

2000 to 2009

In July of 2000, the last resident with developmental disabilities left the state institution system—though the fight was far from over. In 2007, investigations at the former Minnesota Extended Treatment Options (METO) program at Cambridge found that scores of residents were routinely handcuffed, placed in leg irons, or locked alone in rooms.

In 2009, the Jensen case commanded headlines, alleging that the METO program used restraint and seclusion in a way that violated residents' rights under the U.S. Constitution, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Federal Rehabilitation Act. When this landmark lawsuit was completed in 2020, the result provided more rights and protections for those with disabilities.