



A message from the TARSS team

As many of you may already know, TARSS has a dedicated evaluation team. Our team is made up of [Mary McEathron, PhD](#), and [Meredith Reese](#). Evaluation means we collect information to find out how TARSS is doing. Importantly, we share that information with the rest of the TARSS team so that we can use it to make positive changes to the program. We also report back to our funding agency, the Department of Human Services, twice a year.

So, where do we get our information about how TARSS is doing? We have several different sources. We compile data from the Training and Trainer Evaluation Tool (TTET) in Develop. We create surveys and interview stakeholders in the early education training field in Minnesota. For example, we have conducted focus groups with trainers from Hmong-speaking, Somali-speaking, and Spanish-speaking communities.

Recently, we interviewed staff at partner organizations that work with TARSS, such as Achieve and Child Care Aware. We learned that many of you would like to hear more about what we're finding out through our evaluation activities. In response, we are adding a new section to The Source called the Evaluation Corner! In this section, we'll share key takeaways from our evaluation work. We'll also be asking you a question or two for some impromptu feedback. Email us at tarss@umn.edu to let us know what you think!

New translations of Minnesota's Knowledge and Competency Framework for trainers

Minnesota's Knowledge and Competency Framework (KCF) for trainers is a comprehensive description of trainer competencies on which to base training of trainers, trainer observation, or trainer evaluation. The framework is designed to support the work of trainers who train Minnesota's early childhood and school age care practitioners. The KCF for trainers is now available in English, Somali, and Spanish.

[Download the trainer KCF](#)

**REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!**

**2024 TRAINER AND
RBP SYMPOSIUM**
April 25-27 at Ruttger's
Bay Lake Lodge

Center for Early Education
and Development
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TARSS

Register for the Symposium today!

Our [full lineup of incredible Symposium speakers](#) is now available for you to browse! A few highlights:

- Keynotes with poet and activist Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre
- Intensive sessions on reflective practices and conversations, course writing, trauma-informed coaching, family child care, and more
- Friday night karaoke and game night!
- Registration includes all lodging, meals, snacks, and sessions!

Registration is \$400 for a single room or \$275 if you share. Don't let cost stop you from attending! [Apply for a scholarship](#) and receive up to \$215 off your registration fee. Hurry, because the deadline to apply is March 31! You will be notified by April 5 if you qualify for a scholarship.

Register

The evaluators are in!



Welcome to the Evaluation Corner!

For our inaugural note, we want to tell you more about our partner interviews. In December and January, we conducted 16 interviews with staff from all the partner organizations that work with TARSS. The purpose of the interviews was to learn what TARSS is doing well, as well as any considerations or gaps that we need to address. We also asked for suggestions on strengthening partnerships between TARSS and other organizations in the field.

The conversations were incredible—full of insights and suggestions. We completed our analysis and have begun discussing our findings with the rest of the TARSS team. In the coming months, we'll share specifics from the report and the actions TARSS is taking in response.

MENTOR FCC

**A NEW PEER
MENTORING
INITIATIVE
FROM TARSS!**



Now accepting applications

We have an exciting new opportunity for family child care (FCC) providers! **Mentor FCC** is a new initiative matching experienced FCC providers with peers who are looking for support in their careers. We are now accepting applications for both mentor and mentee roles!

[Learn more and apply](#)

More opportunities

CALLING ALL

RBPB



We need your help!

Do you coach, mentor or advise early childhood professionals? Then we have an opportunity for you! We are recording RBPB specialists'

SPECIALISTS!

sessions to train new coaches and observers.

- Virtual and in-person sessions needed
- \$50 Target gift card for each participant

Learn more! Contact Karen Trewartha-Weiner at trew0008@umn.edu.



From our friends at Achieve

Visit Achieve's [newly redesigned website](#) for a fresh new look, easier navigation, and better options for locating Develop membership resources!

Upcoming Trainings

I am a trainer

[Intro to Trainer Competencies and Observation](#)
(self-paced online)

[Exploring Instructional Design: Considerations for Trainers](#)
(self-paced online)

I want to be a trainer

[Minnesota Trainer Orientation Module 1](#)
(self-paced online)

[Minnesota Trainer Orientation Module 2](#)
(self-paced online)

[Adult Learning Module 1: Delivery Skills](#)
(3/5-3/25, 5/3-5/23)

[Adult Learning Module 2: Design Skills](#)
(3/16, 4/12-5/2, 6/6-6/26)

I want to be a course writer

[Minnesota Course Writer Orientation](#)
(self-paced online)

[Course Writer: Design Skills](#)
(4/18, 4/20, 6/14)

[Course Writer: Crafting and Drafting a Course](#)
(3/19, 4/20, 5/15, 6/21)

Resource refresh

The Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health offers a [Toolkit for Healing-Centered Practice](#) that includes resources on stress; trauma-informed care; and supporting children, families, and caregivers.

What we're reading

- [Considerations for Trauma-Informed Child Care and Early Education Systems](#) (Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation)
- [Uncertainty: The Surprising Gift of Being Unsure](#) (podcast; *OnPoint*)
- [Why We Learn Best through Play](#) (podcast; *Speaking of Psychology*)

Get in touch! Email us at tarss@umn.edu or call 612-624-5708.

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