



## Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network First Quarter Summary Report

Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN) promotes professionalism in the field of early childhood and out-of-school time (OST) programming through the provision of a statewide system of professional development. MRTQ PDN offers a variety of services, including:

- The MRTQ Registry;
- Core Knowledge, On-Demand, and Elective Training;
- Credentialing;
- Technical Assistance through:
  - On-site consultation;
  - Outreach;
  - The Warm Line;
  - Peer-to-peer networking through Communities of Practice (CoPs).

Additionally, MRTQ PDN provides support to programs of all settings regarding *Quality for ME*, Maine's Quality Rating System, Child Care Choices, and meeting the health and safety requirements for compliance with the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

In addition to the Quarterly Report submitted, which outlines the MRTQ PDN's progress toward our performance measures as described in the contract, the following are highlights of the work provided during the first quarter in promoting professionalism in our field, increasing quality of care, and providing a statewide system of professional development.

### The MRTQ Registry

The Registry is the core of Maine's professional recognition system. The Registry uses members' work, education, early childhood credentials, and training histories to assign a level on the appropriate Career Lattice. After joining the Registry, members have a convenient way of tracking ongoing training and educational accomplishments. Practitioners who join the Registry can choose the appropriate career lattice based on their work setting which includes:

- **License Exempt** individuals providing care for up to two unrelated children;
- **Direct Care** in licensed family childcare and center based settings;
- **Family Education and Support** for home visitors and family support individuals;
- **Administration Management/Coordination** for child care agency administrators and directors not providing direct care to children and youth;
- **Public School** for public school education technicians, teachers, and administrators.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY20, **355 practitioners joined the MRTQ Registry**. As the Registry continues to grow and reach practitioners in a variety of settings, **the number of Active Registry members has reached 12,341**.



## Training and Credentials

MRTQ PDN's Training Plan is developed with consideration of training needed for early childhood professionals working towards credentials, attaining higher Steps with *Quality for ME*, and child care licensing. The training is scheduled in two semesters: January through June and July through December. Training registration is open for the two semesters on December 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, respectively, with notification through MRTQ PDN's weekly e-newsletter, *SHORTcuts*.

Training enrollment is monitored once a week and a spreadsheet is distributed to MRTQ PDN staff. The Training staff provide outreach to credential candidates who need specific training to complete a particular credential. When a training has filled to capacity and a wait list is developing, staff contact participants on the wait list to determine their training needs. Often times, staff are able to direct participants to an open training for enrollment. When a true need exists for a particular training, it is discussed among Training staff and the Director to consider offering an additional training to meet the need. The wait list participants are given priority to any additional training and then opened to the public for registration. The outreach is documented and saved in a binder for reference.

Some trainings are offered once a year, until the demand for those trainings increase. Early childhood professionals who have indicated they are working on a credential are sent an email reminding them of the upcoming trainings they need.

During the first month of this quarter, when training participation is traditionally at our lowest enrollment, MRTQ PDN Training team transferred the online Core Knowledge and On-Demand trainings to a new version of Moodle, the online Learning Management System used by MRTQ PDN.

**This was done to increase accessibility and ease-of-use for practitioners** enrolled in MRTQ PDN Trainings. This update, along with an update to our Registry, **allows MRTQ PDN to be more responsive** by automating the enrollment of Registry users into trainings, automatically emailing participants directly with instructions on taking the course, and tracking training completion data.

**These updates to Moodle enhance the experience for the participant while increasing efficiency of MRTQ PDN staff time.**

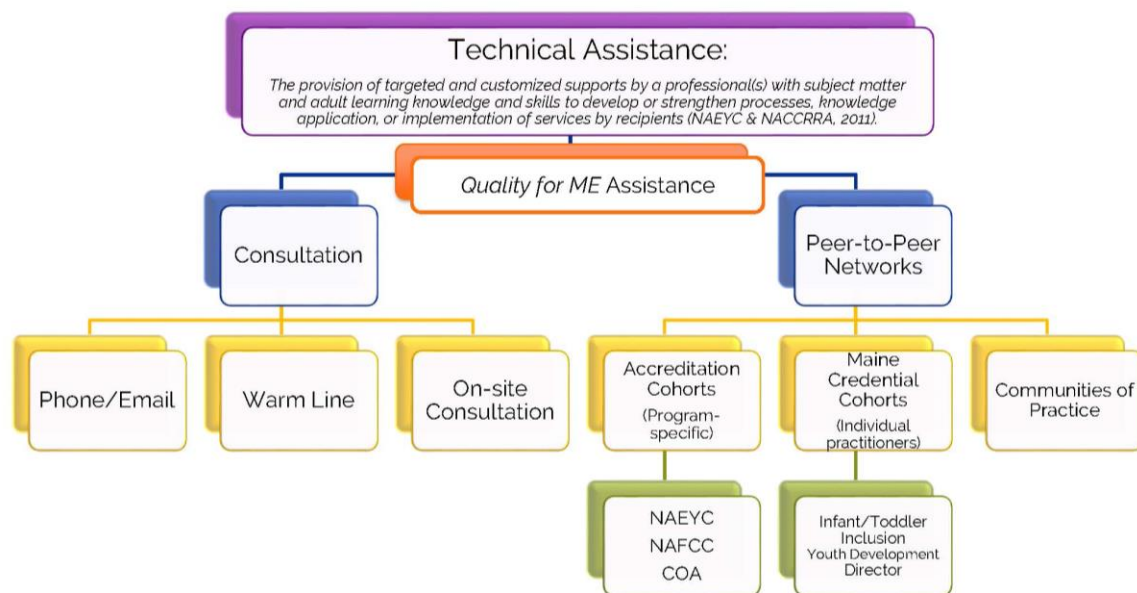
In summary, **103 participants representing all of Maine's 16 counties completed Core Knowledge Training during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter**. In addition, **122 practitioners** completed the Better Kid Care Health and Safety Training (phased out on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019).

**In addition, 45 elective trainings were offered reaching 225 individual participants.**

MRTQ PDN developed its own Health and Safety trainings for Child Care Subsidy Program providers to meet the CCDBG health and safety training requirements, including the Health and Safety Orientation 2019 (6 hours) and an Annual Renewal of CCDF Health and Safety (2 hours). During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, **720 participants completed the 6-hour Health and Safety Orientation training, while 182 practitioners participated in the 2-hour Annual Renewal Training.**

### Technical Assistance

MRTQ PDN has created a statewide system to offer technical assistance (TA) services to early childhood and out-of-school time programs working to improve program quality. The TA System supports the reflective processes that practitioners need in order to apply the theories and information learned through education and/or training to improve or sustain best practices.



In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY2020, MRTQ PDN District Coordinators (DCs) completed **99 outreach activities (calls/emails)** to programs in all districts.

DCs also delivered **on-site consultation at 30 programs** during the first quarter.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY2010, MRTQ PDN offered **41 Community of Practice meetings to 302 individual participants.**



### Child Care Choices offers families:

- The ability to search for child care by location, age of child, type of program, and rating with Quality for ME/QRIS.
- Compliance history for all licensed programs and monitoring results for non-relative, license exempt individuals and programs.
- Information on the Child Care Subsidy Program.
- A description of Quality for ME/QRIS.
- Maine data and the consumer education statement as required by the Child Care Development Block Grant.

MRTQ PDN staff and University of Maine Psychology Department staff meet monthly to discuss potential integrations to Child Care Choices, including **adding the monitoring reports of License Exempt Providers, as well as ways to improve the ease of use by child care programs and families.**

A marketing plan for Child Care Choices is being implemented, beginning with the creation of a Facebook page and **the launch of a radio ad campaign with Portland Radio Group (93.1FM).** Web traffic will continued to be monitored to measure the effectiveness of the radio ad. **During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY20, 3,672 individuals visited the Child Care Choices website.**

### Quality Rating and Improvement System Revisions

Staff from MRTQ PDN, OCFS, and the Maine Department of Education (DOE) revisited the proposed revisions to the standards of Quality for ME during FY19. Over the past year, the cross-agency team has done a comprehensive review of the proposed standards, based on the two reports submitted to OCFS in 2015 and 2016.

**The cross-agency team continues to meet and has developed the following steps for implementation:**

- Recruit participants for a pilot of the revised standards (10-15 programs of each type, from around the state) in fall 2019;
- Complete the pilot from January – May 2020;
- Integrate suggestions from the pilot and create needed supports during summer and fall of 2020;
- Work with OCFS and the Legislature to update the rules and statutes regarding the quality rating and improvement system;
- Roll out the completed revisions statewide in early 2021.



## Collaborations

MRTQ PDN staff collaborate statewide with a wide variety of organizations, including:

- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services;
- Maine Department of Education;
- MaineAEYC;
- Family Child Care Association of Maine (FCCAM);
- Maine Head Start Directors;
- Maine Early Childhood Higher Education Committee;
- Educare Central Maine;
- iLookOut;
- Child Care Licensing;
- And many others.

During the summer and fall of 2019, MRTQ PDN collaborated with MaineAEYC, FCCAM, OCFS, DOE, and Educare Central Maine on the **2019 Statewide Early Childhood Education Conference: Connecting ECE Birth through Eight across the State**. Staff and volunteers from all of the agencies came together to put on the first of its kind statewide conference for over **250** participants. The conference was held on Friday and Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In addition to the conference, **MRTQ PDN presented the 2019 Recognition Celebration on the night of October 4<sup>th</sup>**. More information about the conference and Recognition Celebration will be provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter a planning team from MRTQ PDN, MeAEYC, FCCAM and Washington County Community College collaborated to offer a conference in mid-October to Washington and Hancock county ECE practitioners. Simultaneously in York County a planning team comprised of the York County Coalition members, MRTQ PDN, and MeAEYC met to plan and offer a conference in York County. More information about these two conference will be provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report.