

CADRE and JAMS Foundation Present:
Voices from the Field
Interview Clip #1 Transcript – Fran Fletcher

Marshall: So Fran, you've done a lot of really wonderful work in the area of IEP and IFSP facilitation. Are there strategies that you believe work particularly well in those meetings?

Fran: Well I think what you do up front prior to the meeting beginning is very important. Frequently you're only going to get the phone call for a request for a help in meeting either from the parent or from the school district. So taking the time to have a discussion with not only the requesting party, but, we'll say it was the school, but also with the parent to make sure that they understand so that they can agree since it's voluntary. But they can understand what to expect, why you're there, what is one more person at an IEP meeting going to do and to be very clear about what your role is. So, I think that gets it started off on a really good foot. Then when you get into the meeting, because you haven't spoken to everybody who's in the IEP meeting, you need to be very clear about what your role is there as well. It's that you're there to help facilitate a process and that you're not there to get in the way of their process. So starting it out well is important, I think for everyone in the IEP.