

Interviews with Exemplar States

Patricia Williams – Clip #3 Transcript

Patricia: Well we are very proud of our system and it brings together, as you said, three different perspectives and we have a parent perspective, Jan Serak from Wisconsin FACETS; she's the Director of Wisconsin FACETS, our PTI. Then we have Nissan Bar-Lev, who is a Special Education Director, so we have the district perspective. And then we have a neutral intake coordinator, Jane Burns, who is not housed with the Department, but is, as I said, neutral and independent and does the intake process. And then finally, Nina Meierding, who brings the expertise about mediation to the system. So it's Nina, Jan and Nissan that really administer the system, that work and model collaboration about how different perspectives can be communicated and listened to and reach good outcomes. So I think that's one of the key successes to our mediation system. I think it builds trust between both districts and parents and I think that helps explain, one of the reasons anyway, why it's such a successful system. It's one of the ways we provide the outreach and information about the system. And what's so great about their presentations and their trainings is they do model collaboration between the parent and the district perspective and I, I just think that's a really successful way of informing parties about our system, as well as showing how that collaboration can work.