

newsletter



Maine Center of Excellence for
Behavioral Health and Well-being



Spring Updates from the Maine COE

This spring brings important progress across Maine's system of care. From new policy changes to expanded provider capacity and continued training opportunities, there is strong momentum behind efforts to improve access to high-quality behavioral health services for children, youth, and families.



High-Fidelity Wraparound Now MaineCare Billable

A Major Step Forward for Wraparound in Maine



Final rulemaking establishes reimbursement for High-Fidelity Wraparound in Maine

Maine has finalized a rule that allows High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) to be reimbursed under Behavioral Health Home services.

This is a significant milestone. Providers can now be reimbursed for delivering the intensive, team-based, and family-centered approach that defines Wraparound.

Key implications:

- Supports sustainable implementation of HFW across providers
- Expands access to care for youth with complex needs
- Strengthens alignment with Maine's broader system of care goals

This change reflects a clear commitment from the state to invest in high-quality, coordinated supports for children and families, and creates new opportunities for providers to expand this work.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Coach Spotlight: High-Fidelity Wraparound Coach, Victoria Rodrigue

Celebrating the People Who Make
This Work Possible

What inspired you to become a coach with the Maine Center of Excellence?

When I was working in education, I saw the lack of resources available to families who had children struggling with complex behavioral health issues. Families in crisis would be on waiting lists for months or even a year, and youth were not getting the support they needed. Those challenges often carry into the classroom. Burnout is a huge issue in education, as it is in social work, and much of my career felt like pushing a rock uphill.

We're asked to do more with less, to shift our mindset, and embrace change. I spent several years working as a coach and trainer for educational leaders, and through that work, I realized this is not something any individual, school, or organization can fix on their own. After schools reopened, I kept hearing about the growing need for behavioral health services. Educators and families were at a breaking point. I considered returning to my role as a principal, but I knew that truly addressing these needs required systems change.

What do you like about HFW?

I like the team and community-based approach to HFW. In education, we often say, "it takes a village to raise a child," but we live in a world that emphasizes doing things on our own. That's not realistic, especially for families dealing with complex behavioral health issues. When families seek support, it's often beyond what they can manage alone. The team-based approach in HFW brings together both formal providers and informal supports already in the family's life.

We all need to feel connected to our communities. Informal supports (family, friends, neighbors, or others) are critical because they remain even after formal services end. Having those connections helps families feel less isolated and more supported over time.

What do you hope this work will accomplish?

I hope this work helps shift the way we view behavioral health challenges among youth. I'd like to see movement away from the idea that this is something youth or families need to manage on their own.

We all benefit when youth are supported and connected to their communities. Ideally, this work contributes to a broader shift in which supporting others is seen as a shared responsibility, and that support continues to be paid forward.



Strengthening Family Peer Support through PEARLS



Is your organization ready to provide authentic Family Peer Support?

Through PEARLS, the Maine COE supports organizations in strengthening the skills needed to deliver consistent, high-quality Family Peer Support. Coaching focuses on building and reinforcing core PEARLS Meta-Skills so they are demonstrated in every interaction with families.

What COE offers through PEARLS:

- Individualized coaching and supervisor support tailored to your team's needs
- Guidance for supervising staff with lived experience
- Tools to support supervision and align documentation with best practices
- Strategies and examples that demonstrate the impact of effective peer support

PEARLS Meta-Skills include:

- Peer-based relationship
- Encouragement for decision-making
- Active acceptance
- Respect
- Linking through collaborative problem-solving
- Suspending and interrupting bias

Supervisors can begin coaching after completing **PEARLS 401: Applied Supervision**.

[DOWNLOAD THE FLYER](#)



Resource Spotlight: Unwrapping Wraparound Podcast

Unwrapping Wraparound: Innovations in Care Coordination is a monthly podcast from the Innovations Institute at the UConn School of Social Work.

Through interviews, reflections, and skill-focused discussions, the podcast features conversations with national leaders, practitioners, family partners, and researchers. Each episode explores real-world lessons from the field, implementation and workforce challenges, and practical strategies to support children and youth with complex needs and their families.

Hosted by Kim Coviello and Conan Green, this series offers relevant insights for both those new to Wraparound and experienced professionals looking to deepen their practice.

LISTEN NOW

What Training Participants are Saying

We continue to hear positive feedback from participants across HFW and PEARLS trainings:



“Very good trainers. Kept everyone on their toes, asked relevant questions, and kept everyone engaged.”

– Training Participant, High Fidelity Wraparound Training

“Hearing the peers with more experience than I have was really helpful; it really helped me understand the parameters of the role.”

– Training Participant,
PEARLS Training





Provider Spotlight: The Opportunity Alliance

A Community Anchor for Whole-Family, Coordinated Care

Who Opportunity Alliance Is & the Services They Provide

The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) is a dynamic, results-driven Community Action Agency working predominantly in Cumberland County, Maine. TOA supports people with the programs and resources they need to improve their health, safety, and stability, building stronger communities across Maine.

TOA describes its approach as holistic, focused on supporting the “whole individual, whole family, and whole neighborhood through connected programs and partnerships.” Their services are designed to meet urgent needs while building long-term stability.

Connection to Maine COE

TOA describes the Maine COE as a critical partner in their work, noting: “We see The Opportunity Alliance as the community anchor, and the Maine COE as our compass.” They highlight how COE coaching and implementation support have helped their team align with national standards, and that the partnership has helped to stabilize specialized roles within their High-Fidelity Wraparound team and strengthen their support for families.

Program Highlight

TOA was the first organization in Maine to commit to offering the High-Fidelity Wraparound Health Home model. While an early adopter of this structure, their experience in Wraparound spans more than 15 years, including partnerships with systems such as the Department of Corrections.

They note that Wraparound principles are fully integrated into their approach and point to strong results incorporating Youth Peer Support, explaining that, “Having a partner with lived experience offers youth a relatable perspective and helps turn a daunting journey into a more manageable path toward independence.”

Impact and What’s Next

TOA describes the state’s commitment to High-Fidelity Wraparound as a meaningful step forward, stating it allows them to “move forward with purpose and provide families with high-quality care.”

With a trained team and experienced leadership in place, TOA is expanding services across Cumberland and York counties and is preparing to support newly approved youth and families.

Learn more about the Opportunity Alliance at www.opportunityalliance.org



Upcoming Trainings & Professional Development

The Maine COE offers a range of training opportunities in:

- **High-Fidelity Wraparound**
- **Peer Connect**
- **PEARLS Family Peer Support**

In addition to foundational training, COE provides reflection sessions and ongoing professional development opportunities that support collaboration, skill-building, and consistency in practice.

Join Us for the Inaugural Maine COE Community of Practice

This is a great opportunity to convene, connect, and strengthen our collaboration. Our aim is to deliver high-quality professional development content that meets the needs of providers and supports their implementation process. We know how important it is to offer resources that are both practical and relevant, and we're committed to making each session meaningful. Beyond learning together, this community is here to celebrate successes, help each other navigate challenges, and share insight into implementing multi-model service delivery. We hope you find the sessions supportive and inspiring as we grow together.

Please join us for our first virtual meeting.

- **Date:** June 30, 2026
- **Time:** 1:00pm- 2:30pm
- **Location:** Virtual- ZOOM
- **Register Here:** [Maine COE Community of Practice – Fill out form](#)

EXPLORE TRAININGS NOW

Growing the Work Together

This spring reflects steady growth across Maine's system of care, from important policy advancements to expanded provider capacity and new opportunities to strengthen practice.



That progress is driven by the ongoing work happening across the state every day. Your collaboration, commitment, and willingness to adapt and grow continue to move this work forward.

We encourage you to engage with available resources, participate in upcoming trainings, and stay connected as we continue building a stronger, more responsive system of care for children, youth, and families.

Visit mainecoe.org for ongoing updates, tools, and training opportunities.



Strengthening Maine's behavioral health system for youth and families.

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