

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015

Executive Summary

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For the third 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:

- During the third quarter, a total of 37 trainings began. **This brings the total number of trainings beginning during 2015 to 109.** MRTQ PDN has met the target of 100 trainings delivered each year.
- **MRTQ PDN staff and training consultants delivered over 216 hours of on-site technical assistance (TA) during the third quarter (includes prep and travel time).** Historically, summer is a slower time for programs to be requesting on-site technical assistance, so the number of hours delivered decreased, but only by 16% compared to the second quarter. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded TA via phone and email from 361 individual practitioners.
- **MRTQ PDN recruited practitioners for new cohorts for each of the MRTQ PDN credentials: Infant Toddler, Youth Development, Director, and the new Inclusion Credential.** All new cohorts are set to have a first conference call meeting during the fall or in early 2016.
- **In partnership with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS), MRTQ PDN piloted a new curriculum called "Foundations**

Universal Design and Individualizing."

The evaluations for this 12-hour training were very positive. CCIDS is currently finalizing revisions to the pilot and the completed training will launch statewide in early 2016. Additional new trainings relating to the Maine Inclusion Credential will be piloted during the fourth quarter, including Collaborating with Others to Support Inclusion" and "Positive Supports for Challenging Behavior."

- **MRTQ PDN continues to collaborate with the Maine Afterschool Network (MASN) on professional development opportunities for before and after school programs.** Highlights of the work done in the third quarter are included in Appendix O.
- **During the third quarter, 85 practitioners were trained and 46 have registered for the more in-depth on-line training for the Strengthening Maine Families curriculum through the Maine Children's Trust.** In the month of September, a total of three trainings were held, with 22 center based staff and 14 family child care providers attending – a total of 34 providers were trained in September.
- **MRTQ PDN has collaborated with a number of stakeholder groups during this quarter, including:**
 - Working with the Maine Department of Education to develop and pilot a new training on *Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards*. The pilot is set to begin in October, with full statewide implementation in the spring. In addition, a 15-hour "bridge" training for practitioners who have completed the original *Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines* training will be piloted in late 2015 or early 2016.
 - Collaborating with Maine Centers for Disease Control, the Child and Adult

Care Food Program, Central Maine Community College, and the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies to offer training regarding “Active Play” with Dianne Craft on August 7th and 8th at the Augusta Civic Center. The Saturday training was attended by 62 practitioners.

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

- **Processing 212 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 \$56,878 in scholarship funds to 27 practitioners.**