

# MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

## Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016

### Executive Summary

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 care and education 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, a total of 23 trainings began, bringing the total number of trainings completed or in process during 2016 to 97.** An additional 22 trainings are slated to begin during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, resulting in a total of 119 trainings delivered statewide during 2016.
- **MRTQ PDN staff and Technical Assistance consultants delivered over 330 hours of on-site collaborative consultation (previously called "on-site technical assistance") during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (includes preparation, follow-up, and travel time).** This total is a 53% increase in delivery hours over the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in 2015. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 205 phone and email technical assistance contacts.
- **In partnership with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS), MRTQ PDN continues to market the Inclusion Warm Line to programs.** An Inclusion Warm Line brochure has been developed, as has a web page on the MRTQ PDN and CCIDS websites. In addition, MRTQ PDN has written about the Inclusion Warm Line in the quarterly newsletter, *Pathways*, for multiple quarters.
- **There are currently 20 active Communities of Practice (CoP) groups throughout the state.** MRTQ PDN has CoP representation in all eight of the DHHS districts. A total of 325 participants attended MRTQ PDN-sponsored CoP groups during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, up from only 80 participants during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015.
- **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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter are included in Appendix R.
- **MRTQ PDN partnered with Central Maine Community College to deliver the course "ECE 296 Special Topics – Infants and Toddlers: Social Beings and the Ability to Communicate."** Scholarship funds for the course were provided to 14 practitioners and additional funding for infant and toddler-related program purchases was awarded to 10 programs (representing 11 practitioners). The program purchases relate to the topic areas of social beings and the ability to communicate; delivery of the program purchases will take place during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- **MRTQ PDN partnered with the Maine Centers for Disease Control (MeCDC), Central Maine Community College, and University of North Carolina to implement a pilot with Go NAP SACC.** Four practitioners participated in the pilot. Go NAP SACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) is an online self-assessment tool for early childhood programs that is specific to nutrition and physical activity of children ages 0-5. MRTQ PDN has contracted with MeCDC for the next two years to increase participation in this program for 200 additional practitioners statewide to access these health components of their programs. MRTQ PDN will offer consulting services to those who participate.
- **To manage waiting lists for MRTQ PDN trainings, a policy has been developed to be fair and responsive to practitioner needs.** If a training has more than six participants on the waiting list, MRTQ PDN staff plan to add another offering of that training to the training schedule depending on financial resources. If a training cannot be offered right away, the practitioners on the waiting list for a particular training are sent an

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email to watch for the new offering on the Statewide Training Calendar and are given a date of enrollment. A reminder is sent to the practitioners on the waiting list one week before open enrollment.

- **The MRTQ PDN Supplemental Training Policy** was updated to respond to demand for face-to-face “Maine’s Early Learning and Development Standards” and the “Bridge to MELDS” trainings. The updated policy was sent to MRTQ PDN Approved Trainers to address their potential need to deliver the training(s) on-site to program staff. The updated policy was put in place on September 1, 2016. No requests have been received this quarter.
- **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.
  - Four MRTQ PDN staff attended the annual conference for the National Workforce Registry Alliance (NWRA). Pam Prevost, Registry Manager at MRTQ PDN, co-presented a session call “Competencies and Credentials” with Colorado and Vermont state Registry representatives. In addition, Pam was elected to the NWRA Board as the Region 1 representative.

These highlights represent some of the new and expanded work being done by MRTQ PDN during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016. In addition to these initiatives, MRTQ PDN continues to offer its core services, including:

- **Processing 232 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;
- **Awarding \$26,880 in scholarship funds.**