



Events in Disability History

PRESENTED BY: THE ARC OF LANCASTER COUNTY

This project is funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are what we use to make things easier. Like using



- a mouse for your computer rather than the keys to navigate
- a GPS rather than a map you hold in your hands

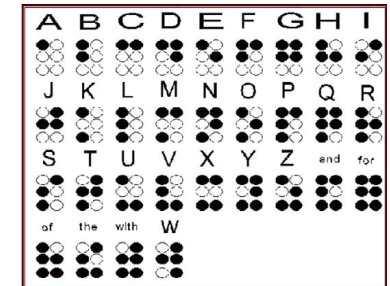


ACCOMMODATIONS



In 1829 Braille was invented. It is system of raised dots in a pattern used by those who are blind to read and write.

Recently a device worn on a person's finger that uses a camera to scan and read the text is being developed by MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



ACCOMMODATIONS

One of the earliest typewriters in 1843 was developed to help those who are blind.



This was like the TTY text telephone developed in the 1960's to help those who are deaf.



ACCOMMODATIONS

In 1862 the wheelchair was patented to help people get around.

Later in the 1940's curb cuts were used in Kalamazoo Michigan

- Ed Roberts increased the awareness of curb cuts in 1970's
- They were required by the ADA in 1990



DISCRIMINATION

People with disabilities have not always had people to help them.

Many times they were treated badly.

The Holocaust was a horrible time when many people were killed by the Nazis.

In 1939 Hitler ordered the killing of over 200,000 people with disabilities to eliminate those “unworthy of life”.



ADVOCACY and COMMUNITY GROUPS



People recognized that this treatment wasn't right and advocacy and community groups formed.



In 1817 Thomas Gallaudet started a school for the deaf in Hartford Connecticut

In 1950 *The Arc* was started to advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *The Arc* dropped the word “retarded” from its name in 1991 to be respectful to the people they represent.



ADVOCACY and COMMUNITY GROUPS



In 1974 People First (the first self-advocacy organization) started in Oregon because a self-advocate objected to the constant use of the words “retarded” and “handicapped.”

“I want to be treated like a person first,” he said.

In Pennsylvania we have several self-advocacy groups like

Self Advocates United as One (SAU1) and
Speaking for Ourselves.

PEOPLE FIRST
Label Jars Not People



ADVOCACY and COMMUNITY GROUPS



Other events started happening to show people with disabilities could do great things:

The first Paralympics games were held in Rome, Italy in 1960

Ed Roberts established the Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Berkeley, CA in 1971



Elizabeth Boggs from Pennsylvania was a leader in The Arc and worked for the rights of people with disabilities.

LAWS



Laws got passed to support people with disabilities. Some started right here in Pennsylvania!

1963 The DD Act (Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights) established a network of DD Councils, University Centers for Excellence (UCEDDs) and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Systems in every state.

1964 the Civil Rights Bill was signed by President Johnson to outlaw discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and ended segregation in schools, the workplace and public facilities.

1966 the MH/MR Act in PA established the state Office of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and provided funding for community based services. In 2012 the name of the Act was changed to the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) Act

1973 the Vocational Rehabilitation Act said qualified persons seeking employment could not be discriminated against based on their disability.

EDUCATION

Some of these laws were about schooling issues.

1954 Brown v Board of Education ruled that Separate is not Equal and lead to the civil rights movement which influenced the disability rights movement.

In 1972 the PARC Consent Decree guaranteed children with an intellectual disability a free public education.

This lead to I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) in 1975 which governed Early Intervention services, special education, and related services.



LAWS – THE ADA



1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
outlawed discrimination based on disabilities in areas of

- employment
- transportation, and
- public accommodations



The ADA made changes to how some buildings need to become accessible so they could be used by people with physical disabilities.

The ADA

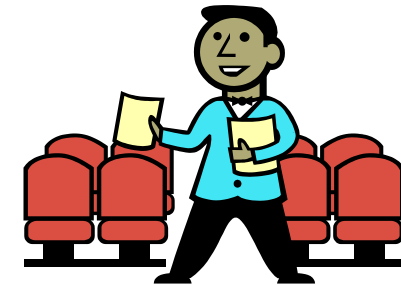
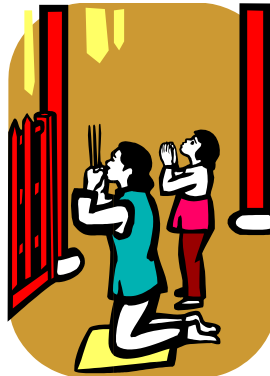
It was important that the ADA was passed because it helped people with disabilities become independent

and it helped a lot of people with and without disabilities, such as

- Curb cuts in sidewalks make life easier for the elderly and those pushing a baby stroller.
- The larger bathroom stalls can be great for parents with young children

COMMUNITY LIVING

The laws allowed people with disabilities to start living in the community instead of institutions, and go to places and events that others go to all the time – like the store, places of worship, movies and parks.



COMMUNITY LIVING



1963 was the start of deinstitutionalization when President Kennedy asked Congress to explore ways to move those who lived in institutions into the community.

1972 Willowbrook State School in New York City was the focus of a documentary by Geraldo Rivera because of its abuses and horrible conditions. It closed in 1987 as a result.

1977 Judge Broderick ruled in favor of closing a large institution called Pennhurst in South East PA and ordered services be made available in the community. It took 11 years to get it closed finally in 1987.

COMMUNITY LIVING

In 1981 The Reagan Administration created the Katie Beckett waiver which changed Medicaid rules

to make an exception (the rules were “waived”) that allowed Katie and children like her, to receive their care at home.



Thank you for allowing me to share this information with you.

Resources

Here are some websites for you to explore disability history further

www.disabilityhistorywiki.org/leadership/ (see Elizabeth Boggs)

www.preservepennhurst.org and go to disability history resources

www.mnddc.org/parallels/

www.adalegacy.org/ada25

www.paddc.org

www.thearca.org

www.thearcoflancasterco.org