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Managed Care in Human Services. Stephen P. Wernet.

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convergence. All four have been described as 'welfare states' and all four have adopted policies that link employment to social welfare. On the other hand, there are significant differences in the way these policies operate and the way they address fundamental social needs.

The book covers an enormous field and at times, appears to lack coherence. However, this is largely due to its ambitious sweep over a wide range of topics. These include discussions of Fordism and flexible specialization in industrial production, the growth of 'non-standard' employment, the increasing role and significance of women in the labor market, regional differences in labor markets and industrial production, gender inequality and discrimination in employment, and the merits of social exclusion as an alternative concept to that of poverty. The book also provides an excellent summary of employment trends in the four European nations since the Second World War.

Although Cousin's does not attempt to compare European trends with those in the United States, her book contains much information that will be of interest to American readers. The problem of persistently high unemployment; the idea of social exclusion as a uniquely European approach to conceptualizing social welfare; and the idea that active labor market policies are a major responsibility of government deserves the attention of readers in the United States and indeed, other countries as well. This book should be widely read. Hopefully, it will encourage social policy scholars to pay more attention to issues of employment and social policy.

Stephen P. Wernet, *Managed Care in Human Services*, Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books, 1999. \$32.95 papercover.

The term 'managed care' is widely used today but there is still much confusion about its meaning and implications. In the popular media, it is used primarily to criticize HMOs for failing to provide adequate medical services to people with serious health conditions. In psychotherapy, it gloomily foretells the imminent end of private practice. In the social services it is more broadly used to refer to the contracting out of services to non-governmental organizations. Frequently, it connotes the involvement of for-profit groups in the provision of these services.

As these examples show, there is a need to clarify these different meanings and to provide a comprehensive account of developments in the field. This helpful book, edited by Stephen Wernet goes a long way towards meeting this goal. It contains a number of interesting contributions on different aspects of managed care. Wernet's opening chapter sets out to describe managed care and to define the complex jargon which is used by those working in managed care programs. Several chapters discuss managed care in the context of child welfare, mental health and children's behavioral health. One chapter deals with the way managed care is impacting psychotherapeutic practice and the book concludes with a brief assessment of some of the issues and debates surrounding the topic.

While the book makes a useful contribution to the literature, it does not fully meet the need for a comprehensive account of managed care. The role of managed care in corrections is only mentioned fleetingly, and the implications of managed care for mainstream medical social work are not discussed. Some of the chapters tend to repeat material presented by other contributors. These deficiencies stem largely from the fact that the book is an edited collection and not a systematic, single authored explication of the subject. Nevertheless, it contains much useful information and should be widely consulted by social workers and human services personnel.