

INDIANA DISABILITY HISTORY TIMELINE

1816

Indiana's first Constitution committed "to provide one or more farms to be an asylum for those persons, who by reason of age, infirmity, or other misfortunes, may have a claim upon the aid and beneficence of society; on such principles, that such persons may therein, find employment, and every reasonable comfort and lose, by their usefulness, the degrading sense of dependence."

1825

The first county poorhouse opened in Indiana.

1827

Indiana's legislature authorized a "hospital for the insane."

1843

The Indiana School for the Deaf, initially called the Willard School, opened with 12 students. It was the first state-sponsored school in the U.S. to offer a free education to students who are deaf.

1844

Reformer Dorothea Dix visited poorhouses and jails around Indianapolis. Her findings resulted in the appropriation of funds for a "State Lunatic Asylum" (later Central State Hospital).

1847

Indiana Institute for the Education of the Blind (now Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired) opened in Indianapolis.

1848

Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later Central State Hospital) opened in Indianapolis with eight patients.

1851

Indiana's new constitution enshrined as the state's duty "the support of Institutions for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, and of the Blind; and also, for the treatment of the Insane."



1879

The Asylum for Feeble Minded Children was established, and operated until 1887 as part of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home in Knightstown, Indiana.

1884

Dr. Sarah Stockton joined the staff at the Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later Central State Hospital). She was the first female physician in Indiana.

1885

Dr. Richard Fletcher burned the restraints in bonfire at Indiana Hospital for the Insane on Christmas Day. He was fired shortly after.

1886

The memoir "From Under the Cloud: Personal Reminiscences of Insanity" was published, written by Anna Agnew, a Vincennes native who was committed to the Indiana Hospital for the Insane.

1887

State legislators enacted a law providing for the establishment of the Asylum for Feeble Minded Children in Fort Wayne, one of the first institutions in the nation serving people with IDD.

1888

Northern Indiana Hospital for the Insane (Logansport State Hospital) opened.

1888

Fletcher's Sanatorium (Neuronhurst after 1904) opened, one of the first private hospitals to treat mental health issues in Indiana.

1888

William Willard died. Willard was founder and first president of the Indiana Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, now known as the Indiana School for the Deaf.



1889

The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established in Marion, Indiana.

1889

The Board of State Charities of Indiana was formed, serving as an umbrella agency overseeing state institutions and facilities until 1935.

1890

Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane opened (renamed Richmond State Hospital in 1927).

1890

Southern Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later known as Evansville State Hospital) began operation.

1890

Indiana School for Feeble Minded Youth admitted children to its permanent facility in Fort Wayne.

1898

Norways Hospital opened a private sanatorium for people with mental health issues in Indianapolis.

1899

Vasectomies were performed on “defective” inmates at the Jeffersonville State Reformatory in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

1900

Indiana Industrial Home for Blind Men, a privately funded workshop in Indianapolis, employed its first workmen, making brooms at an average of \$5.10 per week.

1905

An Indiana law passed prohibiting “mentally deficient, persons with a ‘transmissible disease’ and habitual drunkards” from marrying, one of the first restrictive marriage laws in the U.S.



1907

Indiana Village for Epileptics opened in rural Henry county, one of only seven facilities in the world built especially to care for persons with convulsive disorders.

1907

Indiana's state legislature approved the first eugenic sterilization law in the world. Targets included the "insane, feebleminded, or epileptic" persons in custodial care.

1907

The first public school class for children with intellectual disabilities in Indianapolis was established at School No. 5.

1910

Southeastern Hospital for the Insane (later Madison State Hospital) admitted patients in Madison, Indiana.

1911

The Indiana School for the Deaf, established in 1843 as the Indiana Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, moved to its current location, an 80-acre campus on East 42nd Street, Indianapolis.

1911

The Colony Act was passed, which allowed people living in Indiana institutions to work on the facility farms. Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later Richmond State Hospital) was selected as the first location.

1912

A Hospital for Insane Criminals was opened in Michigan City, Indiana.

1915

Governor Samuel M. Ralston established the Indiana Committee on Mental Defectives.



1916

Indiana Society for Mental Hygiene was founded to provide care and treatment to individuals who were mentally ill, only the third such state organization in the nation. In 1952, its name was changed to Indiana Association for Mental Health, and is now Mental Health America of Indiana.

1920

Indiana Farm Colony for the Feeble-Minded opened on 1813 acres near Butlerville in Jennings County.

1920

The first Better Babies contest was held at the Indiana State Fair, continuing for over a decade. These events emerged out of the eugenics movement.

1921

Indiana's 1907 sterilization law was ruled unconstitutional.

1924

Riley Hospital in Indianapolis began treating children.

1925

The first school for children with physical disabilities opened in Indianapolis, located within the Oscar C. McCulloch School No. 5.

1926

Indiana Hospital for the Insane changed its name to Central State Hospital.

1927

Southeastern Hospital for the Insane changed its name to Madison State Hospital.



1927

New sterilization legislation was passed in Indiana.

1927

Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane changed its name to Richmond State Hospital.

1927

The Indiana state legislature passed a law requiring all public school districts to establish instruction for children with physical disabilities.

1928

Sterilizations begin at the Indiana School for Feeble Minded Youth in Fort Wayne.

1928

A specialized class for sight-impaired students started in the Indianapolis Public Schools.

1929

St John's Hospital in Gary, Indiana, opened to serve the African American population at a time when most public hospitals did not admit black patients.

1930

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, founded in 1847 as the Indiana Institute for the Education of the Blind, moved to its current location on College Avenue near 75th Street in Indianapolis.

1931

The Indiana state legislature passed a law requiring all public school districts to establish instruction for children "retarded in mental development."



1931

Dr. Walter Bruetsch at Central State Hospital in Indianapolis gained international recognition for discovering a treatment for syphilis. Before this, syphilis was the largest cause of mental illness.

1932

Fort Wayne State School made sterilization a prerequisite for leaving the institution.

1935

The first class for students with hearing impairments began in the Indianapolis Public Schools.

1935

The Social Security Act established a federal program for permanent assistance to adults with disabilities.

1936

James E. Roberts School for Crippled Children in Indianapolis was constructed at a cost of \$239,714.

1936

Helen Keller wrote to Indiana University President William Lowe Bryan of her pain at losing her lifelong companion and former teacher, Anne Sullivan.

1937

The National Association of the Deaf endorsed use of the terms “deaf” and “hard of hearing,” instead of the terms “deaf-mute,” “mute,” “deaf-dumb,” “semi-mute,” and “deafened.”

1940

Silvercrest State Hospital opened in New Albany, Indiana. After 1972, the site was used as the Silvercrest Children’s Development Center until 2006.



1941

Indiana Farm Colony for Feeble Minded in Butlerville was renamed Muscatatuck State School.

1942

Mount Mercy Sanitarium in Dyer, Indiana, treated tuberculosis, mental health issues and addiction.

1943

Northern Indiana Children's Hospital in South Bend opened for children who had polio (later known as Northern Indiana State Developmental Center).

1946

Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization, was founded by military veterans who came home from World War II with a spinal cord injury.

1948

Larue Carter Memorial Hospital opened in Indianapolis to treat children with psychological illnesses.

1949

Children under the age of 6 were admitted to Muscatatuck State School in Butlerville, Indiana.

1949

Helen Keller spoke at North Side High School in Fort Wayne, in support of funds for the establishment of a new non-profit agency for the blind. The League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc. (now known as The League) began its operations in Fort Wayne in 1950.

1950

The population at Central State Hospital in Indianapolis had reached 2,500.



1951

Dr. Norman M. Beatty Memorial Hospital in Westville started admitting patients from 17 counties in northern Indiana.

1953

United Cerebral Palsy of Indiana was started by parents, now known as United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana.

1953

The Wabash Center in Lafayette, Indiana, was set up by concerned parents who wanted more for their children with disabilities than what the state and the local community would provide.

1954

A group of Fort Wayne parents started the Johnny Appleseed School, which later became Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana.

1955

Camp Riley, offering programs for youth with disabilities and chronic illnesses, was founded at Bradford Woods, near Martinsville, Indiana.

1956

The Indiana Association for Retarded Children, now The Arc of Indiana, was founded by parents.

1956

Byron Smith of Bloomington was the first student to transfer from the Indiana State School for the Blind to a public elementary school.

1957

The Indiana Association for Retarded Children, now The Arc of Indiana, helped gain passage of Senate Bill 13. This authorized study of intellectual disabilities in Indiana.



1957

Alfred Sasser, Jr., Superintendent of Muscatatuck State School, submitted his resignation effective May 15 after grand jury indictments of members of his staff.

1958

Wolf Wolfensberger worked as a staff psychologist at Muscatatuck State School for 2 summers and met his future wife, whose mother and grandmother had also worked there. "My experience at Muscatatuck bonded me to a commitment to mentally retarded people for the rest of my life."

1958

Clark County Council for Retarded Children was formed in southern Indiana.

1960

Legislation established Northern Indiana Children's Hospital, which cared for children with polio, as Northern Indiana State Developmental Center, a facility for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

1961

President John F. Kennedy established the first President's Panel on Mental Retardation.

1961

Indiana General assembly created the Division of Mental Retardation within the Department of Mental Health.

1962

Ed Roberts, who had post-polio respiratory quadriplegia, became one of the first severely disabled persons to be admitted to the University of California, Berkeley, leading to the establishment of a program that became the forerunner of Berkeley's Center for Independent Living.



1963

The Indiana state legislature formally repealed the 1907 sterilization law, more than 40 years after it was declared unconstitutional. The 1927 law was still in force.

1963

The Mental Retardation Facilities Construction and Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-164) provided federal support for research and training centers, direct service facilities for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and community mental health centers.

1963

Oaklawn Psychiatric Center opened in Goshen, Indiana. Oaklawn is affiliated with the Mennonite Church.

1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark federal law prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, but NOT disability.

1965

Title XIX of the Social Security Act authorized funding that pays medical costs for certain individuals with disabilities and families with low incomes through Medicaid.

1965

Congress passed the Older Americans Act to address the lack of community social services for older persons, to authorize grants to states for community planning and social services, research projects, and personnel training in the field of aging, as well as to establish the federal Administration on Aging.

1966

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center opened in Evansville, Indiana, to serve children with serious emotional disturbances.



1966

Congress amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to extend minimum wage and overtime provisions to include all nonprofessional employees of public and private non-Federal hospitals and public residential institutions. The U.S. Department of Labor, however, did not enforce these regulations for resident workers in institutions.

1966

The Kentucky-Indiana Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America received its charter.

1968

Farming operations utilizing resident labor were phased out at the newly named Muscatatuck State Hospital and Training Center.

1968

The federal Architectural Barriers Act law mandated that all buildings designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be made accessible.

1969

Construction was completed for the Mental Retardation Developmental Training Center at Indiana University in Bloomington, now known as the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

1969

The first mental health center in the state, Midtown Community Mental Health Center in Indianapolis, opened at Marion County General Hospital (renamed Wishard Memorial Hospital).

1969

The Council Of Volunteers and Organizations for Hoosiers with Disabilities (COVOH) was founded by Amy Cook Lurvey.



1969

Special Olympics Indiana was founded.

1969

Farming operations stopped at New Castle State Hospital in New Castle, Indiana.

1970

The federal Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act was passed.

1972

The entity now known as Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities began as an advisory body to the Mental Retardation Division of Indiana's Department of Mental Health.

1972

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Indiana in the case Jackson v. Indiana, stating that a person adjudicated incompetent could not be indefinitely committed. Jackson was "a deaf-mute."

1972

Wolf Wolfensberger's influential book, Normalization, was published.

1972

The Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, California, was formed by individuals with disabilities protesting their exclusion from society's mainstream and demanding more humane, non-medical attention from the nation's service delivery system. The Center became a model for organizations nationwide that were run by and for people with disabilities who wished to gain control over their own services.



1973

The federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was passed. Section 504 of the Act makes it illegal for entities receiving federal assistance to discriminate on basis of disability.

1973

A Deinstitutionalization Project at Indiana University utilized a halfway house approach to provide residents of Muscatatuck State Hospital and Training Center life experience outside the institution.

1974

Silvercrest Children's Development Center in New Albany, Indiana, opened.

1974

The Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities was founded.

1975

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 94-103) created a Bill of Rights for persons with developmental disabilities and required states to establish a statewide Protection and Advocacy system and a State Planning Council.

1975

The federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act, Public law 94-142, (now known as IDEA) was passed.

1975

IN*SOURCE, a parent-run organization in South Bend, Indiana, started providing information and training to other parents.

1977

Legislation was passed to transform Norman Beatty Mental Hospital in Westville, Indiana, to the Westville Correctional Facility.



1977

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (now Indiana Disability Rights) was formed by state law (IC 12-28-16).

1978

Muscatatuck, Fort Wayne, New Castle and Northern Indiana State Developmental Centers began their Medicaid certification programs.

1978

Stump v. Sparkman is considered a leading United States Supreme Court decision on judicial immunity. An Indiana judge had been sued by Linda Sparkman who, as a minor, had been sterilized without her knowledge under the judge's order. She later used the name Jamie Renae Coleman.

1978

The annual Central Indiana Wheelchair Invitational Games began this year.

1979

Breaking New Ground was established at Purdue University to provide information and resources on rehabilitation technology for persons working in agriculture.

1980

The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver program was enacted in Section 2176 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Public Law 97-35), authorizing federal reimbursement for a wide array of community services. It was not available in Indiana until 1990.

1981

Indiana's legislature appropriated funds to establish a resource center on autism

1981

Brain Injury Association of Indiana became the first chapter of the national Brain Injury Association of America.



1981

A cultural shift occurred in mental health services when Governor Robert Orr appointed the first non-physician, Dennis Jones, as Indiana's Commissioner of Mental Health.

1982

The Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities hired its first lobbyist.

1982

The Supreme Court's decision in Board of Education v. Rowley held that a student's IEP meets the requirements of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public law 94-142) if it is "reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefits."

1982

The federal Job Training Partnership Act was passed, providing job-training services to economically-disadvantaged adults and youth, dislocated workers, and others who face significant employment barriers.

1983

Six people with significant disabilities began meeting to discuss changes for persons with disabilities in the Lawrence County area. This group evolved into the Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living.

1983

The national disability rights group ADAPT was formed. Originally, the acronym stood for Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit.

1983

Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis surgically implanted Indiana's first cochlear implant into a child who was deaf.



1984

The “Baby Doe Law” passed, federal legislation based upon a 1982 incident involving a Bloomington, Indiana, baby with Down syndrome who died after his parents declined surgery to fix a gastrointestinal birth defect.

1984

The Indiana Governor’s Planning Council for People with Disabilities launched its first supported employment initiative.

1985

Indiana's Adult Protective Services Law (IC 12-10-3) was enacted, requiring individuals to report knowledge of adults being abused, neglected, or exploited.

1985

The Mental Illness Bill of Rights Act expanded the role of state Protection & Advocacy organizations to cover mental illness.

1986

“A New Future for Children with Substantial Handicaps: The Second Wave of Least Restrictive Environment” was published, changing the way special education services were provided to children with severe disabilities in Indiana.

1986

Noble, Inc. in Indianapolis started the state’s first supported employment service.

1986

The federal Air Carrier Access Act was passed, prohibiting commercial airlines from discriminating against passengers with disabilities.



1987

Ed Owen, who contracted polio during his childhood in Kokomo, Indiana, was inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Hall of Fame.

1987

The Nursing Reform Act (part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) became law, specifying what services nursing homes must give residents, establishing standards for these services, and a Residents' Bill of Rights.

1987

The Indiana Parent Information Network (IPIN), now ASK, was incorporated.

1987

A group of Central Indiana disability self-advocates came together to form the Indianapolis Resource Center for Independent Living (now accessABILITY).

1988

The federal Fair Housing Act was amended to protect people with disabilities from housing discrimination in the areas of rentals, sales, and financing.

1988

A student protest at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., led to the appointment of the university's first deaf president.

1989

The City of Bloomington (Indiana)'s Community Council for Handicapped Concerns was convened.

1989

The Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities became an independent agency.



1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26 by President George H. W. Bush, with Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities Chair Greg Fehribach in attendance.

1990

The statewide group Self-Advocates of Indiana was founded on January 10.

1990

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a reauthorization of the 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act, became federal law.

1990

The National Association of the Deaf chose Indianapolis as the site of its 40th national convention.

1990

Indiana established its HCBS Medicaid Waiver program. Indiana was one of the last 12 states to finance Waiver services.

1990

Ryan White died a month before his high school graduation. Born in Kokomo in 1971, he contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion for his hemophilia. He became nationally known as an advocate for AIDS research after facing discrimination in Indiana public schools.

1991

ADA-Indiana was created when the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research funded 10 regional centers.

1991

Partners in Policymaking, a leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents, was started by the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities.



1991

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) was created by the Indiana General Assembly.

1991

In Bayh v. Sonnenburg, the Jasper Circuit Court entered a judgment for almost \$28 million against the State of Indiana in a class action brought on behalf of 7400 patients of Indiana's mental hospitals for work they performed while confined in those hospitals in the early 1970s.

1992

Indianapolis wheelchair racer Frank Epperson participated in the Paralympic Games at Barcelona, Spain.

1992

Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services created two supported employment technical assistance centers.

1992

The ICF/MR Waiver was established in Indiana.

1992

The Hoosiers with Disabilities Act passed, ensuring individuals with disabilities would not be denied equal opportunity for employment, and requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations.

1994

Paralyzed Hoosier Veterans was incorporated.

1994

Central State Hospital in Indianapolis closed, established 146 years earlier as the Indiana Hospital for the Insane.



1994

The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation reforming the state's mental health system.

1995

The first annual Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities conference was held.

1995

The national disability rights group Not Dead Yet was formed, opposing physician-assisted suicide.

1996

"Redesigning Special Education Services for ALL Students: The Indiana Agenda" was published by the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities at Indiana University.

1997

An Indianapolis television station broadcast showed hidden camera footage of employees abusing residents at New Castle State Developmental Center in New Castle, Indiana.

1997

Governor Frank O'Bannon signed Senate Enrolled Act 317 into law, passed with bi-partisan support and calling for a task force to study Indiana services for people with developmental disabilities.

1997

The Back Home in Indiana Alliance was formed, originally focusing on increasing low rates of home ownership among people with disabilities.

1998

The federal Assistive Technology Act was passed, addressing assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities.



1998

The Autism Society of Indiana was founded.

1998

Two Indiana institutions closed: New Castle State Developmental Center in New Castle and Northern Indiana State Developmental Center in South Bend.

1998

Indiana's "317 Commission" of consumers, advocates, and state officials published "A Comprehensive Plan for the Design of Services for People with Developmental Disabilities," identifying 6,000 unserved individuals and calling for a new direction in services to support people with developmental disabilities in their homes and at work.

1998

The Workforce Investment Act was passed, federal legislation designed to consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

1998

Everybody Counts Center for Independent Living and eight northwest Indiana residents filed a class-action lawsuit against the Indiana Department of Transportation and other entities, alleging the defendants violated the ADA by failing to provide adequate oversight of federal funding and ignoring complaints by riders.

1999

*The U.S. Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination, in violation of Title II of the ADA.*

1999

The federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvements Act was passed.

1999

Indiana's General Assembly passed Public Law 221-1999, which created a performance-based accountability system for public schools.



2000

A consent agreement was signed with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ suit alleged that conditions at Muscatatuck and Fort Wayne State Developmental Centers violated the provisions of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA).

2000

The (federal) Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 was passed.

2000

Indiana had 1,190 successful supported employment closures, up from 21 such closures in 1989.

2001

Governor Frank O'Bannon announced plans for Muscatatuck State Developmental Center's closure.

2001

Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services determined that sheltered employment would no longer be considered a successful closure for its consumers.

2001

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver replaced the ICF/MR Waiver in Indiana.

2001

Indiana Code 27-8-14.2, known as the "Autism Insurance Mandate," required group health insurance coverage for autism and other pervasive developmental disorders.

2002

The No Child Left Behind Act, federal educational reform legislation, was enacted to close the achievement gaps among students and bring all students to the "proficient" level on state standardized tests.



2002

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) mandated that all states and localities upgrade aspects of their election procedures to make polling places accessible to individuals with disabilities.

2002

Best Buddies Indiana was founded, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

2002

John P. Reed II died after he was savagely beaten at Indiana's Fort Wayne State Developmental Center. Investigators were not able to determine whether he was attacked by another resident or by a staff member of the facility.

2002

The Ticket to Work Program, administered by the Social Security Administration, became available in the state of Indiana.

2002

The Support Services Waiver was established in Indiana.

2002

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities funded the Count Us IN project to increase access to polling places by people with disabilities.

2002

Self-Advocates of Indiana incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.



2003

Members of ADAPT, a national group of disability rights activists with an Indiana chapter, participated in a protest during the National Governors Association meeting in Indianapolis in August. In 2005, in a lawsuit filed by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, a federal district judge ruled that the Indianapolis Police Department violated protesters' First Amendment rights by keeping them off city sidewalks.

2004

The Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President Bush. It amended the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support state grant programs addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities.

2005

Muscatatuck State Developmental Center closed, with its last seven residents moved into the community. The Indiana National Guard took over the facility in Butlerville, Indiana, and converted it for training use by military, police, rescue and other agencies.

2005

The Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act (MiCASSA) was re-introduced in Congress but was not enacted. The purpose of the Act was to amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans equal access to community-based attendant services and supports.

2006

Silvercrest Children's Development Center in New Albany, Indiana, closed.

2006

The United Nations adopted the text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an international human rights treaty.

2006

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 was implemented in Indiana.



2007

Fort Wayne State Developmental Center, the last of Indiana's state institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, closed its doors. There were nine other states, eight of them smaller than Indiana, which had arrived at this milestone.

2007

The centenary of Indiana's 1907 notorious, landmark sterilization law was observed. A historic marker was placed at the Indiana State Library, unveiled by survivor Jamie Coleman. There were at least 2,000 adults and children who were forcibly sterilized in Indiana between 1907 and 1974.

2007

The Indiana legislature passed a formal resolution of regret over Indiana's role in the eugenics movement and the injustices done under its eugenic laws.

2007

Legislation regarding use of "People First Language" was signed by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels.

2007

The Indiana Assistive Technology Act (INDATA) Project was established.

2008

The federal ADA Amendments Act, introduced as the ADA Restoration Act in 2007, amended the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in response to Supreme Court interpretations of the law that Congress deemed as limiting the rights of persons with disabilities.

2008

Self-Advocates of Indiana hosted the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis.

2009

Indiana House Bill (HB) 1603 became law, allowing individuals to be accompanied by their service animals in schools and places of employment.



2010

President Barack Obama issued an executive order, "Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities."

2010

Kacie Weldy, with hearing and sight impairments, was the first runner in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Mini-Marathon to use an assistance dog at the event.

2012

A vote in the United States Senate fell short of the two-thirds majority required for ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2012

Indiana's Family Support Waiver replaced the Support Services Waiver.

2013

The Arc of Indiana issued *Blueprint for Change*, recommending strategies for use of public resources to support people with disabilities in the wake of financial downturn, including reform of Indiana's Medicaid waiver program.

2014

The federal Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act or "Autism CARES Act" (H.R. 4631) was signed into law.

2014

The federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was signed into law.

2014

The U.S. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was enacted.



2014

The Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) Rule was published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, comprising regulations regarding the settings in which states can provide HCBS Services. Settings must be integrated within, and support full access to, the greater community.

2015

Indiana and the nation celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2015

Passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced the No Child Left Behind Act.

2016

An Indiana state law was passed to permit savings accounts, authorized by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, to be set up for Hoosiers with a disability.

2016

A law passed that requires the Indiana Department of Health, upon request, to issue a bracelet or ID card indicating that an individual is medically diagnosed with a developmental disability.

2016

Indiana House Bill 1337 became Public Law 213, prohibiting a person from performing an abortion if the person knows that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion solely because of a fetal diagnosis or potential diagnosis of Down syndrome or any other disability, among other provisions.

2017

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District that school districts must give students with disabilities the chance to make meaningful, "appropriately ambitious" progress.

2017

Indiana "Employment First" legislation passed, as the state joined 32 others promoting employment as the first goal for people with disabilities.

