

Child Welfare in Israel*Eliezer David Jaffe*

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As a social scientist, teacher, advocate, and social reformer, Dr. Jaffe is eminently qualified to present this survey of child welfare services in Israel. His interest and involvement as an advocate for social change is well-known, as is his influence in bringing about many of the improvements in the delivery of social services that have occurred in recent years. This book also presents an incisive critique of these services as well as timely suggestions for change and improvement.

The book is divided into three sections. The first is an outline of the events leading up to the formation of the Jewish state, their impact on the development of social services; a discussion of ethnic differences and divisions, including the Black Panther movement of the early 1970s and its not insignificant impact on the development of child welfare services. This section also includes a critical assessment of the development of social services in Israel that draws heavily on the work of this reviewer's teacher, Dr. Anna Weiner.

The second section describes in-home services, such as day care, income maintenance programs, and homemaker services, and the third section discusses "away from home" services, such as foster care, adoption, and institutional care. This division reflects upon the relative merits of in-home versus away from home services, and the author's efforts to implement change in the traditional Israeli emphasis on institutional child care. Jaffe presents the differing viewpoints on the subject, the bureaucratic obstacles to change, and his own clear preferences.

Discussion of each service area, such as day care, adoption, etc. includes a synopsis of relevant legislation, a summary of the

services available and how they developed, and a description of the significant personalities involved in the development of these services. Dr. Jaffe's critique of these services points out the deficiencies and offers concrete suggestions for change. For instance, he points out the inestimable value of homemaker services in keeping families together, yet notes that only about 20 percent of the need for this service is being met. He criticizes the lack of coordination in the delivery of day care services, especially the existence of a large number of unlicensed centers, the result of the overlap of the three separate governmental ministries that have some responsibility in this area. His analysis of income maintenance programs is extensive and detailed, illustrating the wide range of programs available to assist families, especially during time of economic hardship.

An extensive bibliography is provided. *Child Welfare in Israel* is valuable for social work professionals and the general reader, who is interested in this lesser-known aspect of Israeli society. The book should also be of interest to Jewish service organizations that raise funds for, and often operate, social service programs in Israel. Jaffe discusses their role, their significant contributions as areas that require greater coordination or development.

R.G.