

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

Marshall: IEP/IFSP meetings represent critical opportunities for us to develop a shared vision about how a child's needs can best be met. Do you have advice about how those opportunities can be optimally taken advantage of?

Patricia: Yeah, schedule enough time for starters. Sometimes, IEP case managers or whatever people call that lead person, scheduling 15-20 minutes, how can you possibly hear everyone's voice and make any collaborative decisions in such a, in that short of amount of time? I don't think it's possible. Another is to have very skilled facilitators who know the IEP process, can keep people on task, have an agenda, and can develop the discussion necessary to really bring in everyone's perspective and have good decisions at the end. I think a third thing is for staff not to come with a draft. Not only do I have reports of that from parents, that they don't feel like a real team player, their input is not valued, they think sometimes the IEP is done and they're gonna be requested to just sign off on it. And that's not what's intended in this IEP process. So there's no problem with coming with notes, don't have the whole IEP filled out and just tweak a word here or there, that's no input, that's no input from everybody on the team, and that's what it needs.