



AAICAMA

Building Bridges Across State Lines

REPORT TO THE STATES 2011 2012

WHO WE ARE

AAICAMA is an association of dedicated state professionals working to support adoptive children secure continued access to Medicaid services when they move to a new state. ICAMA professionals work with quiet efficiency to be sure every child protected by the ICAMA is enrolled without delay in their new state's Medicaid plan. AAICAMA members know that these services are vital to adoptive children and their families. They understand that these special children need access to these services every day.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

AAICAMA believes that the best solutions for children who need permanent homes and cannot be reunited with their families of origin are Adoption and Guardianship.

AAICAMA believes that states should work together to help adoptive and kinship families.

AAICAMA believes that all children should have stable, caring adults in their lives and the chance to become productive citizens of their state and country.

WHAT WE DO

AAICAMA works with the states to be sure each child protected by the ICAMA gets the services they need through the effective and efficient use of ICAMA forms and processes so that no child is left without services.

AAICAMA works with states to understand administrative issues related to interstate.

AAICAMA works to clarify practice questions and mediate state disagreements.

AAICAMA acts as an information resource for busy state staff by providing summaries of federal legislation and policy statements that affect their work.

AAICAMA maintains an active website that is a hub for interstate communication, links to ICAMA forms and real-time database, provides resource information to help in the administration of the ICAMA, and offers families reliable facts on the how an interstate move affects the receipt of Medicaid.

2012 Centennial Adoption
Excellence Award Recipient



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We would like to thank the Children's Bureau for their recognition of the work the association does for children. AAICAMA was honored to receive the 2012 Centennial Adoption Excellence Award and will continue to work for children and their forever families each time they move to a new state. This award recognizes all the work that has been done by the states, Executive Committee members and secretariat staff since 1986. Without any part of that team the ICAMA would not be the interstate compact whose important work continues every day quietly and effectively.

As we look forward we're excited by the prospect of being able to provide the states with real-time data that will help inform practice, policy, budgeting—ensuring ICAMA continues to be a strong support for families while working to be sure that no dollar is wasted.

The key to AAICAMA's success is its drive to continuously improve effectiveness and efficiency on behalf of adopted children. This focus benefits the children and their forever families by helping the states to exchange eligibility information so children can receive services from the new state's Medicaid Plan without delay; members never forget how important Medicaid services are to these special children. States also benefit because AAICAMA believes that administrative efficiency focused on competency and federal compliance will save states money and reduce delays in Medicaid provision.

We encourage all state and local ICAMA professional to become active in AAICAMA; your contribution can only improve the work we do for the children. We have committees, offer training, and contact members to find out what they need. Even a short term contribution is needed and appreciated. Call any one of us; we'd love to hear from you.

WHAT'S NEXT

DATA! AAICAMA will provide states with quantitative reports on the children coming into and leaving each state under an ICAMA form. This data will be automatically generated as states follow standard ICAMA procedures requiring no extra work on the part of the states.

FORMS! Members will be using newly revised ICAMA forms to provide eligibility certification and other necessary information to other states. This increased communication strengthens supports to adoptive children and their families.

NATIONAL MEETING! AAICAMA will hold its national meeting in Denver, Colorado - May 5-7. Training and strategic approaches to strengthen state coordination will be the focus of the 'Effective Nationwide' meeting.

WEBSITE! AAICAMA's website will be the hub for all access to the ICAMA 700 series forms. The newly designed forms will be linked to the revised ICAMA Administrator Manual to clarify issues relating to federal requirements and state responsibility for providing services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011 and 2012

■ **Training:** Provided 9 teleconferences at no charge to state staff on Improving ICAMA administration, Medicaid for title IV-E and non-title IV-E eligible children, and the COBRA option. The number of people attending these trainings ranged from 30 to 75 participants.

This steady availability of training helps new administrators become familiar with all aspects of their work; and helps keep the more experienced administrators apprised of any recent federal policy or legislation changes.

■ **ICAMA Form:** New ICAMA forms were developed by members over the course of 10 committee meetings. The proposed forms were open to state review and comment during three webinars and then submitted to the states for approval or rejection. States voted overwhelmingly to pass the streamlined ICAMA 700 series form.

The new form will provide states with increased efficiency in the completion of the forms by eliminating unnecessary fields, adding required "fill-in" fields so no incomplete form is sent, and increasing the information provided to families engaging them to become active partners. The new forms will also be used to process title IV-E guardianship (GAP) children.

■ **Technical Assistance:** continues to be provided at no charge to states and families as requested.

The availability of expert guidance to issues allows state administrators to effectively resolve more complex problems in a minimum of time with the assurance that the information received has been thoroughly researched and verified.



CORNERSTONES OF OUR WORK

AAICAMA is a state-directed, state-supported association whose mission is to open communication and maintain cooperation and interchange of information among ICAMA Administrators and their agencies, private adoption agency representatives, tribes, and others involved in special needs adoption.

AAICAMA ensures that the implications of interstate practice are considered in legislation and policy by working closely with the Children's Bureau of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and other federal agencies and officials concerned with services to children receiving guardianship or adoption assistance.

AAICAMA offers training to any staff in the states who need to know about the protections ICAMA provides and how it is administered.

TRAINING

Each year the association offers web and teleconferences on ICAMA Administration; Medicaid in interstate cases for children receiving title IV-E adoption assistance, title IV-E guardianship assistance, and non-title IV-E adoption assistance; federal Adoption/Guardianship Assistance and Medicaid Programs and their application interstate; and new federal legislation or policy as it relates to these programs interstate.

AAICAMA's Executive Committee continues to make Technical Assistance a priority. The Secretariat staff provides Technical Assistance to the states as often as requested.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In a typical year Secretariat staff responds to more than 100 requests from states and families. Requests for technical assistance receive responses as quickly as possible. Each response is carefully researched and citations and references to law are provided.

The questions can be as simple as contact information for another state but can range to the intersection of federal Adoption Assistance and Medicaid law and policies.

The goal of AAICAMA's website is to provide state administrators quick access to ICAMA forms, effective processes, and informational resources developed by the association.

AAICAMA.org

AAICAMA's website communicates new information important to ICAMA administrators, provides a ready reference for states, offers information, analysis and links to federal legislation and policy, offers lists of contacts necessary to the administration of the ICAMA, and offers parents and guardians a resource on interstate adoptions or guardianships once the agreements are signed.

The states recognize that the regular flow of information from the federal government provides important instruction and guidance on issues that affect adoptions and interstate Medicaid receipt.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

Secretariat staff review new federal legislation and policy as it is released to determine applicability to interstate adoption. States are provided with analyses, citations and references to all relevant issuances. This service apprises the states of changes to federal requirements without requiring lengthy state staff review of the law.

AAICAMA's Executive Committee appreciates that states are committed to finding ways to continue being effective while increasing staff efficiency in all areas of child welfare.

SUPPORTING STATES

AAICAMA tracks and reviews new publications, reports, and studies produced on adoption, post-adoption services, and interstate barriers to receipt services. Members are advised which may contain useful information for those who work in adoption.

AAICAMA also maintains references to all federal legislation, Children's Bureau and CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) Issuances related to adoption, Medicaid, permanence, and their interstate application.



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REMEMBERING RUTH GROSSE

AAICAMA lost a valued friend and Executive Committee member on September 19, 2012. Ruth served as the association's Assistant Treasurer, championed the provision of Nebraska Medicaid to children coming into that state with state-funded adoption assistance agreements and ably served on the Web Implementation and Forms Revision committees. Everyone who knew Ruth was aware of how committed she was to children and families, her relentless efforts to be sure their needs were met, and how kind she was to everyone. ICAMA Professionals and secretariat staff have keenly felt her absence.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

AAICAMA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that is member-supported. All states, except Wyoming, have enabled the ICAMA making them members of the AAICAMA. Each of the 50 member states is assessed annually. In both 2011 and 2012 each member state was invoiced \$4000.00. AAICAMA makes every effort to minimize its costs down while ensuring that all ICAMA Professionals have the tools and information they need so that state interstate offices are effective and efficient every day.

CY 2011

INCOME:

Total Income - \$164,000.
 39 states x \$4000.00 = \$156,000
 Contract Work = \$8000.00

OUTLAY:

Total Expenses - \$176,025.
 Total Indirect Costs \$96,415.
 Salary/Fringe - 56,415.
 Office/Admin Support - 40,000.
 Total Direct Costs \$79,610.
 Business Expenses - \$8,352.
 Contractors - \$71,258.

Net Reserve Loss = \$12,025.

CY2012

INCOME:

Total Income - \$176,000.
 42 states x \$4000.00 = \$168,000.
 Contract Work = \$8000.00

OUTLAY:

Total Expenses - \$148,764.
 Total Indirect Costs \$42,129.
 Salary/Fringe - 2,129.
 Office/Admin Support \$40,000.
 Total Direct Costs \$106,635.
 Business Expenses \$18,413.
 Contractors \$88,222.

Net Reserve Addition = \$27,236.

2012-2013
Executive Committee

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BJ Kirkland Miller, West Virginia

Vice President:

Diane Savage, Rhode island

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