Buck v. Bell allows the States to forcibly sterilize people deemed unfit for procreation (1927)

**Electro Shock Therapy (1935)** 

**CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE (NATIONAL)** 

The Great Depression leads to a Nationwide increase in mental health challenges

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park is located on the ancestral lands of the Susquehannock and Piscataway peoples, who were displaced during European colonization.

1911

## **FIRST TWELVE PATIENTS**

The first twelve patients arrived on March 13th, 1911. They lived in a Willow Barn on the property.



12 Patients

# 1912

## **HOSPITAL NAME CHANGE**

The name of the facility changed from Hospital of the Negro Insane to Crownsville Hospital.

1912

## **WILLOW FARMING**

Willow farming and basket weaving were an integral part of "occupational therapy", commonly used as treatment at asylums across the nation.



# 1920s - 1940s

## **UNDERSTAFFED**

As the patient population rose, the number of all-White staff members stayed largely the same, leading to a decline in care.



Credit: MD State Archives

1930

1939

# **TUBERCULOSIS** UNIT

A new building was erected to segregate patients with Tuberculosis, following outbreaks.

> 1.438 Patients

> > 1940

1920

1910

T WINTEROD 1910-1945)

The Crownsville Hospital for the Negro Insane was created by an act of Maryland's General Assembly. The intent of the Hospital was to create a separate facility for the better care of Maryland's Black population within mental institutions.

## **INCEPTION**

1910

The 566-Acre Boswell-Garret farm was purchased for \$19,000 by the State.

**BOSWELL-GARRET FARM** 

1908



Building 'A' was constructed with male and female wards, an infirmary, a heating plant, and staff offices. During construction of the Hospital's many buildings, patients were used as free labor to significantly reduce costs.

**BUILDING 'A' / RECEPTION BUILDING** 

1913

Little care was taken to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis at Crownsville, where patients with varying ailments were crowded together. At other hospitals, patients were separated by diagnosis to limit infections.

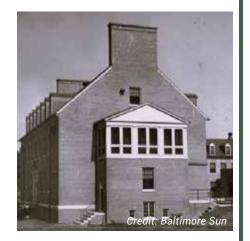
# **TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK**

1925



# **WILLIAM H. MURRAY**

Patient murdered by Crownsville guard Walter Swiskowki



Children's ward was built. WINTERODE BUILDING

1942

1926

Push for deinstitutionalizing mental health treatment

The Joint Commission on the Mental Health of Children (1965) JFK signs the Community Mental Health Act (1964)

**CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE (NATIONAL)** 

**World War II Begins (1939)** 

End of WWII. mental illness was a burgeoning health crisis (1951) Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

The sit in movement begins. (1960)

March on Washington / MLK "I Have a Dream Speech" (1963) **Civil Rights Act** (1964)

1964

1943

## **NAACP WEIGHS IN**

NAACP members visited the Hospital and noted poor conditions, untrained staff, lack of recreation, lack of education, and abuse.

NAACP

1.700 Patients

1949 MARYLAND SHAME ARTICLE

Howard Norton published a series in The Baltimore Sun. bringing to light conditions at Maryland State Institutions. This article led to a special joint committee investigation of treatment at mental hospitals in the State.

Maryland's Shame

The Worst Story Ever **Told By The Sunpapers**  1953

## TRANSFER OF CHILDREN

Black children from Crownsville were transfered to Rosewood, an asylum for White children, after a debate on whether to integrate the facility to provide better care.

> 2.719 Patients

Patients

1952

## PATIENTS EXPERIMENTS

Many studies were conducted on the Hospital's patients, including hydrotherapy, new psychotropic medications, and similar experimental treatments.

1954

## **PATIENT RIOTS**

Riots became common during the 1950s, as conditions worsened. Tear gas and fire hoses were used on patients.

1955

# **OVERCROWDING**

The Hospital failed to earn accreditation from the American Psychiatric Association due to overcrowding and inadequate staffing.

1961

# **ELKTON THREE**

Three civil rights activists, arrested for trespassing at a Whites-only restaurant in Elkton, were sent to Crownsville, for evaluation after a hunger strike in jail.



DR. PHILLIPS

The Hospital appoints Dr. George McKenzie Phillips, Sr. as the first Black Superintendent. Under his direction, children were moved off adult wards and Black staff increased, improving the level of care of patients.



1940 1950 1960 1970

ARNOLD H. EICHERT

Vernon Sparks, the first licensed Black psychologist in the State, became the first Black employee at the Hospital. Later the same year, Gwendolyn Lee became the second Black employee in the Social Services department.

FIRST BLACK STAFF



of Henrietta Lacks, was sent to the Hospital at age 10 and died there 5 years later. Elsie was non-communicative, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and "idiocy" and was likely subjected to a epileptic patient study, involving draining fluid from the brain, without consent.

Elsie Lacks, daughter

**ELSIE LACKS** 

1950

DR. RALPH MENG (Served 1956-1956)



2.038

Patients

Credit: MD State Archives

The construction of the Campanella building marked a turning point for increased recreation at Crownsville.

**RECREATION BUILDING** 

from the NAACP mounting, the State integrates Mental Hospitals across Maryland. **STATE** 

With legal pressure

INTEGRATION

1963

DR. GEORGE MCKENZIE PHILLIPS, SR

1959

1.438

Introduction of the DSM-III (1980)

**Increase in Antidepressants** (Fluoextine and other SSRIs (1980s) Increased emphasis on **Trauma Informed Care** 

**CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE (NATIONAL)** 

**Roots TV Series** started (1977)

1972

**COMMISSION VISIT** 

**Practices Commission** 

1,033

Patients

Visit by Humane

**Mental Health Systems Act** (soon eliminated by Ronald Reagan) **Establishment of the Congressional Black Caucus (1987)** 

**Rodney King Beating (1991)**  Million Man March aka march on Washington (1995)

1975

# **TREATMENT INVESTIGATION**

Doug Struck, a reporter, checked himself into the Hospital voluntarily to investigate the treatment of patients. During the six days he was there. he claimed he received medications, but no other treatment.



# PATIENT TREATMENT

Paul Lurz, an employee of the hospital for 40+ years, was promoted to Chief of Social Services. Even with great improvements in treatment, Paul witnessed an adolescent girl being restrained as staff's tension rose and they disagreed over treatments and racial lines. A few years later, Paul would be integral to saving many patient records from destruction.

> 550 Patients

1980

## **ELOISE RICHARDSON**

Eloise Richardson, the first librarian and poetry therapist at Crownsville, was recognized in The Windsor Star as a nationally acclaimed pioneer for rehabilitative poetry.



1990

# **DR. BRIAN SIMS**

Dr. Sims was one of the first to introduce "trauma informed care" - a model that recognizes the importance of a patient's life story and past exposure to adverse events.



# PATIENT TREATMENT

60% of patients were arriving through the Criminal Justice System. Despite this. Dr. Ron Hendler led the transformation of hospital operations, reorganizing staff, increasing the number of child psychiatrists, repairing buildings, and monitoring to reduce seclusion and the number of assaults.

200 Patients

2000

1970

1,620

**Patients** 

In the 1970s, dozens of developmental centers, mental hospitals, and sanatoriums were converted to prisons.

SHIFT TO INCARCERATION



Since the 1950s, Black nurses and staff cultivated a higher level of care for patients that went beyond their required duties. This micro community was the heart of many positive experiences of patients at Crownsville.

#### **HIDDEN FIGURES**

A young female patient recounts arriving at the Hospital and being given medication prior to any other intake discussions.

# PATIENT EXPERIENCE

1979

The hospital was shrinking back to earlier times, when patients were being sent to Crownsville or admitting themselves because of homelessness and a lack of resources.

## MIRRORING THE PAST

1980

1983

The State pushed administrators to bring down population - patients were released with a lack of resources, some dying shortly after their release. The broken system relied on a 5-year check-in system "conditional release", with little room for error; if appointments were missed, patients were sent back to the Hospital.

1990

## LACK OF AFTER CARE **SUPPORT**

1985

DR. RON HENDLER (Served 1996-2003)

SIGNIFICANT EVENT

Mad in America by Rob Whitaker Published (2002) **Mental Health Parity** Act (2008)

**COVID-19 Pandemic results in the** rise of telehealth services (2021)

**CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE (NATIONAL)** 

**September 11th Attacks (2001)** 

**Barack Obama Elected as 44th** President of the United States (2008) George Floyd Murdered by Minneapolis police (2020)

2013

2022

2004

## **NEW TENANT**

Opening in 1986, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank moved to the Crownsville campus.



2004

# **HOSPITAL CLOSURE**

In 2004, the Hospital was decommissioned; the remaining patients and staff were sent to Spring Grove and Springfield.

A restriction was put into place to prevent the sale of the cemetery land. It would be over 20 years that most of the buildings would sit vacant.



TREATMENT INVESTIGATION

An official request to start an investigation on the treatment of Black patients at Crownsville was made by the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, the Caucus of African-American Leaders, and the Maryland Disability Law Center on August 2nd.

# PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Through volunteer work of the Friends of Crownsville Hospital Patient Cemetery, over 1,700 patients' names were identified.

2022

# **HOSPITAL ACQUISITION**

The Hospital was transferred from the State to Anne Arundel County.



0 Patients

2000 2010 2020

Superintendent Ron Hendler was demoted and removed after State leaders suspected his resistance to the Hospital closure.

**LEADERSHIP CHANGE** 

2003



First Say My Name Ceremony held through efforts by Friends of Crownsville **Hospital Patient Cemetery** 

**SAY MY NAME** 

2005



Source: Saving Places

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County initiated the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park Master Plan effort.

**LOOKING FORWARD** 

2023

2014

committed the

the cemetery.

State to provide

perpetual care of

**LEGAL ACTION** 

Design Collective

SIGNIFICANT EVENT

STORIES OF INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS | 33