

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>

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Update on Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network for Spring 2017

As of March 1, 2017, MRTQ PDN is halfway through a four-month contract with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This abbreviated contract covers January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017; previous MRTQ PDN contracts with DHHS have covered two-year periods. During this time, it is the understanding of MRTQ PDN staff that DHHS is preparing to release a request for proposals (RFP), seeking bidders for the work of the PDN.

Because of this short contract period and the amount of time required to plan for and deliver MRTQ PDN training, there is no upcoming Core Knowledge training listed in this issue of *Pathways*. MRTQ PDN continues to work with DHHS in the capacity as the current PDN to offer ongoing professional development opportunities and to avoid a pause in services after April 30th. Specific questions about the contract or MRTQ PDN's work with DHHS can be directed to Sonja Howard, Director, at sonja.b.howard@maine.edu or 207-615-3973.

To stay up-to-date on MRTQ PDN's plans going forward, please refer to *SHORTcuts*, the weekly email update from MRTQ PDN. (For more information about *SHORTcuts*, please see page 4).

During the four-month contract period, MRTQ PDN will continue to offer the following services:

- Core Knowledge Training (previously scheduled)
- Regional Communities of Practice (CoPs)
- All MRTQ Registry functions, including joining and updating Registry information
- Support to programs joining, renewing, or moving up with *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system
- Requests for on-site consultation
- The Maine Inclusion Warm Line (see page 3 for more information)

Due to the short time frame of the current contract, MRTQ PDN will not begin new cohorts for accreditation or the Maine credentials. If you have any questions about either of these activities, please contact us; individual assistance can be provided by MRTQ PDN staff.

If you have any questions about MRTQ PDN or its services, please contact us at 1-888-900-0055. Please know that the staff at MRTQ PDN are committed to helping the early childhood workforce in Maine continue with quality improvement efforts.



No matter how long
the winter, spring is
sure to follow."
-Proverb

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2016 Highlights

MRTQ PDN is pleased to share the following highlights of our work during 2016. It is our pleasure to serve as the early care and education professional development network for Maine and we look forward to working with you in 2017 and beyond!



The Registry

- During 2016, **1,082** Registry applications were processed and certificates awarded. The total number of individuals who have joined the Registry as of the end of 2016 was **12,884**.
- A new career lattice was developed for professionals who work in public preschool programs.
- More information about the Registry can be found on our website at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/registry.htm>.

Training

- A total of **118** trainings were offered during 2016.
- The most popular trainings are:
 - “Getting Started in Family Child Care” with **10** offerings,
 - “Maine’s Early Learning and Development Standards” with **10** offerings,
 - “Bridge to MELDS” with **12** offerings,
 - “Supporting Maine’s Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development” with **12** offerings.
- During 2016, **97%** of those who completed a final training evaluation agreed with the statement: “I have gained the knowledge and skills presented in this training and will apply it to my work.”

“[T]he biggest change was not in my classroom, or the children, or the staff...the biggest change has been in me! [In] the way I plan, observe, communicate, and reflect on each child and family that we serve. It is difficult to even put into words the personal growth that I have experienced while working toward [the Maine Inclusion] Credential!”

Trish Mullins, director at the Casco Bay YMCA

Technical Assistance

- MRTQ PDN now offers Community of Practice groups in all eight regions of Maine, with **20** groups now meeting regularly.
- On-site consultation was delivered to **130** programs.
- The Maine Inclusion Warm Line launched in January of 2016 (see page 3 for more information on the Inclusion Warm Line).

Maine Credentials

- **One** person earned the Maine Youth Development Credential.
- **Four** people earned the Maine Director Credential.
- **Three** people earned the Maine Infant Toddler Credential I.
- **Three** people earned the NEW Maine Inclusion Credential.
- For more information about the Maine credentials, visit our website at: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/credentials.htm>

Symposium 2016: Creative Strategies for Promoting Social and Emotional Development

- Our annual Symposium was a success, hosting **138** professionals at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River.
- **Five** professionals were awarded Marcia Lovell Awards at the Symposium, honoring the life and work of Marcia and her commitment to inclusive programming and the arts.

MRTQ PDN Is Co-Sponsoring an NAFCC Observer Training!



Monday and Tuesday, April 3 & 4, 2017 | Marriott Sable Oaks, South Portland | \$150 per person (lunch provided each day)

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is the accrediting body for family child care programs throughout the country. An important component of the accreditation system is the Accreditation Observer - this spring MRTQ PDN will be sponsoring the required two-day training for anyone interested in becoming an Accreditation Observer!

For a complete description of the requirements to become an NAFCC Accreditation Observer, please visit NAFCC's website at: <https://www.nafcc.org/Observer-Requirements>. Interested professionals who meet the requirements can register for the training at this link as

well; see the listing on the right-hand side of the page.

Funds may be available to support Maine professionals interested in attending the training; please contact Sonja Howard at sonja.b.howard@maine.edu or 207-615-3973. Discounted room rates are available through the Marriott - visit the registration link above for more information.

FREE Training and On-Site Support to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity!



What is Go NAP SACC?

MRTQ PDN has received funding to help early childhood programs utilize the Go NAP SACC tools to improve physical activity and nutrition practices in their programs. NAP SACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) is an evidence-based program for improving the health of young children through better nutrition and physical activity in early care and education programs.

What are the benefits for me and my program?

Programs participating in this project will be able to utilize NAP SACC's online tools, participating staff will receive twelve contact hours of training, and programs will be offered support by MRTQ PDN staff and consultants who are trained in the Go NAP SACC program. **Programs must be serving children ages birth to five years to be eligible.**

Want to know more?

Great! We are offering a rolling enrollment process. Send an email to mrtq.gonapsacc@maine.edu to ask questions or call Claire Walker at 207-626-5296 or Pam Soucy at 207-626-5258.

If you would like to learn more about Go NAP SACC, visit their website at <https://gonapsacc.org/>.

The Maine Inclusion Warm Line

1-844-209-5964

inclusion.warmline@maine.edu

What is a warm line? A warm line is a telephone line (or email) that provides assistance for people whose need is not urgent (a play on the meaning of "hotline").

The Inclusion Warm Line is a **free, confidential telephone and email consultation service** for child care practitioners that will provide information, support, and resources.

The Inclusion Warm Line serves as the first step in providing practical, accurate information to support the inclusion of children with special needs, disabilities, mental health needs, and concerning/challenging behavior in early childhood programs.

The Inclusion Warm Line is operated by MRTQ PDN and jointly staffed by Inclusion, Health, and Mental Health Consultants from MRTQ PDN and the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS).



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Are You Subscribed to **SHORTcuts** ?

MRTQ PDN now publishes a weekly email newsletter, called *SHORTcuts*. A typical issue of *SHORTcuts* contains a quick informational article (or two), important updates on MRTQ PDN (see page 1 for more information), and a listing of upcoming conferences or college courses that may be of interest to early childhood professionals. There is also information about how to submit content for future issues of *SHORTcuts*.

You are automatically subscribed to *SHORTcuts* if you are a Registry member and have set up web access. If you are NOT already a Registry member, you can join – FREE – which will subscribe you to the *SHORTcuts* mailing list. Click on the Registry link to get started: <https://mrtq.musk.usm.maine.edu>

If you are a Registry member with web access and you have not received *SHORTcuts*, please check your spam folder. For further assistance, contact MRTQ PDN at 1-888-900-0055.

The Maine Event: Creating Positive Climates for Youth



June 29-30, 2017

**Pre-Conference Summer Training
Academy June 28, 2017**

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland

The Maine Event: Creating Positive Climates for Youth is the 2017 combined annual conference of the Positive Youth Development Institute (PYDI) and the Collaborative for Perpetual Innovation (CPI). For professionals interacting with youth in or out of school, this conference offers the latest in research and practice in creating positive climates for everyone and strategies in social trust and youth development. For more information: <http://www.pydi.net/>

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