

Interviews with Exemplar States

Dee Ann Wilson – Clip #3 Transcript

Dee Ann: Well, quite frankly, we don't have the correlation research that would show that because of RESPECT training, that's why we have low numbers, but we certainly think that it certainly has contributed. There was a period of time where there were many people going through the introduction to mediation training and then the advanced mediation training, so some of the people had like eight days. And then we were thinking, well, if there's really a need to try to have people to have the skills to resolve differences at a very early level, so much of that time spent in intro to mediation and advanced was really being a mediator. So, when you think about so much goes on at, during an IEP meeting, that's where the skill building needed to talk about, you know, how do you make certain that everybody is heard, regardless of who it is, and are people treating each other respectfully and is there a lot of relationship building going on and certainly the importance of good communications. And so, it was the result of thinking that was the goal, that we would like to have people have those skills in those settings, that I had gone to Greg Buntz with the Iowa Peace Institute at that time, and he designed the RESPECT training. And as a result, I think others have seen the benefit of it and, such as recently, the Parent Training and Information Center also did three trainings then across the state of Iowa and inviting anybody and everybody and the parents and the educators and other agency people that might be involved in schools took the training. And the one thing about it, the evaluations have been so wonderful. We know it's the right curriculum. I will also say that we purchased the curriculum from Dr. Buntz and it is available and it can be obtained by anybody. And we certainly have plans to get that on the website and hopefully CADRE will have that, as well as anybody else who would like to have that curriculum.