

CADRE and JAMS Foundation Present:
Voices from the Field
Interview Clip #2 Transcript – Fran Fletcher

Marshall: Often times special education teachers haven't really been well prepared to go out and host IEP meetings and as you think about a new special ed teacher who is headed out to host and facilitate their first IEP meeting, are there, is there advice you would give them?

Fran: Well everybody needs to be coached on how to be a good listener. Because if that's not the biggest complaint you hear about poor communication, it's always about communication and it starts there. So I think helping them get some techniques about being a good listener of the parent and making sure that they deliver the information that they have to share in a way that the parents can hear it, but to always make sure that they're asking for feedback from the parent. It is the parent that is the expert on the child and so they absolutely need to make the time and the space for them to be able participate. I think another thing is that teachers will talk about what issues there may be without concrete backup to what they're talking about. So I think if you can show parents work, homework that doesn't come back right or classwork that's not being done correctly, but give them very concrete examples of what they're looking for and what they're not getting or what the student may not be understanding, is really important to making that student be successful.