

LITERATURE REVIEW 2010

HARD LABOR: Women and Work in the Post-Welfare Era; Joel F. Handler and Lucie White editors; 1999. This book was a compilation of articles written by various authors relating to the issues that arise for the poor who are struggling to overcome poverty. Several articles mentioned that a major factor that poses an impediment for those trying to leave or avoid welfare is that the adults often lack the education and skills to enter the workforce in occupations that pay enough to move them out of poverty. In fact, women find themselves often working in service related jobs that pay minimum wage, are part time and offer no health benefits. Further, once these women enter the workforce they often find that they no longer qualify for other benefits such as child care. Other barriers impacting these workers include transportation, housing, social support. When many of these workers lose employment they find that the jobs had not qualified for unemployment insurance. This book also highlighted the fact that too often poor women, women who are known to the welfare system are subject to higher rates of reports to child protective services for allegations of child neglect.