

Report: April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019

Executive Summary

During the fourth quarter of the reporting period, Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN) continued its work toward promoting professionalism in the field of early childhood and out-of-school time programming 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 for this period. The following are a selection of highlights of the work completed by MRTQ PDN during this quarter:

- **During this quarter, a total of 25 trainings began and ended.** In the completed trainings, 95% of participants reported "somewhat agree" or "strongly agree" to the question "I have gained knowledge and skills presented in this training and will apply them in my practice."
- **During the contract period, a total of 46 elective trainings were delivered.** A total of 466 participants attended the elective trainings. Included in these elective trainings are the MRTQ PDN Communities of Practice (CoPs) that included training hours.
- **MRTQ PDN staff delivered approximately 886 hours of on-site consultation during the contract period (includes preparation, follow-up, and travel time).** This represents an increase of 12% over the previous quarter and a 52% increase over the same time period in FY18. In addition, MRTQ PDN staff fielded 475 phone and email technical assistance contacts. This includes nine Warm Line contacts during this quarter.
- **There are currently 28 active Communities of Practice (CoPs) throughout the state.** MRTQ PDN has CoP representation in all eight of the DHHS Districts. A total of 669 participants attended MRTQ PDN-sponsored CoPs during the reporting period. This represents a 26% increase in participation over the fourth quarter in FY18. A new hybrid CoP for program directors is in the planning stages for Washington, Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, and Piscataquis Counties with an anticipated start date of fall 2019.
- **MRTQ PDN and OCFS have continued meeting regarding the revisions to *Quality for ME*.** Maine has continued participating with the BUILD Initiative's QRIS Think Tank 3.0 as one of six states. The Think Tank includes peer learning, discussion, webinars, individual state consultation, and an in-person meeting. Work with the Think Tank began in January and will continue through July. At the final Think Tank session, Maine will present its action plan for going forward, utilizing what was learned during the Think Tank process.
- **MRTQ PDN continues its work with the Erikson Institute regarding the delivery of PD services to family child care practitioners.** Data collection and meetings continue with support from the Erikson Institute.
- **MRTQ PDN continued the agreement with Better Kid Care at Penn State Cooperative Extension to off the online training *Health and Safety Basics: Requirements for Certification to Maine practitioners*.** The training meets the CCDBG requirement for health and safety training and has been offered for free to Maine practitioners ongoing, as needed. MRTQ PDN staff arranged for a Maine-specific code to be used on the BKC website, with monthly reporting of practitioner completion from BKC to the MRTQ Registry. A total of 237 individuals completed the training online this quarter, bringing the overall total to 5,072 participants.
- **MRTQ PDN has launched its own Health and Safety training for Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) providers.** The online, on-demand training has 11 modules covering all of the CCDBG-required health and safety components. It is now available - for free - through the MRTQ PDN website. MRTQ PDN's arrangement with BKC will end at the end of July. The two-hour annual renewal covering the health and safety topics continues to be available. Any individual can log in through the Registry (or easily create a username and password) and immediately enroll in either training.
- **The Preventing Expulsion Action Team (PEAT), comprised of PDN staff from the training, TA, and communications departments, has created communications materials and a web page highlighting MRTQ PDN's work on social and emotional learning (SEL).** All materials can be viewed on the web: <https://mrtq.org/social-and-emotional-learning/>.
- **The District Coordinators continue outreach to all programs within their individual Districts.** This quarter MRTQ PDN started tracking the number of

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emails sent, including information from community partners as well as CoP invitations and meeting minutes. The result of these efforts are over 8,660 phone calls/ emails/in-person contacts made by the DC team. The DCs are making gains in meaningful ways to build relationships with all child care programs and practitioners.

- **In collaboration with Kennebec Valley Community College, MRTQ PDN is piloting a revision of the first of four courses in the Maine Infant Toddler Credential II.** Through KVCC's Workforce Development Center, the first training - "Working in Partnership with Families" - has been advertised and is set to begin in July. MRTQ PDN is working with the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee on the additional requirements for the revision of this Credential.
- **MRTQ PDN continues to collaborate with the Maine Afterschool Network (MASN) on professional development opportunities for out-of-school time programs.** Highlights of the work done during this reporting 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.
 - MRTQ PDN continues to work with the Strengthening Family Child Care group, along with DLRS, Family Child Care Association of Maine (FCCAM), higher education representatives, KVCAP, and family child care owners.

Supervisor meetings, the Maine Children's Growth Council, Professional Development Alignment Team, Child Care Advisory Council (quarterly), and the MRTQ PDN Advisory Council.

- **Maintaining the Maine Early Care and Education Training Calendar online.**
- **Maintaining the Child Care Choices website with accurate data regarding licensed program and *Quality for ME* information.**

These highlights represent some of the work being done by MRTQ PDN during the current reporting period. In addition to these initiatives, MRTQ PDN continues to offer its core services, including:

- **Processing 234 new Registry applications** from early childhood and out-of-school time practitioners.
- **Attending 100% of the meetings** with the Office of Child and Family Services, Licensing