



AAICAMA

Building Bridges Across State Lines

From the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

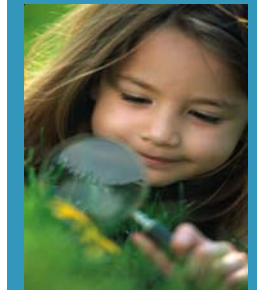
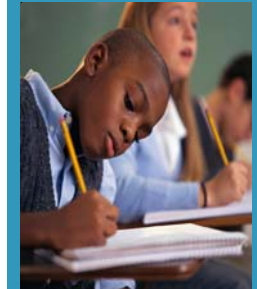
It has been more than twenty years since states formed AAICAMA for the purpose of working together to ensure that adopted children and their families receive necessary supports and services in interstate situations. As we move into the era of internet adoption exchanges and a corresponding rise in interjurisdictional placements, AAICAMA works to be sure that the network of those who administer the compact continues to be effective and responsive to families.

The Compact has now been enacted by 48 states; and the association's vision of "*connecting states to facilitate medical and supportive services for adopted children*" is more of a reality than ever before. Professional development, with an emphasis on training, has become our focus. The association brings together members as well as other partners in the national adoption community to inform, train, and support their efforts to improve practice in special needs adoption.

Every time AAICAMA assists an adoptive family obtain the medical services and supports for their child's special needs, we reaffirm that each child matters and that our efforts combine to strengthen children's permanency.

What follows is a very brief summary of the accomplishments of the association in 2006. This work goes on every day, and though every accomplishment cannot be noted in this short report, we know that it is through the dedicated, every day work of many individuals that AAICAMA's goal is achieved. I am proud to be a part of the team who do this valuable work.

Stephanie Pettaway
President, AAICAMA

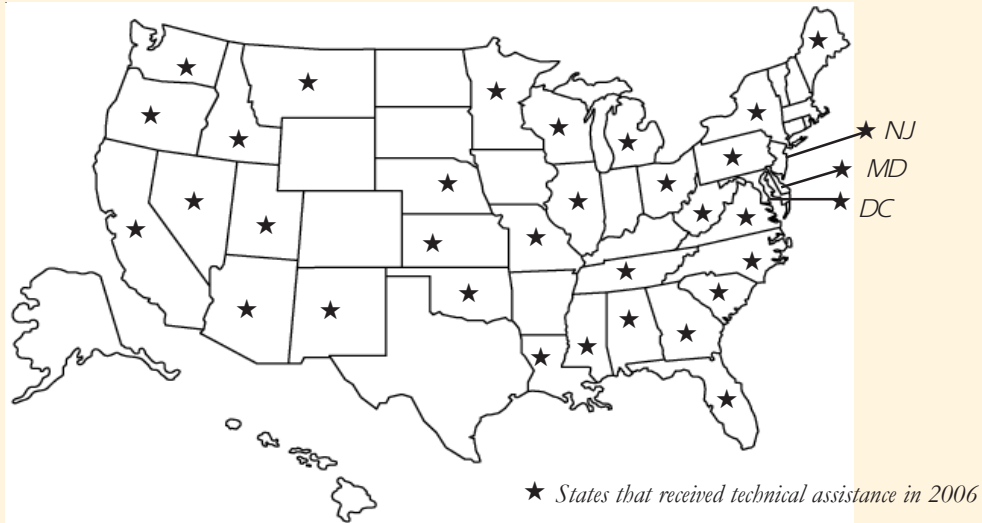


AAICAMA...
*It's all about
the kids!*

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 2006, staff responded to over 150 requests for information, clarification, and training.



Executive Committee

President: Stephanie Pettaway,
Maryland

Vice President: Dale Langer,
Wisconsin

Treasurer: Sharon Knights,
District of Columbia

Asst Treasurer: Ruth Grossee,
Nebraska

Sharen Ford, *Colorado*

Josette Marquess, *Florida*

Patricia Long, *Kansas*

Miguel Fernandez, *New Jersey*

Susan Klickman, *Texas*

Tracy Spartz-Campbell, *Alaska*

Secretariat Staff

Ursula Gilmore, MA
Program Manager

Sharon McCartney, JD
Program Manager

Adoption Assistance Pages

The first annual update of the Adoption Assistance Pages was completed in 2006.

These pages answer 13 important questions about each state's policies on adoption assistance and post-adoption services, as well as contact information for key staff in each state are provided. Links to state websites, with additional information relevant to these topics, are also provided.

The pages can be found at:

http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_assistance/



3 Year Strategic Plan Developed

The Executive Committee met in September 2006 to develop a strategic plan for 2006 through 2009. The new plan reflects AAICAMA's change in direction and focuses on training, working with members, and partners in the adoption community to promote practice that ensures adopted children with special needs receive uninterrupted support services in interstate cases.

Improving Practice & Administration

◆ *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 Implementation*

FAQs created for states to use to provide guidance for adoptive parents regarding citizenship and identity documentation requirements for receipt of Medicaid interstate situations.

◆ *Compact Administrator Training*

The four hour intensive training for new Compact Administrators provided at the annual meeting to ensure efficient compact administration for seamless provision of services to adopted children with special needs.

◆ *Social Security Number Study*

Based on findings, a memo was issued to members directing states to use the child's valid social security number on ICAMA forms to eliminate delay in opening a Medicaid case in a new state of residence.

◆ *Model Practices for Redetermination of Medicaid Eligibility Survey*

Results of survey and recommendations presented to members at the annual meeting to encourage states to review their process and make changes if necessary.

◆ *Medicaid Training*

Five lessons, including a testing section, on meeting the medical needs of adoption assistance-eligible children developed and sent to the states on CD to increase worker understanding of interstate Medicaid provision.

◆ *Administration of ICAMA*

Memo sent to members emphasizing the legal obligation of ICAMA signatories to use the forms developed by the association, especially the 6.03.

◆ *ICAMA Local Worker Checklist*

Checklist developed in partnership with AdoptUsKids to serve as a guide for local workers on the ICAMA process and procedures.

Publications

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

State Adoption Law Comparison Charts

- ★ Title IV-E Adoption Assistance chart compares criteria to extend adoption assistance beyond the age of 18,
- ★ State-Funded Adoption Assistance chart compares criteria to extend adoption assistance beyond age 18.
- ★ Home Study and Finalization chart compares state policies and practices in these two areas.

Planning Ahead for Educational Success: Interjurisdictional Provision of Public Education

This Issue Brief provides a checklist to ensure that the interjurisdictional educational needs of children in a pre-adoptive placement are met.

Bridges

AAICAMA's newsletter contains articles and information of interest to compact and deputy ICAMA administrators, local state staff, state Medicaid staff and adoptive parent support groups. Each issue includes an Adoption Assistance and Medicaid Exchange section; summaries new resources available to improve child welfare practice, and a section devoted to Parent Perspectives. AAICAMA distributes 500 copies to state agencies and parent groups. It also sends an electronic version to several hundred more interested parties.



Legislative Analysis

◆ *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005*

- ★ Collaborated on letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requesting that Title IV-E eligible children in foster care and receiving adoption assistance, who are categorically eligible for Medicaid, be exempt from citizenship and identity documentation requirements.
- ★ Analyzed and provided Technical Assistance on the Technical Amendment in the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-432) signed into law on December 20, 2006
- ★ Surveyed states to gather data on early state DRA implementation procedures.

Conferences

◆ *Bringing the Interstate Pieces Together*

April 30-May 3, 2007 Nashville, Tennessee

Focused on customer service for each family, collaboration with ICPC colleagues, use of data to improve outcomes, and coordination with in-state partners to improve the administration of the compact.

◆ *Accessing medical assistance in interstate placements for children not eligible for Title IV-E*

March 9, 2006 (teleconference)

Discussion of approaches that can be used to ensure that non Title IV-E eligible children receive medical assistance no matter where they live.

Money Matters

2006 Association Income

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Member state dues | |
| \$3000.00 per year | |
| x 45 (of 48) members | \$ 135,000 |
| Adoption Opportunities | |
| Grant 90-CO-0999 (Year IV) | \$ 199,914 |
| Total 2006 Income | \$ 334,914 |

2006 Association Expenditures

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Salary & Fringe | \$ 224,479. |
| Indirect Costs | \$ 92,516. |
| Other Expenses | \$ 25,988. |
| | \$342,983. |

*Major funding provided by the Children's Bureau of the U.S.
Department of Health & Human Services,
through the Adoption Opportunities Grant Number 90-CO-0866*

Coming in 2007

◆ **Title XIX Interactive Training**

This interactive CD will be composed of five lessons which train on meeting the medical needs of adoption assistance eligible children.

◆ **ICAMA Compact Administrator Training**

This intensive training will be designed to meet the needs of new administrators and those who are ready for more comprehensive training.

◆ **AAICAMA Web Site**

The newly revised site will be an up-to-date reference tool and information resource for state staff who administer the ICAMA.

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Secretariat services supplied by APHSA

