

QUALITY AT WORK

Oregon Childhood Care & Education Partners

TQRIS Brief

March/April 2013 Issue



A Special Edition Of The *Quality At Work Newsletter* For Partners In Oregon's Childhood Care And Education System

Inside this issue:

Quality Improvement Specialists

2

The field test of Oregon's QRIS is underway. What does this mean for programs in the four field test regions?

The initial touch point for programs is to attend a QRIS Increasing Quality Training facilitated by the Quality Improvement Specialists (QIS) at the four regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Programs can attend this free set one training and receive three hours of training. During the training, participants learn about the history of the QRIS in Oregon and nationally. They gain knowledge about the program standards for quality care and education. Detailed information about the application and portfolio process is included, and participants can obtain an application and self-assessment form at the training. The goal is for participants to have all of the information and documents they need to begin applying for a rating after the training.

TQRIS Around the Nation: Colorado

3

The Quality Improvement Specialists will provide follow up trainings, information, and assistance as needed for programs who seek additional support during their application process.

Increasing Quality Trainings

TQRIS Frequently Asked Questions

4

Community partners are welcome to attend the trainings if they desire the detailed information on the QRIS field test process.

Race to the Top: Update

Share Your Input

Wednesday March 20: 6-9pm La Pine
Thursday April 4: 6-9pm Bend
Friday April 5: Florence
Saturday April 6: Roseburg
Wednesday, April 10: 6:30-9:30pm Albany

Getting Started:

“Increasing Quality Training: Oregon’s QRIS”

Upcoming Trainings

www.oregonchildcaretraining.org

Thursday April 11: 6-9pm Multnomah
Saturday April 13: 9am-12pm Redmond
Tuesday April 16 6-9pm Bend
Wednesday April 17: 12-3pm Multnomah
Wednesday April 17: Eugene



Quality Improvement Specialists

The Quality Improvement Specialists (QIS), through the regional Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, are the key contacts and supports for programs participating in the QRIS field test. In February, the QIS received intensive training from Western Oregon University's Teaching Research Institute on QRIS standards and processes, and program recruitment and application. QIS are following a specific model of technical assistance to support participants, including components of adult learning styles and a continuum of technical assistance approaches.

Who are these Quality Improvement Specialists?

NeighborImpact Child Care Resources: Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook

Rae Alberg recently moved from Portland to Bend. While in Portland, she worked as a clinical research coordinator and soon realized she missed working with children. She received a teaching license and Master's degree in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education. She is passionate about creating environments and mindsets where ALL children are able to discover, explore and benefit, in a classroom or in a home.

Karen Prow has been living in Central Oregon since 1991. She has an AA degree in ECE and an AA degree in Family Studies. She worked directly with children for 25 wonder filled years. She has been working with Early Childhood professionals for the past 20 years in a variety of roles, including trainer and mentor. She is excited to be a part of the QRIS and looks forward to sharing this opportunity with the professionals working with children in Central Oregon.

Family Connections: Linn, Benton

Lynnette Wynkoop has a BA degree in Liberal Studies-Education, and over 40 hours of graduate level work in Education. She has worked with CCR&Rs for 12 years. Lynnette has been a consultant, the Oregon Registry Specialist, a part-time faculty member teaching child care classes, a mentor, a teaching assistant in the public schools, and owned and operated a family child care business. She is bilingual in Spanish/English.

Family Connections: Lane, Douglas

Terri Hansen has a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education Administration with over 27 years experience in the field with children ages from 6 weeks to 12 years.. She has been a Building a Business coach for the past 2 years and an Oregon Registry Master Trainer. Terri has been with Family Connections for 11 years.

Cheryle Myers has a Masters degree in both Early Childhood Education and Teaching. She has worked in the field of early care and education for 20 years, previously as a center-based Teacher and Head Start Coordinator, and most recently as a registered home provider.

TQRIS Around the Nation:



Colorado's QRIS, Qualistar, began in 2004 and like Oregon's QRIS, merged quality initiatives across the state.

Qualistar is a point system, allocating points based on learning environment, family partnerships, training and education, adult-to-child ratios and group size, and accreditation.

Beginning in 2010, Colorado began a "QRIS: The Next Generation" process to plan and redesign its QRIS based upon research, best practices, and learning from its current QRIS. The focus of the process includes refining the standards, linking providers to specific supports and incentives, and including school-age programs. Like Oregon, Colorado received the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Phase Two Grant to support its efforts.

Heather Freiling has a bachelor's degree in Religious Education. She has been a part of the early childhood field for over 20 years working as a teacher and center director for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, including as a mentor. Heather recently worked with Head Start in Douglas County and will continue to work in Douglas County.

Child Care Resource & Referral: Multnomah

Debbie Buta has been with the CCR&R for five years. Prior to that, Debbie worked as a preschool teacher, Teen Parent Center Director, and with Head Start/Early Head Start for 11 years. She is a master trainer with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Debora Johnson has a bachelor's degree in child development. She was a child care center preschool coordinator for 21 years and worked with Head Start for 10 years. Debora recently joined the CCR&R as a QIS.

Carol McMurdie has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and many graduate credits. She has been with the CCR&R of Multnomah County for more than five years. She owned and operated her own child care center for 16 years, and is a master trainer with more than 10 years of experience.

Stephanie Webster began in January at the CCR&R as a QIS. She was a Head Start teacher for five years. Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in early childhood education.

Increasing Quality Training: An Inside View

Oregon's first Increasing Quality Training occurred in Lane County in February. Terri Hansen shares some insights into these first trainings:

"Twenty-seven participants attended. All of the programs that participated were interested in continuing the QRIS process. Many programs emailed me the next day that they had already submitted their QRIS applications! Programs perceived the benefits of the QRIS to be funds to help improve their programs, gaining a better understanding of early learning standards, and having access to a QIS for support and technical assistance. The training evaluations provided feedback that programs liked the idea of upcoming workshops related to QRIS standards, having their voice heard in the field test process, and looked forward to 'Community Cafés,' monthly drop-in support hours. Programs are excited to get started!"

TQRIS Frequently Asked Questions...

I work in a region that is not part of the field test. What can partners or programs in these other regions do about QRIS until it rolls out statewide?

The field test works with programs in designated regions. However, programs in other regions can work with their staff to move up on the Oregon Registry through submitting training and education documents and creating professional development plans. Programs can learn more about curricula, screening, and assessment tools. (access trainings via oregonchildcaretraining.org)

What is the best thing to tell programs about the benefits of QRIS?

The QRIS provides tools, financial incentives and expert advice for child care and early learning programs. It creates a marketing tool to grow programs or help assure parents that their child is in expert hands helping children be ready for kindergarten. The QRIS supports raising the quality of programs and recognizes and rewards what programs are already doing well. The QRIS helps professionalize the field.

Snapshot for March and April

Oregon's QRIS field test has begun. The four regions have highly trained Quality Improvement Specialists through the regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Programs are being recruited and welcomed to attend the Increasing Quality Training, an introduction to the QRIS and first step in progressing in the QRIS. Community partners are also invited to attend these sessions to learn details about the QRIS process.



Race to the Top: Update

Oregon is working with the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to create a detailed project plan for the QRIS. State partners are compiling activities, timelines, and deliverables that will anchor the work expected related to the RTT work. The project plan is due to federal partners in on March 29th. Oregon's Race to the Top team will be attending a nation-wide Race to the Top meeting in Washington D.C. in April.

Share Your Input! Public Input Sessions

February's TQRIS public input forum provided an opportunity for Teaching Research Institute staff to update attendees on the QRIS field test. With an intensive training of Quality Improvement Specialists completed, recruitment of programs has begun.

Please join us for the next input session at Roth's Hospitality Center, West Salem

Thursday, April 4 2013 11-12:30pm

This TQRIS brief is distributed bi-monthly. If you would like to contribute ideas or FAQs, please contact Meredith Russell at the Child Care Division: 503-947-1243 or by email:

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