislators on numerous occasions regarding our efforts to decertify this union and will continue to do so. Also, I served on our school district's Legislative Advisory Council for two years, including meeting with state representatives to address the shortage of special education funding in our district and to advocate for the federal government to fulfill its promise to fund 40% of mandates. So far, not enough change has occurred regarding special education funding, but I think it is important to keep this issue at the forefront and I will continue my efforts in this regard. "
6. Quality of life
7. Knew to ask for waiver and to ask for CDCS type post PIP for my child; I also took on more leadership roles at work; finally I advocated for others from refugee/immigrant backgrounds to access waivers and to pressure Hennepin county to change its policies to offer waiver and CDCS to families with children with disabilities from low economic backgrounds and of color. I also serve on MN State CFSS Implementation Council, year 2.

Classes 33 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

8. Being more communicative with Drs and other Healthcare professionals to get what I need for my child. Knowing I have a network of Friends in the same or similar situation whom I can ask for advice or directions on where/whom I need to speak with. We are getting better at asking for help when/where needed.

**Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®**  
**Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey**  
**Class 34 April 2, 2019**  
**Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC**  
**Professor Emerita, Metropolitan State University**

**Class 34: Participants –28; Responses – 15 (54%)**

- The return rate for the 2019 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 44%
- The return rate for the 2018 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2017 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2016 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 29%
- 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. Race/Ethnicity:**

White or Caucasian alone	13	87%
Black or African American alone	0	0%
Am. Indian or Alaska Native alone	0	0%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0%
Asian or Asian Am. Alone	2	13%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Two or more races	0	0%
Race unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Classes 34 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

### 2. Gender:

Male	5	33%
Female	10	67%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3. Geographic Area:

Urban	12	80%
Rural	3	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Check the statement that best describes you.

I am an individual with a developmental disability.	5	33%
I am a parent (family member) of an individual with a dev. disability.	10	67%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 5. Are you satisfied with the Partners program?

Yes	15	100%
No	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 6. Please answers these questions with a Yes or No. Because of this project activity:

	Yes	No	Total
I am increasing my advocacy.	15	0	15 (100%)
I am better able to say what I want,	15	0	15 (100%)

## Classes 34 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

and what is important to me.

I am now participating in advocacy activities.	14 (93%)	1 (7%)	15 (100%)
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I am serving on a cross-disability coalition, policy board, advisory board, governing body and/or serving in a leadership position.	10 (67%)	5 (33%)	15 (100%)
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### 7. Independence:

Since participating in the Partners program, I have become more independent\* at work, home or school.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	2	15%
3	3	21%
4	6	43%
5 (increased very much)	3	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

### 8. Productivity:

Since participating in the Partners program, I am more productive.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	1	7%
3	6	40%
4	6	40%
5 (increased very much)	2	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

**9. Self-determination:**

Since participating in the Partners program, my self-determination has increased.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0 %
2	0	0 %
3	2	14 %
4	8	57 %
5 (increased very much)	4	29 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**10. Integration and inclusion:**

Since participating in the Partners program, I have experienced more community integration and inclusion.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	0	0%
2	1	7%
3	4	29%
4	7	50%
5 (increased very much)	2	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**11. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the Partners program.**

Excellent	11	73%
Very Good	3	20%
Good	1	7%

Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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?**

Skipped question: 4

1. My daughter is in a level 1 setting at school and in the regular community ed Summer program. Partners increased my ability to think in strengths based ways for my daughter and think outside the box on "programming" for kids with special needs. I am developing my own advocacy skills but most importantly developing my daughter's advocacy skills from an early age. I am currently working for a non-profit that supports families of children with special health care needs. One of the reasons I was an attractive candidate to them is because I had graduated from Partners in Policymaking.
2. I feel that I can better advocate for myself and help others with disabilities advocate for themselves
3. I am more knowledgeable confident and active in regards to advocacy at the local and state level. I helped start an advocacy club at work. I have been able to guide my now 13 year old son towards self-advocacy which he is growing in.
4. I was able to build a relationship with my state senator, and he's been able to help me resolve problems.
5. Awareness.
6. My son, Matthew, who has Down syndrome is now full included in his high school. This program was amazing!! It gave me the encouragement and confidence to advocate for Matthew on a whole new level. The education I received from Partners in Policymaking was second to none!! Thank you for this opportunity to make a difference in others' lives.
7. I advocate more for inclusion.
8. I have joined the State of MN Special Ed Advisory Panel, my local SEAC, I was able to speak in front of 700 people in total in 2018 on inclusion and acceptance in Mankato and already have a keynote speech booked for 2018.

Classes 34 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

9. I am now living on my own and am very happy and grateful for that.
10. Member of seac in school district, better advocate for son.
11. I become my own Guardian and just moved out on my own place .

**Minnesota Partners in Policymaking®**  
**Final Report: Long-Term Follow-Up Survey**  
**Combined Classes 32, 33 and 34 April 2, 2019**  
**Submitted by Nancy Miller, MS, LPC**  
**Professor Emerita, Metropolitan State University**

**Classes 32, 33 and 34 Combined Participants 80; Responses – 35 (44%)**

- The return rate for the 2019 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 44%
- The return rate for the 2018 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2017 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 42%
- The return rate for the 2016 Long-Term Survey for all classes combined was 29%
- 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. Race/Ethnicity:**

White or Caucasian alone	31	88%
Black or African American alone	0	0%
Am. Indian or Alaska Native alone	0	0%
Hispanic/Latino	1	3%
Asian or Asian Am. Alone	2	6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Two or more races	1	3%
Race unknown	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

Combined Classes 32,33 and 34 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

**2. Gender:**

Male	10	29%
Female	25	71%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3. Geographic Area:**

Urban	28	80%
Rural	7	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4. Check the statement that best describes you.**

I am an individual with a developmental disability.	9	26%
I am a parent (family member) of an individual with a dev. disability.	26	74%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

**5. Are you satisfied with the Partners program?**

Yes	35	100%
No	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

**6. Please answers these questions with a Yes or No. Because of this project activity:**

	Yes	No	Total
I am increasing my advocacy.	35 (100%)	0 (0%)	35 (100%)
I am better able to say what I want,	35 (100%)	0 (0%)	35 (100%)

## Combined Classes 32,33 and 34 Long-Term Follow-Up Survey – 4/2019

and what is important to me.

I am now participating in advocacy activities.	28 (80%)	7 (20%)	35 (100%)
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I am serving on a cross-disability coalition, policy board, advisory board, governing body and/or serving in a leadership position.	21(60%)	14 (40%)	35 (100%)
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### 7. Independence:

Since participating in the Partners program, I have become more independent\* at work, home or school.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	3	9%
2	2	6%
3	8	25%
4	14	44%
5 (increased very much)	5	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 3

### 8. Productivity:

Since participating in the Partners program, I am more productive.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	1	3%
2	1	3%
3	13	38%
4	14	41%
5 (increased very much)	5	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 1

**9. Self-determination:**

Since participating in the Partners program, my self-determination has increased.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	2	6%
2	1	3%
3	4	13%
4	14	44%
5 (increased very much)	11	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 3

**10. Integration and inclusion:**

Since participating in the Partners program, I have experienced more community integration and inclusion.

1-5; 1 not increased to 5 increased very much.

1 (not increased)	2	6%
2	1	3%
3	10	30%
4	17	52%
5 (increased very much)	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

Skipped question: 2

**11. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the Partners program.**

Excellent	24	69%
Very Good	9	26%
Good	2	5%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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?**

Skipped question: 9

1. My experience was excellent because I can support my family in IEP at school.
2. The program gave me the voice I didn't have for my son before. It gave me the confidence to stand up for him and the knowledge to know how to best advocate for my son in all situations we encounter.
3. I am unsure how helpful my data would be for this; my son, who had a disability, passed away three years ago March, and my role in the disability community has shifted significantly.
4. I am parent to two teens with disabilities. In last year, my older teen has matured in his future plans to include college and further law school. High school electives and additional exposure of my advocacy on legislative issues that matter to our lives sparked his interest in pursuing law. He will be starting PSEO for his senior year next school year, applying to Normandale College as well as a law class at Hamline University. My younger teen is more directly involved in following legislative process. She recently shadowed Senator Hoffman for an afternoon, meeting with constituents after his committee meetings were cancelled. Although he is not our legislator, he frequently champions "'our issues'" so my daughter was comfortable expressing her interests and views, which extended to an "'offer to shadow.'" She too has decided on pursuing a college career, in Astrobiology already attending lectures on Physics and Quantum Mechanics at the U of MN, Twin Cities. Then perhaps a legislative career.
5. I'm a married man and very happy.
6. I've served on state councils, testified to the senate, and assisted in writing public

policies.

7. We accessed a waiver, I joined my county's human services advisory committee, I work part-time for a non-profit helping other families connect with resources and advocate for their children.
8. I got a job working for the State Attorney General's Office, and am starting to become involved in outings with other people with disabilities.
9. My advocacy, particularly around issues of para-transit, has become more focused in terms of with whom and how I advocate. In general I'm taking steps to form an on-line community in which issues can be explored deeply and from diverse perspectives.
10. Mainly just good knowledge and awareness of what is available if needed.
11. I have been able to navigate my 2 son's services at the county much easier as I understand the way things work.
12. Unfortunately, I have actually become somewhat more isolated from the disability community because of my efforts to protect PCAs and the PCA Choice program from what I consider to be the intrusion of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Although the union organizes opportunities for people with disabilities to voice their concerns, the union does nothing to directly support people with disabilities and has actually pitted some people with disabilities against their PCAs who oppose this union, a union that offers no protections to PCAs if they are accused of something on the job, or if they are harmed on the job. I am not anti-union, but I truly believe THIS union is not in the best interest of PCAs or the people they serve. But Partners did teach me that no voice is too small, even when up against a wealthy, powerful "union" and while my opinion may not be popular right now, I will continue to speak on it because I truly believe it is the right thing to do for the disability community and the PCAs who serve it. I have met with legislators on numerous occasions regarding our efforts to decertify this union and will continue to do so. Also, I served on our school district's Legislative Advisory Council for two years, including meeting with state representatives to address the shortage of special education funding in our district and to advocate for the federal government to fulfill its promise to fund 40% of mandates. So far, not enough change has occurred regarding special education funding, but I think it is important to keep this issue at the forefront and I will continue my efforts in this regard.
13. Quality of life.
14. Knew to ask for waiver and to ask for CDCS type post PIP for my child; I also took on more leadership roles at work; finally I advocated for others from refugee/immigrant backgrounds to access waivers and to pressure Hennepin county to change its policies to offer waiver and CDCS to families with children with disabilities from low economic backgrounds and of color. I also serve on MN State CFSS Implementation Council, year 2.
15. Being more communicative with Drs and other Healthcare professionals to get what I need for my child. Knowing I have a network of Friends in the same or similar situation whom I can ask for advice or directions on where/whom I need to speak

with. We are getting better at asking for help when/where needed.

16. My daughter is in a level 1 setting at school and in the regular community ed Summer program. Partners increased my ability to think in strengths based ways for my daughter and think outside the box on "programming" for kids with special needs. I am developing my own advocacy skills but most importantly developing my daughter's advocacy skills from an early age. I am currently working for a non-profit that supports families of children with special health care needs. One of the reasons I was an attractive candidate to them is because I had graduated from Partners in Policymaking.
17. I feel that I can better advocate for myself and help others with disabilities advocate for themselves.
18. I am more knowledgeable confident and active in regards to advocacy at the local and state level. I helped start an advocacy club at work. I have been able to guide my now 13 year old son towards self-advocacy which he is growing in.
19. I was able to build a relationship with my state senator, and he's been able to help me resolve problems.
20. Awareness.
21. My son, Matthew, who has Down syndrome is now full included in his high school. This program was amazing!! It gave me the encouragement and confidence to advocate for Matthew on a whole new level. The education I received from Partners in Policymaking was second to none!! Thank you for this opportunity to make a difference in others' lives.
22. I advocate more for inclusion.
23. I have joined the State of MN Special Ed Advisory Panel, my local SEAC, I was able to speak in front of 700 people in total in 2018 on inclusion and acceptance in Mankato and already have a keynote speech booked for 2018.
24. I am now living on my own and am very happy and grateful for that.
25. Member of seac in school district, better advocate for son.
26. I become my own Guardian And just move out on my own place .