

Technology Meets System Change: Evolution of the New York State Partners in Policymaking® Program

Jackie Yingling, NYS Partners Training Coordinator & Carrie Burkin, NYS Partners Graduate Coordinator, SCDD LEND Family Faculty



Background

The New York State (NYS) Partners in Policymaking® program is based on the national model of Partners in Policymaking®. Since 2011, NYS Partners has been delivered in a blended online learning format allowing learners to log in to modules at any time from any location with internet access. The program also utilizes live weekly webinars, online forums, and one large group in-person meeting to emphasize interactions and establish the personal lifelong connections gained by participating in a Partners program.

How it Works

The program consists of 8 modules delivered over a four month period each spring and fall. The NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council strongly encourages a target number of 70 graduates each year. The interactive nature, core values, and competencies of the national program are integrated into the curriculum.

- Checks for Understanding built into each module.
- Evaluations through online surveys, focus groups.
- Easy streamlined reporting for graduates. User stories capture personal advocacy efforts.
- Approximately 35 Partners graduate each session joining an active statewide network.
- Password protected online site for grads to share resources, information, advocacy strategies, join learning communities of special interests, and connect in ways not previously available.
- Graduates have access to training webinars designed specifically for grads, and in-person and online opportunities to interact with each other and the current class.



Partners in Policymaking®
Approximately 27,000 trained in U.S.

What is Partners in Policymaking®?

Partners in Policymaking® is a training model designed to teach family members and individuals with disabilities how to develop partnerships with legislators and policymakers to create positive system change for people with disabilities.

What's Different about

New York State (NYS) Partners in Policymaking?

- Uses online distance learning format
- Is a vibrant and ever-growing community
- More graduates each year
- Graduates are familiar with use of on-line technology and social media for advocacy efforts
- Focus on self-advocates and diverse populations
- Collaboration occurs with community agencies by sharing staff, presenters, and recruitment efforts



Collaboration between SCDD UCEDD/LEND & NYS Partners in Policymaking®

- Policy interests often the same
- Interaction with community agencies
- Sharing of presenters, webinars, training materials
- Sharing of resources
- Maximizing advocacy efforts
- Maximizing recruitment efforts to both programs
- Over 90% of SCDD LEND Family Advocacy Trainees are NYS Partners graduates (8 of the last 9 trainees)
- NYS Partners graduates join SCDD Consumer Advisory Council



Results

NYS Partners report increased independence, productivity, self-determination, and integration/inclusion since graduation.



(2013 6-month follow-up)

- Number of graduates has increased, including self-advocates and participants from diverse populations.
- Overall, graduates are very satisfied with the course; **all graduates** rated the course as “very good” or “excellent”.
- At 6 month post-program, 97% of graduates rated as “good”, “very good”, or “excellent” their *leadership and advocacy skills and ability to secure necessary services for self or a family member*.

Visit us at
www.nyspip.org/

Next Steps

- Continue to improve delivery
- Improve course access on mobile devices
- Continue to explore new eLearning platforms
- Continue to partner with UCEDDs, LENDs, and community agencies
- Keep our graduates engaged
- Outreach to states in consultant/train-the-trainer role



Partners Grad and LEND Trainee Julie at Disability Policy Seminar with SCDD LEND trainees & Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

This poster publication is supported by a LEND training grant from the US Maternal and Child Health Bureau.



K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan
Institute on Employment and Disability



Developmental Disabilities Planning Council



Unique Collaborations Staff the NYS Partners Program
NYS Partners is funded by the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Two staff are also Family Faculty at SCDD LEND through a contractual agreement with Starbridge. Project Leadership, Evaluation & Research, and Technology support provided by staff and faculty at the Yang-Tan Institute at Cornell University.