The Power of Re-engagement: Re-establishing Maine’s Head Start State Collaboration Office

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“A collaborative effort is driven by partners who agree to share information, activities, resources, influence, power, and decision-making authority to achieve common goals - goals that no single partner or program could achieve by acting alone.”

Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

Poster Overview:
Through a state agreement with the Maine Governor’s Office, the Maine Head Start State Collaboration Office (MHSSCO) was relocated to the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (ME UCEDD) and officially opened on October 1, 2013. Prior to this relocation, Maine’s Head Start State Collaboration Office had several years of inactivity; this dormant period coincided with significant structural changes and funding cuts to Maine’s early childhood care and education system.

The Collaboration Office’s re-engagement with existing collaborators and new partners also coincides with a promising period of systems redesign. The types of organizations serving Head Start populations and other low income families include child care providers, early childhood systems, Public Pre-K, healthcare providers, services for children experiencing homelessness, welfare/child welfare, community services, services for children with disabilities, family literacy, and education-relationships with LEAs (local education agencies).