

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015

Executive Summary

For the first quarter of 2015, Maine Roads to Quality, Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN) has continued its work toward promoting professionalism in the field of early childhood and increasing the quality of care offered through the provision of a statewide system of professional development. The full report outlines the details of MRTQ PDN's progress toward our contract deliverables. The following are a selection of highlights of the work completed by MRTQ PDN during this quarter:

- While a total of fourteen trainings have ended during this quarter, **thirty-nine trainings have had start dates during this quarter**. Because so many of the MRTQ PDN trainings are ten weeks in length, most that began during this quarter have end dates into April and May. The target for each contract year is 100 trainings, meaning that MRTQ PDN is over a third of the way to that number at this time.
- **MRTQ PDN staff and training consultants delivered over 187 hours of on-site technical assistance (TA) during the first quarter (includes prep and travel time)**. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded TA via phone and email from 277 individual practitioners.
- **MRTQ PDN now offers eleven communities of practice (CoPs) in seven of the eight Department of Health and Human Services districts statewide** (with an eighth CoP planned to begin in the Washington/Hancock County district). During the first quarter, 228 practitioners have participated in MRTQ PDN CoPs, which are facilitated by trained TA consultants.
- **The new Maine Inclusion Credential is being promoted on the MRTQ PDN website and recruitment for a support cohort to begin in the fall has begun**. Additionally, MRTQ PDN is piloting a revised version of the "Inclusive Child Care" training and is working with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies to create the four new trainings on inclusive practices for the credential.
- **MRTQ PDN staff served as workgroup leaders for the *Quality for ME* revision project work**. In collaboration with the revision project team at the Cutler Institute, MRTQ PDN staff convened workgroups to research and offer recommendations for revised standards for *Quality for ME* for various program settings, including centers, Head Starts, family child care, and school age programs.
- The evaluation plan for MRTQ PDN is being revised for this contract and will be submitted to the Institutional Review Board at USM during the second quarter. **Updates to the evaluation plan include revision of training evaluations aimed to increase response rate, addition of focus groups for practitioners, and addition of interviews for trainers and TA providers**. MRTQ PDN will have data to report for these new activities during the fourth quarter of 2015. Collection of training and technical assistance evaluation data is ongoing.
- Using the foundation of supports offered by MRTQ PDN through this contract, **MRTQ PDN was able to leverage additional funding to support accreditation cohorts for center-based and family child care programs pursuing national accreditation**. This project began during the first quarter

and is offering accreditation support to thirty-one programs throughout the state.

- **MRTQ PDN has collaborated with a number of stakeholder groups during this quarter, including:**
 - Working with the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children to promote their spring training event.
 - Contracting with the Maine Children's Trust to offer the Strengthening Families training to child care practitioners statewide.
 - Staffing the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee.
 - Working with the Maine Afterschool Network to increase membership and to conduct an environmental scan of services for school age children in Maine.
 - Contributing to the revision of program approval policies and procedures for Child Development Services.

These highlights represent some of the new and expanded work being done by MRTQ PDN during the first quarter of 2015. In addition to these initiatives, MRTQ PDN continues to offer its core services, including:

- **Processing 261 new Registry applications** from early childhood practitioners;
- **Attending 100% of the meetings of** the Child Care Advisory Council, Maine Children's Growth Council, Professional Development Accountability Team, and the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee;
- **Awarded \$31,243 in scholarship funds to 16 practitioners.**