

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

Executive Summary

During October, November, and December of 2017, Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN) 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 final progress toward our contract deliverables for this period. The following are a selection of highlights of the work completed by MRTQ PDN during this quarter:

- **During the contract period, a total of 19 trainings were delivered.** In those trainings, 97% of participants reported “somewhat agree” and “strongly agree” to the question: “I have gained knowledge and skills presented in this training and will apply them to my practice.” One additional training began during this period and will conclude in the next quarter.
- **During the contract period, a total of 33 elective trainings were delivered.** 33 trainings were delivered statewide.
- **MRTQ PDN staff and Technical Assistance consultants delivered 290 hours of on-site consultation during the contract period (includes preparation, follow-up, and travel time).** In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 284 phone and email technical assistance contacts. This includes 11 calls to the Inclusion Warm Line during this quarter.
- **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 446 participants attended MRTQ PDN-sponsored CoP groups during the contract period. This represents a 115% increase in participation over the previous quarter.
- **Four new staff members have joined the MRTQ PDN.** Four new District Coordinators (DCs) and a new Training and Curriculum Coordinator started work in October. All new staff attended MRTQ PDN orientation training; the new DCs have also completed the 18-hour training “Foundations of Relationship-based Technical Assistance” and the 6-hour training “An Introduction to Communities of Practice.” The DCs have been making contact with programs in their Districts to introduce themselves and the services provided by MRTQ PDN. This will continue into the next quarter.
- **MRTQ PDN continued the agreement with Better Kid Care at Penn State Cooperative Extension to offer the online training *Health and Safety Basics: Requirements for Certification to Maine providers*.** This training will meet the CCDBG-required health and safety training and will be offered free to Maine providers ongoing, as needed. MRTQ PDN staff have arranged for a Maine-specific code to be used on the Better Kid Care website, with monthly reporting of provider completion from Better Kid Care to the MRTQ Registry. As of December 31, 2017, a total of 2,723 practitioners have completed the training.
- **Work continues on the new MRTQ PDN/Child Care Choices website.** A new logo has been developed for rollout during the next quarter. The MRTQ PDN portion of the website will be ready to go live during January of 2018; the next phase of the redesign will involve the databases – Child Care Choices (search function and family resources), the Registry, and the Statewide Training Calendar.
- **In partnership with MaineAEYC, MRTQ PDN presented the 2017 Marcia Lovell Awards to eight practitioners – one in each District.** A full write-up of the award and the list of recipients can be found in the Winter 2018 edition of *Pathways* (Attachment F).
- **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 during the contract period are included in Attachment K.
- **MRTQ PDN has collaborated with a number of stakeholder groups during this quarter, including:**
 - Regular 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.

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- Pam Prevost, Registry and Evaluation Manager, continues to serve on the Board of the National Workforce Registry Alliance.
- Five MRTQ PDN staff attended the Maine Resilience Building Network's biannual conference on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).

These highlights represent some of the new and expanded work being done by MRTQ PDN during the first quarter of the contract. 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 with** the Office of Child and Family Services, Licensing Supervisor Meetings, the Maine Children's Growth Council, Professional Development Accountability Team, Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC), and the Maine PDN Advisory Committee;
- **Maintaining the Statewide Electronic Training calendar.** During the contract period there were a total of 1,581 searches from 468 unique IP addresses. Forty-two MRTQ PDN trainings were listed on the calendar and 63 trainings from other partners and college courses added.
- **Maintaining the Child Care Choices website with accurate data regarding licensed programs and *Quality for ME* information.**