



COMBINED CARE: ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

Offering Combined Care involves a number of decisions that affect both adult programming and CNC delivery. These include the relative number of spaces available for Long Term and Short Term care, and steps to take when demand for care unexpectedly increases (See: Staffing).

While CNC is generally responsive to the needs of adult programming, characteristics of short-term care, particularly when it is offered as part of Combined Care, may impact the availability of care.

Given the staffing needs of Combined CNC, an ISO may wish to provide Combined Care only at scheduled times, or offer care only to parents who have reserved a space in advance. On the other hand, ISOs with great demand for Short Term Care, who can serve many more clients if Short Term Care is always available are likely to offer Combined Care at all times.

Since it is important for parents and children to have a positive experience, an ISO may adopt a policy allowing parents to remain with their child during a “warming” period to help their child become familiar with the CNC setting. (See: Develop a Welcoming Plan)

Decisions in these areas have wide implications and need to be taken with an awareness of the needs of the organization and CNC program.

Organizing a program that combines Long Term and Short Term CNC involves a number of decisions, including whether to:

- Offer Combined Care every day or on scheduled days only
- Require clients to reserve a space in advance or allow drop-ins
- Allow parents time to drop their child off and help the child become familiar with the setting.

Although many of these decisions will be made by an administrator, it is important for CNC Staff to consider them and to make recommendations based on how they affect program delivery.

DECEMBER 2012

