

People with Disabilities Have a Past, Present, and Future!

Virginia Disability History Timeline

This timeline is designed to provide you with the rich history of persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you have a disability or know someone who is disabled, it is important to remember how people with disabilities were treated and the successes in the disability rights movement in order to continue to move forward. This timeline provides a historical perspective on some key dates of the rich history of disability in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Some key federal legislation and landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions have been included to provide you with a national context and how their impact on disability history in Virginia. Youth with disabilities in Virginia have been the impetus to this timeline in remembering people with disabilities who experienced segregation and isolation in society. This still continues today and we need to remember the past in order to move forward. This timeline will be a tool to educate people who are interested in the history of people with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. From this timeline you can explore the history of Virginia, although the timeline is not meant to be a comprehensive document.



1770

1773

Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Williamsburg, VA, opened

Now is known as Eastern State Hospital, this place has the distinction of being the first public facility in the United States constructed solely for the care and treatment of people with mental health needs.

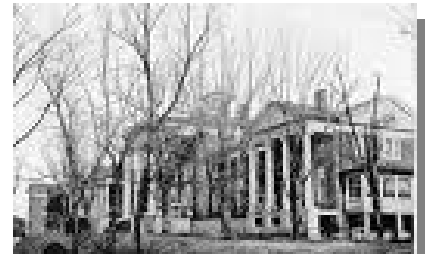


1880

1825

Western Lunatic Asylum, Staunton, VA, opened

In 1894 Western Lunatic Asylum changed its name to Western State Hospital.



1839

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Staunton, VA, opened



1870

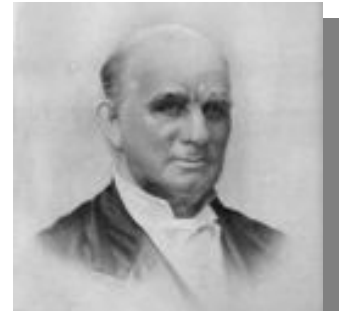
Central Lunatic Asylum, Petersburg, VA, opened

Now known as Central State Hospital. The hospital was former Confederate Facility, known as Howard's Grove Hospital, and was designated as a mental health hospital for African-Americans. In 1967 the hospital opened its doors to accept patients regardless of race.



1884

Virginia Association of the Deaf established



1887

Southwestern Lunatic Asylum, Marion, VA, opened

Now known as Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute.



1900

1906

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Hampton, VA, opened

In 1909 designated for Colored Deaf and Blind Children.



1909

Catawba Hospital, Catawba, VA, opened

Catawba Hospital began as a health resort. In 1909 the health resort converted to a tuberculosis sanatorium. In 1972 the Commonwealth of Virginia opened the hospital as a treatment and rehabilitation center for people with mental health needs.



1910

1910

Virginia State Epileptic Colony. Lynchburg, VA, opened

Now known as Central Virginia Training Center. Previous names included; 1919 State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded; 1940 Lynchburg State Colony; 1954 Lynchburg Training School and Academy; 1983 Central Virginia Training Center. Training Center. The center is an institution for individuals with intellectual disabilities.



1914 **Federal Law: War Risk Insurance Act becomes law**

1917 **Federal Law: Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act becomes law**

1917 **Piedmont Sanatorium, Burkeville, VA, opened**
First tuberculosis sanatorium for African Americans. Formerly known as Piedmont Sanatorium. In 1967, became State Geriatric Psychiatric Hospital.



1918 **Federal Law: Smith-Sears Veterans Rehabilitation Act becomes law**
The act established a vocational education program for returning veterans with and without disabilities.

1920

1920 **Federal Law: Smith-Fess Vocational Rehabilitation Act becomes law**
This act established a civilian vocational education program, which is administered at the state level.

1922 **Industrial Commission and State Superintendent for Public Instruction established**
The Commission and the State Superintendent were established to administer the rehabilitation program.

Commission for the Blind established
Beginning of the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

1923 **Virginia Mental Hygiene Association established**
Now known as Mental Health America of Virginia.

1925 **Virginia Industries for the Blind established**

1927

U.S. Supreme Court: *Buck vs Bell*

Virginia based case stated that forced sterilization was constitutional for people with mental disabilities.



1928

Division of Vocational Education established under the State Department of Education

This division eventually became the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

1930

1932

DeJarnette Center for Human Development, Staunton, VA, opened

Now known as Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. Originally it was a private pay mental health facility and eventually designated for children with mental health needs.



1935

Federal Law: Social Security Act became law

Provided federal old age benefits and grants to the states for assistance to blind people and children with disabilities,

1938

Special Education Program established

During the 1938-39 Session, the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 per year for the 1938-1940 biennium budget.

1940

1946

Federal Law: National Mental Health Act became law

The act created a significant funding stream for mental health education and the National Institute of Health.

1947

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, VA opened

State operated comprehensive rehabilitation center. The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center is the first state-owned and operated comprehensive rehabilitation center in the country.



1950

1950s

Parent Movement began

Across the nation, parents of children with disabilities began to organize into groups. In Virginia groups such as The Arc and Parent to Parent, American autistic Society, and the Down Syndrome Association chapters began to form in the 1960's and still growing.

1955

Association for Retarded Citizens of Virginia established

Now Known as The Arc of Virginia.



1960

1964

Federal Law: Civil Rights Act became law

Significant impact on subsequent disability rights legislation.

1965

Federal Law: Social Security Act Amended, establishing Medicare and Medicaid

1968

State Law: Community Services Boards and Behavioral Health Authorities created.

Community Services Boards and Behavioral Health Authorities are local government agencies created by the Code of Virginia and amended through the years to govern delivery of community-based mental health, intellectual disability, and substance use disorder services to citizens with those disabilities.

Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Falls Church, VA, opened

State mental health hospital.

1970

1970s

Disability Rights Movement began

Specific disability groups such as the Deaf and the Blind have been advocating for their rights since the late 19th century. During the 1970's people with disabilities began to work together to exercise their rights. This movement led to the formation of Centers of Independent Living, People First chapters, and other groups for people with disabilities across the nation.

1970

Federal Law: Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act became law

This act provided comprehensive services for individuals with mental disabilities and developmental disabilities through a partnership with states.

1971

Southside Virginia Training Center, Petersburg, VA, opened

The Center is an institution for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Southeastern Virginia Training Center, Chesapeake, VA, opened

The Center is an institution for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

1972

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia: *Mills v. Board of Education*

Decided that every school aged child is entitled to a free public education regardless of the nature or severity of the individual's disability.

U.S. District Court for Pennsylvania: *PARC v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

Decided that every school aged child is entitled to a free public education regardless of the nature or severity of the individual's disability.

Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council established

Later known as the Department of the Rights of Virginians with Disabilities and eventually became the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.

	Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Richmond, VA, opened
1973	<p>Federal Law: Rehabilitation Act, including Section 504, becomes law Section 504 prohibited the discrimination based on disability from business and other entities that received federal funds, grants, and contracts.</p> <p>Northern Virginia Training Center, Fairfax, VA, opened The Center is an institution for individuals with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>Southwestern Virginia Training Center, Hillsville, VA, opened The Center is an institution for individuals with intellectual disabilities.</p>
1974	Virginia repealed forced sterilization for people with disabilities
1975	<p>Federal Law: Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) became law This act provided grants to states to develop programs for people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Federal Law: Education for All Handicapped Children Act became law Later became know as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This act provided federal protection to insure children and youth with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education.</p> <p>Parent to Parent in Big Stone Gap established The formation of Parent to Parent started the parent movement in Virginia which led to local chapters of American Autism Society and Down Syndrome Association chapters forming across Virginia in the 1980/1990's.</p>
1977	Virginia Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Office established Now known as Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.
1978	Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center established Provides special education information to families

1979

with children with disabilities. Virginia's federally described Parent Training and Information Center.

Handicaps Unlimited established

First cross disability coalition.

1980

1980

Virginia withdrew from participation in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Program for "excessive cost for the required evaluation system" and the "proposed requirement to guarantee employment to employees who would be affected by reductions in the number of patients in mental hospitals.

1981

Virginia Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Office became the State Advocacy Office for the Developmentally Disabled with state funding replacing federal mandate for office to pursue "legal remedies."

Endeppence Center, Norfolk, VA, opened
First of 16 Centers for Independent Living in Virginia.



1982

Re-entry into the Federal Developmental Disabilities Program negotiated.

1984

Federal Law: The Rehabilitation Act Amendments

Established the Client Assistance Program, housed within the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired until the passage of the Virginians with Disabilities Act, at which time the program was moved to what is now Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

Insure Virginians Equal Status Today (INVEST) established

An alliance of 64 advocacy groups formed INVEST to work towards passage of the Virginians with Disabilities Act which was introduced on January 24 with 91 patrons but stalled when business,

manufacturing, and transportation interest objected. The bill was carried over.

1985

Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities created

Virginia's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Changed name in 2003 to Partnership for People with Disabilities.



State Law: Virginians with Disabilities Act became law

The landmark Virginians with Disabilities Act that encouraged and enabled persons with disabilities to participate fully and equally in all areas of the social and economic life of the Commonwealth including employment was enacted. The law re-codified the Department of Rehabilitative Services and established both the Department and Board for the Rights of the Disabled merging the former Governors Overall Advisory Council on the Needs of the Handicapped and the Virginia Developmental disabilities Planning Council into one board.

1986

Federal Law: Mental Health Planning Act became law

The Protection and Advocacy of the Mentally Ill program, later revised as Protection and Advocacy of Mentally Ill Individuals, and now the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, was established as a federal block grant, administered by Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

1988

Federal Law: The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act) became law

1989

State Funded Consumer Directed Personal Assistance began

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities awarded the Department of Rehabilitation Services a grant to allow individuals with disabilities to direct their own personal care assistance.

Virginia Brain Injury Council established

1990

1990s

People First Movement in Virginia began

During the 1990's People First chapters across Virginia started.

1990

Federal Law: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law

This act insured full participation for people with disabilities in the U.S.

Virginia Assistive Technology System established

The Department of Rehabilitative Services established a network of assistive technology sites that provide refurbished equipment to people with disabilities.

Virginia Disability Commission established

The Virginia Disability Commission has served as a primary forum through which the needs and issues of people with disabilities can be addressed through the collaboration of members of the legislature, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor's appointees, and the agencies of the Executive branch.

Parent to Parent State Office established

Based at Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

1991

Home and Community Based Services began

The Department of Medical Assistance Services amended the state Medicaid plan to include home and community based services, which are commonly known as Medicaid waivers. These programs allow people with disabilities who are institutionalized or are at risk to live in their home community by using supports.

1992

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

The state Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council moved under the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

Disability Services Boards established

The General Assembly legislated the development of the Disability Services Boards to assist localities in identifying and addressing the needs of persons with

physical and sensory disabilities in their communities.

1993

Federal Law: The Rehabilitation Act Amended

Establishing the Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Program, administered by what is now Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

1994

Federal Law: The Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology Program

The program was created within what is now Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

Statewide Independent Living Council established



1995

Virginia Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority established

In 2007, the Authority became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and was renamed the NewWell Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide low interest loans to people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology and other equipment to maximize their independence.

1996

First Partners in Policymaking class graduated

Partners in Policymaking trains parents and People with Disabilities to become system change advocates and is sponsored by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.

1997

John Hager was elected Lt. Governor of Virginia

He was the first individual with a physical disability to be elected to high office.



Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund established



1999

U.S. Supreme Court Decision: *Olmstead v L.C. and E.W.*

Decided that individuals with disabilities must be offered services in the “most integrated setting”

2000

2000

First Youth Leadership Forum held

Youth Leadership Forum trains youth with disabilities to become advocates and is sponsored by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.

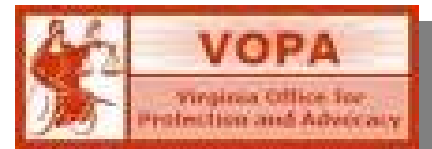
2001

Virginia Organization of Consumer Asserting Leadership (VOCAL) established

2002

Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy established

Became an independent state agency. Formerly known as Department for Rights of the Disabled and the Department for Rights for Virginians with Disabilities.



2002

Federal Law: Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Administered by Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

2004

Office of Community Integration for People with Disabilities and cross-agency Community Integration Implementation Team established in the Governor’s office.

2004

Federal Law: Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury grant to Virginia Administered by Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy.

2006

Cross-Disability Community Integration Advisory Commission established in state Code

2010

2010

Office of Community Integration for People with Disabilities moved to Department of Rehabilitation Services