

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Report: October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Executive Summary

For the fourth 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 fourth quarter, a total of 21 trainings began. **This brings the total number of trainings delivered during 2015 to 122.** MRTQ PDN has exceeded the target of 100 trainings delivered each year.
- **MRTQ PDN staff and training consultants delivered over 315 hours of on-site technical assistance (TA) during the fourth quarter (includes prep and travel time).** This total is a 22% increase in delivery hours over the second quarter, which included the second-highest number of TA hours delivered. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 207 phone and email TA contacts.
- **Two new positions were added to the MRTQ PDN staff – a Technical Assistance Manager and Child Care Health Coordinator.**
- **On October 24, 2015, MRTQ PDN presented its Symposium 2015: Full STEAM Ahead!** This year's Symposium focused on the areas of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math and was held at the Augusta Civic Center. A total of 182 practitioners attended the Symposium, which began with a keynote by author Christine Chaille from Portland State University in

Oregon. Some comments from participants included:

"I think that it's really important to connect with children in our care and creating opportunities for them to explore and make new discoveries is how they will expand their knowledge of the world that they live in."

"This symposium was a great way to gather information to incorporate into my programming. More things like this would be helpful."

The full evaluation report for Symposium 2015: Full STEAM Ahead! is available from MRTQ PDN.

- **In partnership with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS), MRTQ PDN piloted two new trainings: "Positive Supports and Challenging Behavior" (15 hours), and "Collaborating with Others to Support Inclusion" (12 hours).** The evaluations for both trainings were very positive. CCIDS staff are now working with a cohort of practitioners working toward the new Maine Inclusion Credential. All cohort participants have already taken, or will soon complete, the four new trainings. Evaluation feedback has been collected and is informing curriculum revisions. All of the trainings required for the Maine Inclusion Credential will be offered multiple times in 2016.
- **On November 7, 2015, MRTQ PDN brought together a group of twenty-four MRTQ PDN trainers for a Trainer Retreat, held at the Senator Inn in Augusta.** During the retreat, MRTQ PDN staff shared updates regarding training policies and procedures and the Maine Early Learning and Development Standards training in development. The trainers were given time to network and to have in-depth discussions

regarding training delivery and working with practitioners. Evaluations from the event indicate that the trainers found the day to be very useful; MRTQ PDN plans to offer additional retreats at least annually going forward.

- **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.

- **During the fourth quarter, 137 practitioners were trained and 61 have registered for the more in-depth on-line training for the Strengthening Maine Families curriculum through the Maine Children's Trust.** In addition to the training, the Maine Children's Trust has offered technical assistance to three center-based programs and three family child care programs during this quarter.
- **In collaboration with the Maine Department of Education, MRTQ PDN piloted the new training on Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) to a group of nine practitioners in the Lewiston/Auburn area.** The curriculum writers are now reviewing the feedback from the pilot group and revising the training. In April, a statewide train-the-trainer will be held for MRTQ PDN trainers and higher education faculty. Later in the spring, MRTQ PDN will begin multiple statewide deliveries of the MELDS training. In addition to the new 30-hour training, the curriculum writers are preparing a shorter "bridge" training for practitioners who have already completed the "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines" training. That training will be piloted in the winter of 2016.
- **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.

- MRTQ PDN's new Child Care Health Coordinator has collaborated with the Maine Centers for Disease Control on multiple initiatives related to physical activity and nutrition.

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

- **Processing 205 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 \$32,612 in scholarship funds to 19 practitioners.**