



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

How Long Can Day Programs Operate Below Their Normal Unit Usage?

ABCD Calls for an Ongoing State-Wide Day Program Trend Analysis.

The surge is receding. Where our day programs are on the path back to normal and how fast they will get there, are two critical questions. Time will tell whether day programs can accommodate the post-pandemic new normal and bring in enough revenue to cover costs.

For today, relying solely on the CALI score to predict return to normalcy in our day programs may be inaccurate because the following factors are not included:

- Prolonged changes in behavior.
- Rate of return
- Staffing crisis.

Individuals, especially those who have complex medical issues and needs are understandably more circumspect about returning to day programs. This may imply that our “bounce back’ will be behind that of the general economy

Indeed, in an analysis of 25 ABCD opened day programs, the average unit of usage for the first 2 weeks (10 days) of February 2022 is 47% compared to 82% for the same period in February 2020, prior to the pandemic. Based on this information, the current average recovery for opened programs is 57%. Compared to the CNN Business/Moodie’s, *Back-To-Normal-Index* for NJ at 93% and for NY, 86%

If the supplemental is discontinued or reduced to 25% the question is, how long can day programs operate at levels which are below their normal unit usage? Rather than find out, the state’s day program supplemental policy which is currently at 50%, should be determined based on an ongoing state-wide day program trend analysis.

February 28, 2022