Branagh Information Group and the Authors of the *Environment Rating Scales* to present at NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo

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Branagh Information Group will present along with the authors of the *Environment Rating Scales,* Dick Clifford, Debby Cryer and Thelma Harms, at the **upcoming NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Florida.**

The Environment Rating Scales: Looking Ahead After 40 Years
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
8:15-11:15am • Orange County Convention Center, Room W204C
Cody Carlton, Richard Clifford, Debby Cryer, Ann Gula, Thelma Harms, Denise Jenson, Tricia Sifford, and Jill Soto

This session will provide an overview of the history of the scales; introduce the ECERS-3, a new updated Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale for the 21st Century; examine how the ECERS-3 focuses on teaching and interactions; guidance on decisions to transition to the ECERS-3, including improved scoring methods for use of ECERS-R leading up to the transition to ECERS-3;how to prepare in general for the transition; and guidance on how to identify supports available for users of the instruments and future thinking.

Effective Collaboration Approaches Between Assessors and Providers in Using the Environment Rating Scales for Quality Improvement
Thursday, November 19, 2015
1:00-2:30pm • Orange County Convention Center, W307B
 Thelma Harms and Janice Carter
This workshop will address effective approaches for planning and carrying out periodic assessments including provider preparation and support, scheduling, providing clear assessor feedback, and post assessment services for improvement. Examples of methods employed by effective statewide programs will be examined and discussed.

Reaching for Higher Ground Through Advancements in Assessing Learning Environments: Transitioning from ECERS-R to ECERS-3 Within an Established QRIS
Thursday, November 19, 2015
3:00-4:30pm • Orange County Convention Center, Room W311C
Richard Clifford, Ann Gula, Denise Jenson, and Megan Showalter

With the development of the third edition of the ECERS, early learning programs and state QRISs have a new tool at their disposal. The ECERS-3 incorporates increased expectations for best practice, particularly in the areas of teacher/child interactions and instructional practices related language/literacy and math learning, raising the bar for increased child outcomes.

Pennsylvania's QRIS has utilized the ERS tools for the past 13 years as a measure of classroom quality practice, conducting over 1700 ERS assessments in 2013-14. While the ERS has been used for program improvement initiatives in Georgia for over 11 years, statewide program improvement as part of a systemic QRIS was introduced in 2012. Since then over 1450 ERS observations have been conducted as program participation grows steadily each year. As part of both state's ongoing CQI efforts, decisions were made to transition from the use of the ECERS-R to the ECERS-3, engaging early learning programs in reaching for even higher quality practices and improved outcomes for children.

The session will review the new ECERS-3 tool, its similarities and differences to the ECERS-R, and share data related to the results from initial comparison studies where simultaneous ECERS-3 and ECERS-R assessments were conducted in both states. In addition, it will provide insights into Pennsylvania's and Georgia's approaches to planning a multiyear change framework that encompasses the changes in vision, technical support, professional development and approach to assessment that will ensure a smooth transition for each state's system and continued success for participating early learning programs.

Using Technology for Training and Maintaining a Team of Assessors and Technical Assistance Providers
Friday, November 20, 2015
3:00-4:30pm • Orange County Convention Center, Room W307C
Angela Blankenship and Cody Carlton

The Environment Rating Scales are used around the world in assessing the quality of learning environments for young children. This session will present new online training and reliability opportunities provided by the authors of the Scales. In addition participants will have the opportunity to hear how two states train assessors and then continue to monitor and maintain reliability among their assessors and technical assistance providers.

Please join Branagh Information Group at one of the Environment Rating Scale presentations at the NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo. To register for the conference: http://www.naeyc.org/conference/

About Branagh Information Group
The Branagh Information Group (BIG) has extensive experience building innovative research and program monitoring database applications. Our data systems are geared toward early childhood evaluation and quality rating improvement systems. BIG creates customized solutions for early child initiatives that can include online training, mobile assessments and quality rating and analysis. BIG is the creator of the ERS Data System, the electronic version of the Environment Rating Scales (ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, and SACERS) and the Program Administration Scales (PAS, BAS). For more information, please visit www.BranahgGroup.com.