



AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WEST SENECA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (1961-2011)

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Large, centralized public institutions housing thousands of people were the dominant and largely unchallenged model for people with developmental disabilities in most states for almost a century. Beginning in the 1950s, parents in state after state began to challenge the institutional model. The movement to dismantle large institutions in favor of smaller residential settings gained momentum throughout the 1970s and 1980s and was based largely on perceived savings of taxpayer dollars and a rapidly growing disability rights movement.

Through oral history interviews with former professional staff, service employees, and residents at the West Seneca Developmental Center in suburban Buffalo, this project seeks to examine the lived experience and understandings of those involved in the process known commonly as “deinstitutionalization,” the transition in the model of care from large institutions to decentralized residential homes and services.

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Tuesday
April 2, 2013
12:30-2:00 pm
9 Norton Hall, UB North
Lunch available from 12:15
RSVP at CeppRsvp@buffalo.edu
All welcome

