**Chapter Exercises**

**PART I. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTHCARE**

**CHAPTER 1: The Historical and Contemporary Context for Healthcare Social Work Practice**

1. Healthcare Reform Exercise

Read a summary of [the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010](http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8061.pdf). For an analysis of healthcare reform legislation along with other information on healthcare issues, visit [the Kaiser Foundation Health Care Reform website](http://healthreform.kff.org/).

Work in a small group to discuss the following:

* What issues prompted a growth in popular support for healthcare reform?
* What is the intent of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?
* What provisions are enacted to achieve its goal(s)?
* What populations are most likely to be affected by the Act and how?
* What are your own reactions to the Act? Why?

2. Healthcare and Mental Health Pioneers

Two pioneers in healthcare and mental healthcare are Ida M. Cannon and Dorothea Dix. How are their legacies evident in the contemporary delivery of healthcare?

3. Professional history

Explore the proceedings from [the 1880 National Conference on Social Welfare](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/n/ncosw?cginame=text-idx;id=navbarbrowselink;page=browse).

Work in a small group to discuss the following:

* What were some of the issues the profession of social work struggled with at the time?
* Are they similar or different from the issues the profession struggles with today?
* What does the language in the document tell you about how social workers viewed the people that they served? Has this changed?

4. How does the United States Compare?

Go the interactive website for [the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](http://www.oecd.org).

Using the interactive graph link, explore how child health and wellness in the United States com­pares with other countries. Select three countries. Explore obesity rates and breast cancer survival rates for the same countries that you have selected. How does the United States compare?