![Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES]

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
<u>Feedback Loop</u>
August 6, 2024

Recommendations, Input and Decisions Made, Status Updates
Follow Up Items from Previous Meetings

DEVELOP Update
DCYF has made the decision not to move forward with DEVELOP. DCYF had anticipated DEVELOP would be ready for use beginning summer 2024, and it was planned to be the new and improved learning management system (LMS) for early learning and school-age providers.

DCYF made this decision because of findings from an analysis of DEVELOP conducted by DCYF. This analysis was started after DCYF received interest in DEVELOP from other programs across the agency. This interest from other programs broadened the scope and timeline for the project. A potential expansion of DEVELOP at DCYF necessitated an analysis of the initial 2018 needs, current project scope, and feedback from the people involved across the project.

Instead of proceeding with DEVELOP, DCYF will take steps to transition any work in progress for DEVELOP to existing systems, further investigate needs and opportunities across agency programs, and define a governance structure to support alignment with DCYF priorities. Nicole Rose, assistant secretary of Early Learning, will be the executive sponsor for MERIT and the current Online Training Portal.

DCYF is committed to providing user-centered technology solutions. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project since the beginning. We look forward to your continued partnership in the next phase of our early learning, school-age, and potential agency-wide work.

Early Learning Providers
<u>Find Training</u>
Early Learning providers and other professionals can continue to search for trainings in MERIT.

<u>Online Training Portal</u>
Early Learning providers and other professionals can continue to find and complete required trainings in DCYF's Online Training Portal.

<u>MERIT</u>
MERIT will continue to be the place where:
- Employment, training, and educational accomplishments get recorded for the Early Learning workforce;
- Employee records for a facility or site are managed;
- Portable Background Check applications are completed; and
- Licensors view records and conduct monitoring processes.

State Approved Trainers
<u>Trainer Renewal</u>
Trainer status will continue to be managed in MERIT. If you are a trainer with a status expiring in 2024, we have automatically extend it. No action is needed on your part. New trainers should continue to apply in MERIT.

<u>Training Submission</u>
Trainers should continue entering training templates and rosters in MERIT. For any new training templates after June 2024, you may create a new template following DCYF Training Procedure 510 Maintaining Records.

For questions please contact training@dcyf.wa.gov.

Recruitment Announcement: ELAC Executive Committee
We are currently accepting nominations for co-chairs! Below we have included the Roles and Responsibilities, including time commitments, for the co-chair position. Please take a moment to review and reach out if you have any questions or would like to apply.

Co-Chair Roles and Responsibilities
- Serve as members of the Executive Committee.
- Lead and facilitate meetings in a way that ensures that all Members and the public have opportunities to participate; that meeting actions and decisions are clear; and that ELAC provides meaningful, clear advice and recommendations to DCYF.
- Steward the consistent collaboration and alignment with DCYF to ensure all expectations and directives are being met.
- Participate in regular planning meetings with DCYF to plan meetings and track work plan progress (approximate time commitment is 2-3 one-hour meetings per month).
- Foster and maintain forthright, positive relationships with DCYF and with ELAC Members and Regional Advisors.
- Represent ELAC in communications with DCYF.

If you are interested in being a co-chair for the ELAC, please email us at dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov and share the following:
- *Why are you interested in being a co-chair for the ELAC?*
- *What do you hope to contribute to the Executive Committee?*