

# Sparking Solutions and Sharing Systems Strategies

July 16-18

San Diego, California

**Build**  
INITIATIVE  
Strong Foundations For  
Our Youngest Children

QRIS  
National Learning Network



## 2018 Pre-Conference Sessions July 16, 2018 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Pre-Registration Required to Participate**

### 209. Not All Directors Are the Same: What Research Indicates about Developmental Stages, How to Individualize Technical Assistance, and the Impact on QRIS

Leadership matters for sustaining quality practices in the classroom, yet many QRIS do not address measures of leadership. This session explores new research on the developmental stages of directors (novice, capable, and master), addresses methods for individualizing supports, and considers implications for QRIS. Through rich discussion and interactive exercises participants will learn how to embed these new findings into state systems and work with administrators.

**Presenters:** Michael Abel and Jill Bella, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

### 210. Successfully Utilizing e-Learning in Early Childhood Quality Improvement

E-Learning is everywhere! Yet, as with in-person professional development, quality and outcomes vary greatly. Come explore lessons learned in utilizing e-learning across state systems. Develop your own e-learning program that will take your QRIS to the next level of quality, while involving all early education providers including hard-to-reach populations. The facilitators of this session have worked with e-learning systems and courseware for many years in diverse early education settings and look forward to working with you to strategize effective practices that will work across all our states.

**Presenters:** Nikki Darling-Kuria and Jodi Whiteman, ZERO TO THREE; Kim-Tai DeMars and Gillian Gansler, Quality Assist; Kara Lehnhardt, North Carolina Partnership for Children; Pilar Torres, Fathum, Inc. Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

### 236. Shaping a More Unifying and Sustainable: A QRIS Hackathon with NAEYC and QRIS Experts

The QRIS validation studies and evaluations are telling the field that, if we want to achieve our goals, we have to change our work: our measures, monitoring, and incentives. But with limited

public funding, layering on these changes to the existing model falls somewhere between tough and impossible. Knowing how important it is for our field to get this right, NAEYC has been in "hackathon" mode. We think that, working together, we can collaboratively develop and implement a new, unifying QRIS that could respond to the past and shape the future. We invite you to preview, hack, and guide this more unifying, sustainable and incentivizing QRIS.

**Presenters:** Speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **247. EarlyEdU Alliance and QRIS: Alliance State Strategies to Support Quality and Pathways to Degrees**

In this session, participants will learn about the free early childhood workforce development resources available to states and institutions of higher education through the EarlyEdU Alliance. Following this brief overview, a panel discussion with representatives from Utah, Arizona, California, and Louisiana will outline how they are leveraging these resources to support their QRIS. This will provide the content foundation for small group work on strategic planning in your own system.

**Presenters:** Shayna Cook, New America; Katie Emerson-Hoss, University of Washington; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **264. QRIS 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About QRIS but Were Afraid to Ask**

This interactive, introductory session is for anyone interested in learning more about QRIS including new state leaders, implementation partners, Head Start grantees and staff, and others! Discussion will focus on emerging research and trends; standards and frameworks; and implementation considerations like monitoring and supporting diverse populations. Opportunities will be offered to connect at different points of the conference to share information, ask questions and make connections. Space is limited.

**Presenters:** Zeld Boyd and Char Goodreau, National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **316. Think of This as a Mini-Retreat to Ignite (or Re-ignite) Your SPARK as a Leader!**

Leadership is energizing...and, leadership is exhausting! Feeling the need for a renewed mindset, wishing you could bring out the best in yourself and others, or wondering how you could better manage your energy to make it through the challenging times ahead? Learn a leadership framework called SPARK, take time to reflect on choices you can make now, and engage in meaningful dialogue to step into new refreshing practices. Expect a short reflection assignment via e-mail about two weeks prior to the session.

**Presenters:** Maggie McGlynn, McGlynn Leadership

#### **320. From Spark to Flame to Fireworks: Ignite Individual Insight, Collaborative Inquiry, and Strategic Action using Data as a Catalyst**

During this highly interactive session, University of Florida facilitators will share the structures and processes they have found most effective in promoting powerful, collaborative data analysis. They will model how to facilitate adult dialogue when examining multiple sources of data and explore how intentional collection, selection, and interrogation of data can drive

both strategic planning and CQI. Participants are encouraged to bring their own QRIS data and/or dilemmas of practice.

**Presenters:** Valerie Mendez-Farinas and Alexandra Prinstein, University of Florida Lastinger Center; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

### **341. Reframing Family Engagement in the Early Childhood Classroom, Program, & System**

Add your voice to a facilitated exploration of opportunities and challenges related to embedding family engagement requirements in QRIS. Participants will hear about promising practices, then explore family engagement as an entry point to cultural competence; opportunities to partner with families in setting and meeting children's learning and development goals; and challenges related to documentation and measurement. Bring your expertise and questions and help us explore this topic together.

**Presenters:** Iheoma Iruka, High Scope; Katrina Montaño-White, New Mexico Office of Child Care; Mary Lee Porterfield, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

### **358. Marketing and Outreach: Strategies, Tactics and Stunts that Increase Provider Participation and Family Awareness**

If you have a QRIS system that has low provider participation or you want to reach more parents through smart marketing and outreach, this is your session. This session will talk about marketing and outreach strategies that you can implement to improve parent awareness and increase provider participation in your QRIS program. No matter what state or municipality your QRIS covers, there are many strategies, tactics, and stunts that you can use to make your program more visible and invaluable to parents and providers. Participants will leave with actionable plans to improve their marketing and outreach.

**Presenters:** Brian Siatkowski, Johns Hopkins University; Other speakers to be announced at a later date.

### **379. Integrating a Cross Sector Approach for Building Resiliency in Infants, Toddlers and Caregivers**

Brain science and research has led to increased awareness of the impact of adverse experiences on the health and learning of young children. What about the adults in their lives? This interactive session will highlight a holistic approach to build resiliency in infants, toddlers, their families and the infant/toddler workforce. Participants will explore strategies that include reflective practice, relationship-based competencies, and shared resources for building a comprehensive system of support.

**Presenters:** Tina Jiminez and Jeanne VanOrsdal, State Capacity Building Center; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

### **401. QRIS Research Roundup**

This session will highlight recent research and its implications for Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. The session will offer an opportunity for participants to learn about new research findings and discuss the implications of research for QRIS and other quality-related efforts.

**Presenters:** Kelly Maxwell and Kathryn Tout, Child Trends; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **407. How Do We Know What's Working: Embracing Data & Assessment in State Expulsion Prevention Strategies**

This discussion will examine approaches to state policy and data that guide expulsion prevention efforts, exploring the question, "how will we know if our efforts are working?" Arkansas and Colorado will compare their approaches when supporting programs to foster children's development and respond to challenging behaviors. They will share how they gather data, determine staff needs, and use assessments in their TA and ECMH consultation efforts, and track outcomes that allow for looking at trends and influencing upstream strategies, e.g. professional development and quality improvement.

**Presenters:** Carey McCann, BUILD Initiative; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **410. Racial Equity and Early Childhood: Building Equitable Systems 101**

On almost every measure of child and family well-being, race and class are powerful factors associated with opportunity and outcome disparities. Our early childhood systems are not working for all children, families and communities, and may exacerbate inequities. What can early childhood systems leaders do to intentionally build equitable early childhood systems that ensure equity? Join us during this interactive pre-conference session working together to apply key concepts, strategies, and tools supporting racial equity across state and community early childhood systems.

**Presenters:** Aisha Ray and Michelle Stover Wright, BUILD Initiative; Other speakers will be announced at a later date.

#### **411. The Role of Technical Assistance in Supporting Movement from Compliance to a Culture of Improvement**

Engage with colleagues in thinking about technical assistance as a support for programs. This session is geared for state leaders and partners implementing technical assistance. What are the skills needed to engage with programs to embrace and sustain change? How are coaches assisted in their own improvement work? Are there promising strategies to facilitate improvement with programs serving families and children from diverse cultures and language backgrounds? How are states knitting together a variety of options to support program driven improvement and aligning technical assistance and initiatives within the state? Let's identify challenges and opportunities and together co-create a vision of excellence for our technical assistance systems.

**Presenters:** Deb Mathias, BUILD Initiative; Other facilitators will be announced at a later date.