AAICAMA

Bulding Bridges Across State Lines

From the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

For almost two decades, the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (AAICAMA) has been *Building Bridges Across State Lines.* Since its inception in 1986, AAICAMA has assisted states in connecting necessary services to children and their adoptive families. Through AAICAMA, states develop and implement uniform policies and procedures to ensure that children and their families receive necessary supports and services. As we look back on 2005, we can see the breadth and depth of AAICAMAs assistance to the field of special needs adoption.

The Compact has grown in membership and AAICAMAs role has correspondingly grown in scope. AAICAMAs focus has gradually shifted from joinder in the Compact to state practice of the delivery services received through the Compact. AAICAMAs assistance to states is multifaceted. AAICAMA mediates interstate disputes, assists states in cross-system partnerships, collaborates with outside agencies and organizations, advocates for joinder of ICAMA and the adoption of COBRA and COBRA reciprocity, builds state capacity to collect and use data, answers state technical assistance questions on such complex issues as education, adoption assistance, foster care, Medicaid, and Social Security. Partnership is the key. Together, AAICAMA and the states help ensure that the special needs of adopted children are met- in state and across state lines.

I have enjoyed working with AAICAMA in various capacities. I have especially appreciated working with the staff of APHSA who provide Secretariat services to AAICAMA.

I look forward to continuing to work with each of you to ensure that children and families receive necessary supports and services, wherever they live.

Stephanie Petteaway
President, AAICAMA

Research
*AAICAMA's research enhances the knowledge base to support improvements
in practice and policy in interstate adoption*

♦ **Adoption Law Comparison**
Conducted a survey on differences in state laws on: (a) age of termination for Title IV-E and state-funded adoption assistance, (b) where adoption finalization can occur, (c) requirements regarding termination of parental rights (TPR), (d) dual-licensure, and (e) licensing of relatives.

♦ **Data**
Conducted a survey to identify the status of each state's capacity to collect data regarding interstate placements of children receiving adoption assistance and their ability to use the data for performance management in order to target assistance in improving data capacity.

♦ **Medicaid Redeterminations**
Phone surveys were administered with 30 states to identify current and model practices regarding redeterminations of Medicaid eligibility for children receiving Title IV-E and state-funded adoption assistance.

♦ **Administration of ICAMA**
Assessed the use of ICAMA Form 6.03 to determine compact administrators understanding of and current use of the form. This information serves as a foundation for identifying ways to improve the form and its use to ensure accountability for the receipt of Medicaid.

Teleconferences
Teleconference calls provide a venue for information exchange and training.

➤ *February 16, 2004* Medical Assistance for Title IV-E Eligible Children in Interstate Cases:Policy and Practice

➤ *August 4, 2005* Building Partnerships between adoption assistance and Medicaid staff

➤ *June 2, 2005* Interstate administration of Adoption Assistance and related services Involving County-Administered States

➤ *July 7, 2005* State Policy regarding state-funded adoption assistance eligibility for private agency children in interstate placement

➤ *October 6, 2005* Providing Education to Children in Foster Care and pre-adoptive placement: Federal law and Interstate concerns

"The audio conferences are convenient and helpful…materials will be ongoing source of help and am grateful we are able to distribute..."

"This forum is exteremly accessible and useful..."

"I enjoyed the discussion of the new changes to IDEA; I had no idea of their implications..."

Exectuive Committee
President: Stephanie Pettaway, *Maryland*

Vice President: Dale Langer, *Wisconsin*

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Secretariat Staff
Liz Oppenheim, JD
Program Director,

Ursula Gilmore, MA
Research Analyst

Sharon McCartney, JD
Research Analyst

Robyn Bockweg
Administrative Assistant

Technical Assistance

*Expert analysis of federal and state laws and regulations and information on model programs and practices
is provided to states, private organizations, and adoptive families*

During 2005, staff responded to over 130 requests for information, clarification, and training.
Examples of issues include:

★   Overcoming state differences in Medicaid services and termination ages
★   Eligibility for Title IV-E adoption assistance based on SSI eligibility
★   The legal effect of adoption assistance agreements
★   State responsibility for the provision of education in interstate cases
★   Adoption assistance payment levels

★ NJ
★ MD
★ DC

★ *States that received technical assistance in 2005*

Adoption Assistance Pages

Complete information on adoption assistance and post-adoption services for each state. The two year long process was completed in 2005 and the compiled information is now available on-line for adoption professionals and families for whom this data vital.

The directory provides answers to 13 important questions regarding state policies on adoption assistance and post-adoption services, as well as contact information for key staff in each state. Links to state websites, with additional information relevant to these topics, are also provided.

This is an on-going project and staff will update the links included on the pages twice a month and will do a complete review and update of all the information on the pages yearly.

The information can be accessed at:
http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/parents/prospective/funding/adopt_assistance

NAIC

Administration for Children & Families

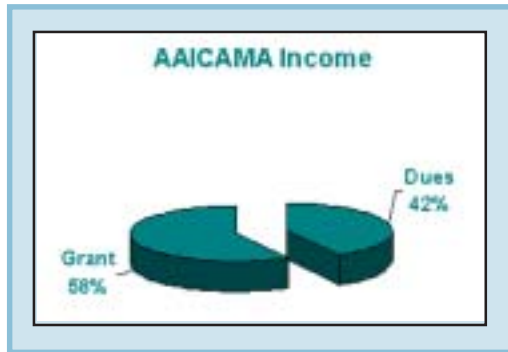# Resources and Publications

AAICAMA creates and disseminates materials and tools to inform and support best practice

Adoptive Parent Checklist: *Meeting your Child's Special Needs* was developed. It includes sections on: (1) evaluating the needs and resources of your family and prospective adoptive child; (2) available adoption support; and (3) negotiating the adoption assistance agreement.

CMS Medicaid Eligibility Contacts containing the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for regional contacts in each of the ten CMS regions were compiled. This list was distributed to all members and will also be posted on AAICAMA's new website.
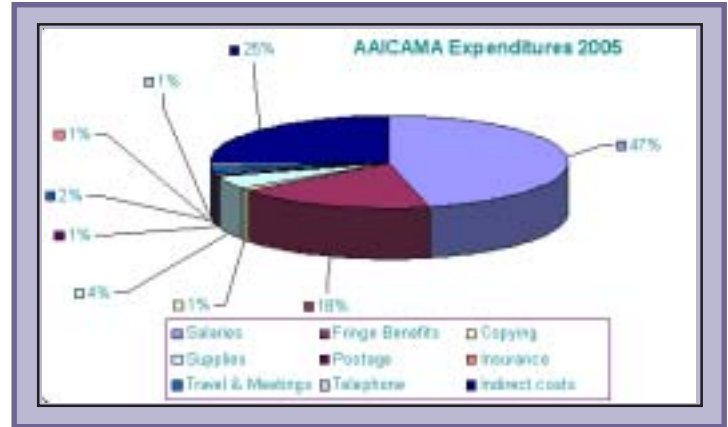
Bridges, an extensive 16-20 page newsletter, is produced by AAICAMA, *Bridges* is mailed to more than 500 state staff, adoptive parent support groups, and has an estimated electronic readership estimated at several hundred more. It serves as a forum for information, resource exchange, and continuing education.

Money Matters

AAICAMA Income

Dues 42%
Grant 58%

AAICAMA receives income from two sources:
- Member Dues
- Cooperative Grant from the Children's Bureau

AAICAMA Expenditures 2005

25%, 1%, 1%, 2%, 1%, 4%, 1%, 18%, 47%

Salaries, Fringe Benefits, Copying, Supplies, Postage, Insurance, Travel & Meetings, Telephone, Indirect costs

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