



How Institutions are Shaping the Future of Our Children: For Better or for Worse?

Catherine Dulmus, Karen Sowers

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Improve services for children and youth with new concepts, different perspectives, and up-to-date information!

How Institutions are Shaping the Future of Our Children: For Better or for Worse? explores the positive and negative impacts of social institutions on child and adolescent well-being. Experts in the fields of social work and child welfare provide a broad perspective on how to improve outcomes for children and adolescents who receive institutional services either directly or indirectly. This book contains innovative strategies for reducing the negative outlook for children and families in shelters, foster homes, and residential treatment centers.

This book offers improvements for care services at such locations as:


- residential institutions
- state custody and foster homes
- schools
- youth development organizations
- urban public housing developments
- homeless shelters

In *How Institutions are Shaping the Future of Our Children*, you'll discover current case studies that show how certain groups—such as minorities and economically challenged children and families—are stigmatized by the current child welfare system. You'll also find new evidence of the detrimental effects that can occur as a result of institutionalization and the need to find alternatives to removing children and adolescents from family-style environments. This book contains tables to clarify the findings of these case studies, references to further your reading, and detailed descriptions of plans and programs that you can implement in your own social work practice.

How Institutions are Shaping the Future of Our Children presents new ways to create positive environments for children and adolescents, including:

- strengths-based approaches to practice with children with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances
- custody planning for the children of HIV-infected women
- discipline-specific education for child protection caseworkers
- creating supportive staff-youth relationships within all institutions
- multiple family group interventions which help to strengthen homeless families in preparation to transition to permanent housing
- the School Development Program, Child Development Project, and Comprehensive Quality Programming—interventions for preventing school drop-outs
- Life Plans for post-institutionalized youth

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