

Unfilled Waiver Slots Action Alert Background Information

LaCAN was successful in advocating for 1,500 NOW slots in 2007 and an additional 2,025 NOW slots in 2008. However, during the 2009 Legislative Session, it was discovered that none of the funds that had been appropriated for the 2,025 NOW slots have been used due to the Office for Citizen's with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) slow pace in filling slots.

OCDD reported that the delay was due to implementation of a new and improved planning process that would bring the cost of the NOW down, but assured legislators and advocates that all slots would be filled in the first few months of the new fiscal year (October/November 2009). However, at the end of October, over 700 slots were still unfilled.

OCDD has even slowed down how many offers are being made to people to accept a waiver slot. Due to expected budget shortfalls, OCDD Assistant Secretary Kathy Kliebert has been instructed to reduce the number of slots she is offering every month. Last year 300 offers were being made per month. In the fall of 2009 only 100 slots per month are being made thereby making it impossible for OCDD to fill the targeted number of 2,025 slots by the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2010)!

Senate Concurrent Resolution 116 passed in the 2009 legislative session directs DHH to report the number of waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities offered, filled, and serviced to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLBC) on a quarterly basis. This report is on the JLCB agenda for November 20th.

LaCAN members are encouraged to contact members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to express their feelings about this situation and attend the JLBC meeting on November 20th (in your yellow rally t-shirt) when DHH presents their report in accordance to SCR 116.