

CADRE and JAMS Foundation Present:
Voices from the Field
Interview Clip #3 Transcript – Fran Fletcher

Marshall: Conversely Fran, what are some of the mistakes that people are likely to make at IEP meetings?

Fran: Well, probably the biggest one is not allowing enough time. When you get into an IEP meeting that may be the second or third attempt and people are not coming together on the issues or are not understanding, they want to make those meetings shorter instead of longer, when in essence they really need to make it longer. So not allowing enough time, or saying 'this meeting needs to take 45 minutes and if we're not done, that's it'. I think that's one of the biggest mistakes. Certainly if things are going well you don't need a whole lot of time. The other thing that I see on a frequent basis is IEPs that are completed, and while the school is saying this is a draft, that's not how it's perceived by the parent. So being able to share that document in advance and just not put it in front of the parent at the IEP meeting and expect that they're going to be rolled over by everything that's on there, I think is unrealistic. So they need to have their homework to do to be prepared for the meeting on, on both sides.