

Facilitation IEP Trend Report (n=183 for participant data; n=36 for facilitator data; attorney n (1) not used) 2007 - 2008

The results of the participant surveys suggest that the facilitated IEP meetings are an effective avenue to enhance communication and resolve issues while satisfying the needs of the participants. Most participants (85.6%) believe that the facilitated IEP process produced a satisfactory outcome and 90% of the participants were satisfied with the overall facilitation process that was used in the IEP meeting. Most participants (85.2%) would use the facilitated IEP process again and 72% of the participants believed that the facilitated IEP sessions will actually improve future IEP meetings. The process of a facilitated IEP was understood by the 98.4 % of participants.

Participants were satisfied with the meetings as they believed that the facilitated IEP meetings provided them with an opportunity to be a part of the IEP process (69.6%) and 92.9% believed that they were given enough time during the process to describe their concerns. Approximately 75% of the participants developed a program during the IEP process (n=133) and 89.5% indicated that they were satisfied with the IEP that they developed and 75.9% believed that the outcome was better than they expected.

When an IEP was not developed through the facilitated process, 80.7% of the participants believed that the facilitator was effective and that they believed that others were unwilling to negotiate during the facilitated meetings (40%).

Overall, the participants were pleased with the performance of the IEP facilitators. The participants believed that the facilitators were knowledgeable about special education (82.5%) and able to explain the process thoroughly (95%). Facilitators were seen as neutral (96.7%) and respectful (97.3%). The results suggest that the facilitators did not pressure the clients (97.8%) and created a comfortable environment (91.3%). The facilitators were efficient as they were seen as using time adequately (82.4%), organized (91.3%) and able to keep the meeting focused (86.4%) in the majority of cases. Most participants (83.1%) would use their facilitator again.

The people who attended the facilitated IEP meetings the most continues to be the mother of the child (100%), Special Education/Pupil Services director (94.4%), and regular education teachers (94.4%), along with the father of the child (75%), Principal (69.4%), and Special Education Teacher (69.4%). Issues that led to the need for facilitated IEP meetings were often times communication breakdown(72.2%), IEP issues (50%) and placement issues (44.4%).

The responses of the facilitators in regards to the facilitated IEP process were similar to the participant responses. The facilitators believed that the participants understood the IEP facilitation process (91.7%) and believed that the participants were given adequate information before the process began (100%). Facilitators believed that they were neutral (100%) and respectful (100%). The results suggest that the facilitators believed that they did not pressure the participants (94.4%) and created a comfortable environment (88.9%). The facilitators believed that they used time adequately (97.2%), organized (100%) and able to keep the meeting focused (100%).

The results suggest that the facilitators believed that the facilitated IEP helped the participants move toward a satisfactory IEP (75%). The facilitators themselves were satisfied with the process (91.7%) and they believe that the IEP facilitated process will improve future IEP meetings (72%).