



BIG Thinking. Great Results.

Branagh Information Group is the Proud 5-Star Sponsor of the 2014 QRIS National Meeting, July 23-25, 2014

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Branagh Information Group, Inc. (BIG) is proud to be the 5-Star Sponsor of the **"2014 QRIS National Meeting: Building High-Quality Systems through QRIS"** hosted by the BUILD Initiative and QRIS Learning Network from **July 23-25 in Denver, Colorado**. This meeting will share the latest research, effective practices, innovations and big ideas in the development, implementation and revision of quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS). The structure of the meeting will be designed to foster cross-state discussion and peer exchange.

BIG's Mark Branagh, Cody Carlton and Tricia Sifford will present along with the authors of the *Environment Rating Scales*, at this upcoming conference.

- Join Thelma Harms, one of the authors of the *Environment Rating Scales*, along with Janice Carter, Arkansas State University Childhood Services and DeEtta Simmons, Childcare Quality & Early Learning Center for Research & Training for their presentation on **"Making Sustainable Changes through QRIS" on Wednesday, July 23 from 3:30-5:00pm**. Learn how QRIS has the potential to create sustainable improvements in classroom practices by improving the effectiveness of the key agencies that provide teacher education and support, facility standards, public support and funding. This workshop will share innovative ideas that are designed to create long lasting improvements in the early childhood education profession. Participants will learn strategies for building collaboration among agencies, share effective ways to include parents and the public, and examine approaches to "institutionalize" improvements in early childhood education as a profession.
- Join Dick Clifford, one of the authors of the *Environment Rating Scales*, along with Suzanne Dohm, Center for Assessment & Policy Development; Rose Manganell, Pennsylvania Key; and Samuel Stephens, Center for Assessment & Policy Development for their presentation on **"Using the New ECERS-R Virtual Subscales to Measure Quality and Guide Program Improvement in QRIS" on Thursday, July 24 from 4:00-5:30pm**. They will share new research analysis of ECERS-R data that has uncovered 16 new measures of quality embedded within the existing indicators. Learn and discuss how these can be calculated and used within your QRIS.
- BIG's sponsor presentation on **"The Evolution of the Environment Rating Scales: Next Generation Thinking for QRIS"** will be on **Friday, July 25 from 8:30-10:00am**. Please join BIG to learn how the Environment Rating Scales are evolving with additional quality measurements & tools and learn how to utilize new approaches to transform your QRIS with this proven & reliable instrument.

To register for the conference, please visit <http://qrisnetwork.org/>.

About the Presenters

Mark Branagh, CEO, Branagh Information Group

Mark is a software engineer with an extensive background in medical and social science research. With more than 30 years of experience, he has a broad understanding of the technical, theoretical, and practical aspects of data collection and analysis systems. He founded the Branagh Information Group after a decade of working in academic research with the intent of building robust data systems designed to be both of practical value to the front line data collectors as well as program administrators and data analysts.

Cody Carlton, E-Learning Director, Branagh Information Group

Cody has more than 18 years of training experience in both corporate and educational settings. He held positions as an early childhood classroom teacher and an adjunct faculty member in early care and education. While at the South Carolina Department of Education, Cody served as the State Anchor/Coordinator for the ECERS-R, overseeing a statewide team of assessors. In his current position with Branagh Information Group, he oversees the development of online training courses for the Environment Rating Scales in collaboration with the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI).

Tricia Sifford, Director of Early Learning Initiatives

Tricia has worked in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field for 25 years at various levels, with more than 10 years of data analysis experience to assist programs with quality improvement efforts. Her current position with Branagh Information Group involves customer support for users of the QRIS Data System and ERS Data System; support includes assistance with data management, analysis of data collection and data outcome results. Tricia understands that data collection can easily become overwhelming and time consuming and she is excited to share how to make sense of the numbers to tell a story in order to effect change.

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. For more information, please visit www.BranaghGroup.com.