

**CADRE and JAMS Foundation Present:
Voices from the Field
Interview Clip #1 Transcript – Nissan Bar-Lev**

Marshall: Nissan, as much as any special education director I've ever met, you recognize the value that comes from collaboration with parent leaders and other stakeholders. I'm wondering, based on that experience, and also the work that you've done as one of the founders of the Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System, what are some lessons that you've learned?

Nissan: Marshall, the number one lesson I've learned over the past fifteen years is the importance of establishing a parent/educator collaboration team and promoting, showcasing, and basically trademarking that model as part of WSEMS. The model of a parent/educator collaborating is very critical. The visual of a PTI director and a special ed director sharing a mic, alternating slides, talking to blended audience of parents and schools about the important of WSEMS related materials is priceless and over the past fifteen years it has been priceless in gaining the parties, parents and school, trust and confidence in the transparency, in the neutrality, in the fairness of the system that's been representing by those educator and parent and the best way to document that is looking at our data over the past fifteen years that constant number that consistent number of referrals for mediation and IEP facilitation.