

# MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

## Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

**Report: January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017**

### Executive Summary

For the first four months of 2017, 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 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 34 trainings were delivered.** In those trainings, 96% 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."
- **MRTQ PDN staff and Technical Assistance consultants delivered 415 hours of on-site consultation during the contract period (includes preparation, follow-up, and travel time).** In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 154 phone and email technical assistance contacts.
- **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 472 participants attended MRTQ PDN-sponsored CoP groups during the contract period. For this contract period, 108 providers have successfully completed the training.
- **MRTQ PDN created an 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 through the end of June. 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.
- **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 H.
- **The new MRTQ PDN weekly email newsletter, *SHORTcuts*, has been published regularly since the end of June, 2016.** Items typically included address MRTQ PDN activities, general news and announcements, online resources for practitioners and families, and listings of upcoming conferences. The link is sent out to all Registry members with online access and other stakeholders, including the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee, the MRTQ PDN Advisory Council, and licensing workers.
- **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.
  - MRTQ PDN staff attended a number of state conferences, including the Health, Wellness, and Safety Conference with Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation, the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children conference, the Maine Shared Services Alliance Conference, the Windham Child Care Providers conference, and the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation conference.

These highlights represent some of the new and expanded work being done by MRTQ PDN during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016. In addition to these initiatives, MRTQ PDN continues to offer its core services, including:

- **Processing 280 new Registry applications** from early childhood practitioners;

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- **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, and the Maine PDN Advisory Committee;
- **Maintaining the Statewide Electronic Training calendar.** During the contract period there were a total of 2,983 searches from 874 unique IP addresses. Fifty MRTQ PDN trainings were listed on the calendar and 29 trainings from other partners and college courses added.