

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016

Executive Summary

For the first quarter of 2016, 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 first quarter of 2016, a total of 20 trainings began. Fewer trainings are offered during the winter months due to concerns about weather and travel. **Currently there are 30 trainings scheduled to begin in the second quarter.**
- **MRTQ PDN staff and training consultants delivered over 254 hours of on-site technical assistance (TA) during the fourth quarter (includes prep and travel time).** This total is a 36% increase in delivery hours over the first quarter from 2015. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 209 phone and email TA contacts.
- **In partnership with the Maine Department of Education, MRTQ PDN piloted the training "Bridge to MELDS," the 15-hour training on the Maine Early Learning and Development Standards designed for practitioners who have completed the training "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines."** The pilot was offered in a hybrid format to nine practitioners – three of the modules were offered online and two were offered face-to-face in South Portland. Feedback from the "Bridge to MELDS" pilot and the 30-hour "MELDS" training (piloted in the fall of 2015) were used to prepare for a train-the-trainer event for MRTQ PDN Approved Trainers, higher education faculty, Maine DOE staff, and Child Development Services staff. The train-the-trainer event was held in the second quarter; additional information will be included in the next quarterly report.
- **In partnership with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS), MRTQ PDN has developed an online training for facilitators of MRTQ PDN Communities of Practice (CoPs).** Fourteen consultants completed the pilot of this training, which will now be available to all CoP facilitators.
- **There are currently thirteen active CoP groups throughout the state, with two new groups set to begin during the second quarter.** When the new groups begin, MRTQ PDN will have CoP representation in all eight of the DHHS districts. A total of 330 participants attended MRTQ PDN-sponsored CoP groups during the first quarter.
- **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 fourth quarter are included in Appendix P.
- **MRTQ PDN has collaborated with a number of stakeholder groups during this quarter, including:**
 - Regular monthly meetings with staff and supervisors from the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services (DLRS) to discuss the training and technical assistance needs of both child care programs and DLRS staff.
 - Maine Audubon Society in a stakeholder forum for brainstorming ways to include nature education in more Maine preschool programs.
 - Three MRTQ PDN staff presented a workshop on creating a professional

development plan at Camp Knowledge at Thomas College, sponsored by Maine Shared Services Alliance.

- MRTQ PDN participated in the Read to ME challenge as a partner agency with Maine DOE.
- MRTQ PDN attended the Maine Recreation and Parks conference as a vendor for the first time as a new avenue for connecting with practitioners serving school age children and youth.
- **MRTQ PDN is supporting DHHS OCFS and DLRS in planning for the required health and safety trainings outlined in Maine's Child Care Development Block Grant plan.** MRTQ PDN currently offers an 18-hour training called "Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety" that meets a number of the ten health and safety topics. MRTQ PDN staff, OCFS staff, and DLRS staff have held a conference call to discuss Maine's approach to meeting these requirements.

These highlights represent some of the new and expanded work being done by MRTQ PDN during the first quarter of 2016. In addition to these initiatives, MRTQ PDN continues to offer its core services, including:

- **Processing 236 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 \$22,317 in scholarship funds.**