

Analysis on Welfare

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Introduction

- This policy analysis is about the aspect of social welfare over U.S. history that have shaped current child welfare and aid for needy families. I will introduce the problem about social welfare specifically child welfare (protective services) and I will also give solutions to the problem. I will propose solution, state consequences, and explain some controversial aspects about the policy.

The Problem

- Caseworkers in every state are handling every case the same
“In particular, a huge range of different care experiences are treated as if they were comparable. For example, children removed at birth and swiftly placed for adoption and teenagers entering care with severe behavioral problems are lumped together as children in care. The results in similar policy recommendations being made across the board,” (Forrester, 2008).
- Lumping of cases
Each child in the system needs to be treated as an individual and not like the system as a whole.
- Funding
“Abuse and neglect prevention programs were cut by 44 percent. In a state with more than 1.6 million children living in poverty, which is a major risk factor for abuse and neglect, only an estimated 6,000 children will be able to receive child abuse and neglect prevention services annually” (Center for Public Policy Priorities, 2011).

Policy Description and Analysis

- As of 2013 Child Protection Services “At least 26 states enacted approximately 62 bills related to the protection and safety of children. In Colorado they created a child abuse reporting hotline system and mandated a Task Force on Children Conceived by Rape. The legislation also allowed for termination of the parent-child relationship in cases where the child was conceived as a result of sexual assault. Maryland required health practitioner reporting of substance-exposed newborns, but specified that the report does not create a presumption of child abuse” (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2013).
- The three pillars of child welfare are “Safety: Children are protected from abuse and neglect and are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, Child and family well-being: Families are better able to provide for their children’s needs, and children are provided services that meet their educational, physical health and mental health needs, and Permanency: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations and continuity in their family relationships and connection” (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2005). Even though these are the three pillars of child welfare, there are many problems that arise in every child’s life. As mentioned before there are problems within the system. I believe I can give a solution to this problem to make the situation better for future reference.

Policy Solution

- Create new programs

Most kids in the system feel left out and feel that they are the only one’s who have to go through things such as not living with their biological family etc. New programs will allow kids not only to interact with kids just like them, but it will also allow them to make new friends and get a sense that there is someone out there going through the same thing as them.

Historical Background

- Welfare policy in the United States began in the 1870’s
- Founder of New York’s children’s Aid Society Child Charles Loring Brace, moved thousands of children from deleterious urban conditions in New York City to farm families in the Midwest..
- The boarding out of children until adoption was the forerunner of today’s foster care and adoption programs in the United States. By 1922, 57 societies for the prevention of cruelty to children has been established to protect abused youngsters.



Conclusions

The child welfare system is something that I am very passionate about. Growing up I had my fair share of knowing how the system itself works. I am gradually learning more about the policy as time goes on. I found this assignment to be very rewarding. There are a lot of things that needs to be put in affect to help the child welfare system out in general, but I believe it will get better with time, but worse finically. The best thing to do with this situation is to hope for the best.

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