



Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSSW

On the first of May, President Bush announced that the hostilities in Iraq are coming to a close. The consequences of these actions, as with all major events in US history, are unclear—their implications will be felt not only here, but worldwide. As with other parts of the world, we are beginning to recognize that there are and will be increasing constraints to the growth of positive social and economic policies. Economic surplus is no longer part of the lexicon of government planners, deficits are our current reality. We know the consequences of such deficits—the concept “last hired, first fired” threatens the stability of much needed social programs.

We will be called upon to become increasingly creative in responding to the realities of economic scarcity. We hope that as new strategies emerge that our journal will continue to be a focal point of discussion. The variety of articles in this issue represent both the enrichment of traditional approach-

es and the projection of novel methodologies. Given the turmoil of modern life, as countries are born or diminished, as new roles emerge, our Journal will be receptive to these changing patterns. We welcome a broader range of perspectives, informed by both first-hand experiences and scholarly research, that will lead to a more complete understanding of how we as practitioners and academics can better respond to the challenges and opportunities around us.

In the near future, we intend to publish a special issue of the journal addressing the findings of the Southern Regional Quality Improvement Center. This is a Children's Bureau funded research and development project involving five states—Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. This series of articles will cover issues related to programmatic and policy recommendations impacting the child welfare system.

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