

Interviews with Exemplar States

Dee Ann Wilson – Clip #5 Transcript

Dee Ann: Whenever I had been doing follow-up surveys three months after an agreement had been reached, and trying to find out if, indeed, there had been implementation, we sometimes found out that implementation did not occur, simply because something had happened and maybe they need to revisit, or there is some question, or somebody didn't quite understand the agreement or whatever. So the mediators talked about this at one of our in-services, what could we do? And so, as a result of that discussion, because our goal was to have 100% implementation, and the decision was to go with, what would be called a shepherd. And that would be the person that, they would be the 'go to' person and the shepherd is decided during a mediation by all parties involved. And it is going to be somebody that typically, I would say that there's a leaning towards the one that the parents would be most comfortable with. I would say most often times, it would be somebody from the AEA, but not always, but very often times it might be the social worker, the school consultant or somebody like that. But it is decided by the people in attendance and they would designate that. There's also a sheet of paper that, and the mediator actually makes a big deal about what you would do with the shepherd and why you'd have the shepherd. And then the shepherd, once that's decided by all parties then, is given a sheet of paper to really be reminded later, okay, here's your expectations, even though that had been told orally, but then you have something in writing, this is the expectations, so that's what the shepherd, and it appears to have been a very effective way to handle with making certain implementation occurs more regularly.