

Boise State University

ScholarWorks

MDS/BAS 495 Undergraduate Capstone
Projects

Student Research

Fall 2021

The Impact of Fairview

Catriona Juliet Dahlke
Boise State University

The Impact of Fairview

1908- 'State Institution for the Feeble-Minded was established

The first patient was admitted to the institution. a nine year old child named Jack Broderick. His diagnosis was listed as 'epilepsy.'

1917- The admissions age limit was lowered to five years of age.

1926- The first patient of Fairview dies at age 27.

The cause of death was listed as 'epilepsy.' By the time of Mr. Broderick's passing, the institution had expanded to become the second-largest institution in the state of Oregon, with a population of over 900. There was also 102 employees and 11 separate cottages, which served as living facilities.

A sterilization law was also passed by Governor Oswald, allowing the state to sterilize patients and discharge them, rather than housing them for an extended period of time.

From the inception of the law until the year 1983, more than 2,600 forced sterilizations occurred at the Fairview Training Center.

1933, The State Home for the Feeble-Minded becomes the Oregon Fairview Home.

After slight improvements to patient care and nutrition, the name was once again updated to: **Fairview Hospital and Training Center.**

In the 1960's Fairview was at its largest it would ever be at over 3,000 residents.

It was not until 1983 that the US Attorney began to investigate the Fairview Training Center for violations of civil rights of the residents. In 1986, this was followed by a civil suit by the ARC of Oregon.

On February 24, 2000, the last resident left Fairview.



Voices of Fairview

The following are excerpts of quotes from survivors and former patients of the Fairview Training Center.

- "They were strict at Fairview. You got beat up, yelled at. They put us in closets."
-Former Patient, Laddie
- "Well they asked me to sign papers for (being) sterilized and I said no, I ain't going to sign it. I'm going to get out without being sterilized. And they told me, they threatened me, they said you'll never get out of Fairview until you have it done. Yes. I had to be sterilized. I went through with the surgery. I did it just to get my ass out of there. Excuse me." Former Patient, Linda
- "My dad couldn't take care of me because my mother died. I had my sister, and a brother-the 3 of us, and he couldn't take care of us. My aunt took care of me for awhile and she's the one that finally put me here." -Former Patient
- "I think they were water heads. (A slang term for an individual with hydrocephalus.) I would work on that. That cottage was Snell. I bathed them and changed their diapers. They had clothes everywhere. They didn't take care of them very good. It was terrible. It made me kind of sick. In fact, you know, I didn't really want to be there. It was really bad." -Former Patient, Albert
- "They did lots of things to girls...Well they did more to the men, the boys I mean, than to the girls. I think us girls were scared. If you say something they would yell at you and we'd get, you know, in trouble. If we say something, they would punish us... -Former Patient, Shelia



"I was one of the people that was forcibly sterilized. I did not have a choice. I had to do it. They told me after it was done. I was unhappy, but I couldn't do anything about it." – Ruth Morris, former Fairview resident

[Link to a full list of all academic sources:](#)

Catriona Juliet Dahlke-Boise State University