

Quarterly Report of Progress

Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research (MAIER)

March, 2015

New items in [Blue](#).

Indicators:

1.1.a MAIER will deliver quarterly electronic reports to the Department on September 15, 2014

- Describing the progress, barriers and status in the development of MAIER.
 - The Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research has made a tremendous impact on professionals and families during this inaugural year January 2014 – January 2015. During this quarterly reporting period, the MAIER Professional Development series offered **five** PD opportunities around the state (see previous report for locations and presenters) with **275** professionals and families in attendance. **Three** professional development opportunities are remain for spring 2015. The Professional Development Series for PD Spring Schedule with venues and presenters is presented as **Appendix E**. Overall, positive results were indicated on participants' post surveys. Results from these surveys are attached as **Appendix A**. Although post survey reminders were sent to participants a minimum of two times, the response rate was lower than expected. To increase the response rates in April and May, contact hour certificates will be provided following completion of the post survey.
 - The Maine Autism Institute's Family Partnership did not meet within this reporting period. The MAIER Family Partnership hosted their second community partnership event with the Maine Discovery Museum to support and sponsor "My Day to Play." This event was held March 20, 2014 and 68 individuals were in attendance. Two flyers are attached – **Appendix B**.
 - The Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research working in partnership with the Maine DOE and Child Development Services began implementing the Early Start Denver Model for young children with autism spectrum disorders January 2015. Fidelity training for primary service providers and contracted providers occurred January 26, 2015 at the Bangor Savings Bank conference room in Augusta. First Steps ESDM training occurred February 23, 2015 at Wells Conference Center in Orono. Follow up fidelity training is scheduled for March 30, 2015 also in Orono. Partnered implementation with families and children began January 6, 2015 for CDS Peds, CDS Reach, CDS First Step, CDS Two Rivers, and CDS Aroostook; and for remaining sites February 2015.
 - MAIER participated in the Southern Maine Autism Conference Saturday, March 14. There were 300+ participants at the conference and 121 participants joined our mailing list to receive updates and information.
 - The MAIER 5 year plan progress has been provided in Appendix C.

1.1.b Electronic reports will include:

- MAIER's action plan and UM approval for MAIER,
 - 5-year plan progress provided in Appendix C.
- Recipients of MAIER services by topic and by type of service provided (webinar, consultation, workshop, etc.) and include the type of participants (ex: parent, SAU, community organization, specific MALTs), and the dates provided during the reporting period,
 - Professional development series for spring 2015 included 5 PD opportunities with a total of 275 participants.
- Workshop agendas, handouts and participant lists, during the reporting period,
 - Attached as **separate presentations**.
- Electronic copies of resources developed and distributed during the reporting period,
 - Electronic resources available through maineautisminstitute.org
- Syllabus of relevant courses with a description of how the courses were infused with specific instruction regarding interventions for children with ASD, and
 - Course syllabi provided in the previous report.
 - MAIER received approval in June 2014 to offer a Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders. The primary purpose of this 3-course certificate sequence is to prepare experienced educators, administrators and related service providers to assume a leadership role in the development and implementation of educational programs for students with autism in school settings.

Certificate program objectives:

- *Candidates will develop theoretical knowledge and applied skills for understanding the needs of students with ASD and providing evidence-based practices according to individual needs.*
- *Candidates will have the necessary theoretical and applied background to provide leadership to their schools and districts in developing a sound model of educational and social/behavioral support and intervention.*
- *Candidates will be familiar with and able to access available resources to support their districts' efforts in providing services for their students with ASD.*
- *Candidates will have the knowledge and skills to serve as team leaders and coaches in supporting program implementation in their schools and districts.*

Courses:

- The certificate program includes three courses (a total of 9 credits). Courses will be offered annually, one per semester, in the following sequence:

SED 528 Educational Methods for Students with Autism – offered Fall 2014

SED 598/CSD 586 Communication for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders – offered Fall 2014 and offered Spring 2015.

SED 563 Positive Behavioral Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders – offered Summer 2015

- Number of college credits or Continuing Education Units (CEUs) awarded for each relevant professional development event, and the number of individuals receiving the credits or CEUs during the reporting period.
 - During this reporting period, two individuals have been accepted into the Graduate Certificate for Autism program.
 - During this reporting period, 275 individuals received contact hours for participating in the Spring 2015 professional development workshops.

Indicator:

1.2.a UM will deliver a comprehensive electronic report to the Department by December, 2014,

- Analyzing the survey results and describing the data collected and how the data will be, and/or has been, used to shape services. [Indicator previously MET.](#)
 - MAIER staff surveyed Maine colleges and universities to determine availability of undergraduate and graduate coursework relevant to ASD and other developmental disabilities. The survey is attached. Results indicate two universities within the UM system offering coursework in Applied Behavioral Analysis. University of Southern Maine has a graduate degree program in ABA; whereas University of Maine Farmington offers a Graduate Certificate in ABA. Each of these programs indicates one specific course focused on ASD; however, it is the assumption of MAIER staff that much of the content within the program would indeed focus on students with ASD. The University of Maine offers graduate level special education courses for professionals with an autism focus. The high incidence program lists these courses as possible electives. The early intervention program requires three courses that are autism specific. Very few undergraduate courses within the universities and colleges in Maine have a primary focus of autism. Kennebec Valley Community College is the exception. KVCC offers a 34 credit associate degree for applied science in autism studies. The results of this survey will be used for several purposes. First, MAIER staff will serve as a resource to existing programs offering courses in autism. Next, MAIER staff will promote courses within Maine that are autism specific, helping to increase awareness of professionals, paraprofessionals, undergraduate and graduate students. Also, MAIER staff will seek ways to increase the number of undergraduate courses offered in regions where universities have graduate level

programs to support personnel preparation. MAIER staff will continue to review the data and determine additional ways to increase the number of knowledgeable professionals serving individuals with ASD.

Indicator:

2.3.a The Provider will submit electronic reports to the Department on December, 2014 and will

- Identify the materials uploaded to the website, and
 - Materials added to the MAIER website include professional development opportunities, calendar of events, news stories, information about MAIER staff and the MAIER mission.
 - Website access: <http://maineautisminstitute.org>
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/maineautisminstitute>
- Specify the number of hits on the website during the reporting period.
 - At this time, the website does not have the capabilities to track the number of hits. [The MAIER Facebook page has 191 likes.](#)

Indicator:

2.4.a The Provider will submit an electronic report to the Department by December, 2014

- Materials and information to be added to the website
 - [The Events calendar highlights the activities of community agencies – see Events tab.](#)
 - [PD opportunities added to website – see Professional Development tab.](#)
 - [Additional community agencies and Maine Autism Partners will be linked to the website as permission is granted.](#)

2.4.b The Provider will submit electronic reports to the Department on June 15, 2014, September 15, 2014, December 15, 2014, March 15, 2015, and June 15, 2015.

- Specify each link to resources and provide the number of participants on the website during the reporting period.
 - Please refer to the website for resources and links.