

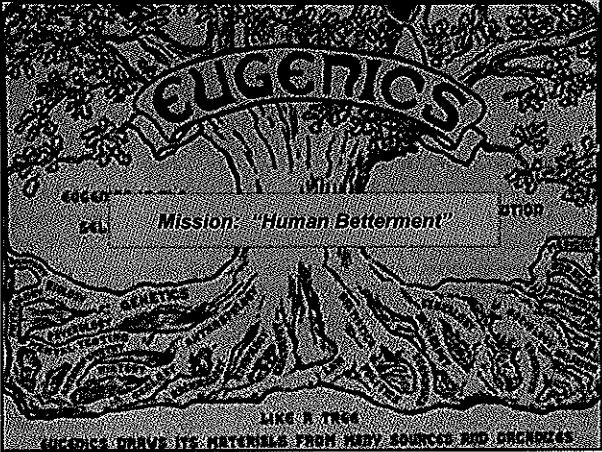
NC Department of Health and Human  
Services Eugenics Efforts  
2003-2009

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May 25, 2011


Governor's Task Force To Determine The  
Method of Compensation For Victims of  
North Carolina's Eugenics Board

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An Apology From Governor Mike Easley

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"To the victims and families of this regrettable  
episode in North Carolina's past, I extend my sincere  
apologies and want to assure them that we will not  
forget what they have endured."  
*(December 2002)*

Two Key Follow Up Actions in 2003

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- Repeal of the Eugenics' Law
- Eugenics Study Committee

### North Carolina 2003 General Assembly's Response

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- Involuntary sterilization law repealed by the NC General Assembly - 2003 session.
- Rep. Larry Womble (Forsyth County), led the legislative efforts to
  - Repeal Eugenics (involuntary sterilization) law
  - Introduce House Bill 1236 to create Legislative Study Commission (financial compensation)

### Governor Mike Easley's Response

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- Established Eugenics Study Committee 2003
- Appointed Co-Chairs -Larry Womble, NC House of Representatives and Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- Charged to committee-
  - Explore the history of the program,
  - Ensure that the Eugenics Program is never repeated in NC, and
  - Make recommendations on how to assist the survivors of the state's involuntary sterilization program

### Eugenics Study Committee Membership

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- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
  - Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD)
  - Council on Developmental Disabilities
  - Division of Mental Health/Development Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services
  - General Counsel
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resource
  - Arts and Libraries
  - Office of Achieves and History
- Duke University Ethicist
- North Carolina General Assembly

### Eugenics Study Committee Recommendations (Support for Survivors)

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- Nonprofit foundation/support group
- Finding the survivors ( DHHS lead role)
- Determining Validity of Claims (DHHS lead role)
- Health Care ( DHHS lead role)
- Education Benefits

### **Eugenics Study Committee Recommendations (System Changes)**

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- North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction should include information about the eugenics program in its curriculum, on North Carolina history.
- The Department of Cultural Resources should investigate the creation of a memorial to ensure that no one forgets what the State of North Carolina once perpetrated against its own citizens. This memorial needs to be tangible – something that provides constant witness to this program long after survivors are gone.
- The North Carolina University and Community College systems should explore the creation of endowed chairs or special scholarships that will memorialize the program.

### **Eugenics Study Committee Recommendations (System Changes) Specific to Department of Health and Human Services**

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- The Department of Health and Human Services will create an ethics program, which includes information on the Eugenics Board. DHHS professionals will be required to take this course.
- A seminar will be organized to talk about the program, hear from survivors and discuss its implications in today's world. The seminar should include presentations from experts, including Dr. Johanna Schoen.

### **DHHS' Response 2004-2008**

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- Secretary Appointed OMHHD to lead Department's Follow-up Efforts
- Per Secretary's request- Office of Citizen Services Database (Self-identified Eugenics Victims)
- OMHHD consulted with Department of Cultural Resources
  - Referrals ( verification of victims)
  - Memorandum of Agreement ( records access)

### **DHHS' Response 2004-2008**

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- OMHHD Consulted with Eugenics Researcher ( Dr. Johanna Schoen)
  - Estimated number of survivors
  - Outreach strategy to find survivors ( Eugenics Exhibit)
  - Strategy to Educate DHHS professionals

### DHHS' Response 2004-2008

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- Eugenics Traveling Exhibit
  - Developed in partnership with Researcher, Eugenics Victims, Artifacts Curator
- Launched in June, 2007 at NC Museum of History
- Eugenics Seminar
  - Developed and first presented 2007
  - DHHS professionals, policy makers, medical care providers, community members and Eugenics victims

### Eugenics Traveling Exhibit



### 2008 House Select Committee on Compensation for Victims of the Eugenics Sterilization Program

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Co Chairs Representatives Larry Womble and Ronnie Sutton

#### Recommendations:

- Mental Health Counseling Benefits
- Database on Eugenics Program Records
- Verify Status of Self-Identified Survivors
- Historical Marker
- Educational Materials
- Interview and Document Survivors
- Ethics Training Module
- Preserve and allow appropriate access to program records
- Media Campaign
- Compensation for Victims (\$20,000)

### Transfer of Responsibilities

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- DHHS negotiated with Cultural Resources to house the Eugenics Exhibit and manage Victims Database (2008)
- Presentation to House Select Committee on Compensation For Victims of the Eugenics Sterilization Program (2008)
- OMHHD Oriented Executive Director, NC Justice For Sterilization Victims Foundation (2009)

*Thank you!*

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