



AAICAMA

Building Bridges Across State Lines

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

AAICAMA is committed to the children who find 'forever' families. Our goal is the seamless provision of medical and other post-adoption supports to a child, whether they live in on the east coast, the west coast, in the great heartland of America, or on Oahu. All AAICAMA members are committed to preserving the permanency of every child who is adopted.

AAICAMA provides administrative, legal and training services to the states. The Association provides assistance on understanding the interstate implications of federally subsidized adoption policy. It maintains active relationships with other groups whose work affects children with adoption assistance agreements. Among these groups are: CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), NASMD (National Association of State Medicaid Directors), and NAPCWA (National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators). AAICAMA provides training on effective and efficient administration of the ICAMA and provides a network of knowledgeable contacts to help states when issues arise.

State support of AAICAMA is essential. Each year the value of the association is underscored by member's enthusiasm for the resources developed and the trainings offered. Technical assistance is accessed freely and frequently for small administrative details as well as thorny issues with no one right answer. Parents are guided to the people in the states who can answer their questions and help them with problems.

In the twenty-three years that AAICAMA has existed thousands of children have had secure access to needed services because of the network of dedicated administrators across the nation. Their work continues every day and AAICAMA continues to ensure that the network is strong and responsive to families—making its vision a reality.

Every time AAICAMA assists an adoptive family obtain the medical services and supports for their child's special needs, we affirm that each child matters.

What follows is a very brief summary of the accomplishments of AAICAMA in 2007. 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 children and their families can get on with the business of life. That they are free to pursue their own goals, knowing ICAMA administrators will help them navigate the system and get the services they need. I am proud to be a part of the team who do this valuable work.

Stephanie Pettaway

President, AAICAMA

Association of Administrators
of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and
Medical Assistance



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

Training & Education

★The 2007 annual meeting in Washington, D.C., included training in [Compact Administration](#) and provision of [Title XIX Medicaid](#) to adoption assistance-eligible children. Each training emphasized the role of the ICAMA administrator in ensuring each child receives services whenever they move from one state to another. The trainings focused on the details of interstate administration: ICAMA forms and procedures, customer service, advocacy for services to meet the child's needs, and education of adoptive parents as active partners in ensuring the child's receipt of medical and other support services.

★AAICAMA staff provided [technical assistance](#) to states, adoptive parents, and private adoption professionals throughout 2007. Questions included inquiries about what is involved in an interstate adoption, Compact administration, eligibility for and the provision of Medicaid within adoption assistance programs, and related adoption issues and programs.

★AAICAMA's Medicaid Committee and Secretariat staff finalized the scripts for the training CD on "[Meeting the Medical Needs of Adoption Assistance Eligible Children.](#)" The CD and accompanying materials will be debuted at the annual meeting in April 2008.

Executive Committee

President:

Stephanie Pettaway, Maryland

Vice President:

Dale Langer, Wisconsin

Treasurer:

Sharon Knight, D.C.

Assistant Treasurer:

Ruth Grosse, Nebraska

At-Large Members:

Sharen Ford, Colorado

Josette Marquess, Florida

Miguel Fernandez, New Jersey

Susan Klickman, Texas

Tracy Spartz-Campbell, Alaska

Secretariat Staff

Ursula Gilmore, MA
Program Manager

Sharon McCartney, JD
Program Manager

Warren Lewis
Consultant

Robyn Bockweg
Project Administrator

Advocacy for COBRA-reciprocity

Committed to closing the last gap in protection for children eligible for state-funded adoption assistance, AAICAMA advocates for every state to offer reciprocity of the COBRA option to this population of children.

In 2007 Iowa instituted a policy of COBRA-reciprocity. Iowa administrators and Secretariat staff worked together to present a persuasive, data-driven business case to the Iowa Medicaid Department.

Iowa's success brings the number of states providing Medicaid to resident children with state-funded Adoption Assistance Agreements with other states to 43.

Secretariat staff, located within APHSA, worked directly with NAPCWA (National Association of Public Child Welfare Directors) members to implement a new strategy for nation wide COBRA-reciprocity. A luncheon at the Spring NAPCWA meeting was hosted to educate directors from New York, Nevada, Illinois, and D.C. on the benefits of reciprocity for state-funded children, their adoptive families, and for state child welfare agencies.

Iowa's Child Welfare Director and AAICAMA's President presented an overview of the COBRA-reciprocity and addressed the guests' specific questions. In addition packets containing state-specific data, Medicaid fact sheets, examples of state legislation, and state child welfare and Medicaid policy manuals were developed and provided.

The directors from New York and Nevada responded positively to the information provided and indicated that they would speak to their states' Medicaid Directors.

Directors from D.C. and Illinois were unable to attend.



Improving Practice & Administration

- ★ The obligation to use the [ICAMA 6.03](#) form was emphasized in a memo issued to members. This form allows those who administer the ICAMA to close Medicaid cases for children who have left their states when they receive notification that a new case is open in the new state. The ICAMA 6.03 is the best way for states to ensure that an individual is enrolled in only one state's Medicaid Plan at a time.
- ★ The updated [AAICAMA Website](#) was designed by the Website Committee to be easily accessed and used by state administrators while providing in-depth information developed to help remove barriers to the provision of services to children in interstate cases.
- ★ The importance of using [valid Social Security Numbers](#) on the ICAMA 6.01 was clarified in order to prevent any interruption in the receipt of Medicaid and specific information was provided to all states on the legal and administrative aspects of this issue.
- ★ The Executive Committee, recognizing the changing environment of adoption practice, met in September 2007 to refine the mission, goals, objectives, and work priorities of AAICAMA. The [new Strategic Plan](#) guides the work of the association and established a dynamic process to regularly review and adapt the association's work so the needs of children who move to or are placed in a new state are met.
- ★ The network and cooperation between interstate administrators is the backbone of AAICAMA's work. Active engagement in association work by all compact administrators is promoted each year through [scholarship offers](#) to attend the annual meeting. These scholarships are offered to state ICAMA staff who are unable to attend due to budget constraints in their states.

Research & Publications

- ★ Ensuring the seamless receipt of Medicaid by state-funded adoption assistance eligible children in interstate cases is an ongoing priority for AAICAMA. Providing Medicaid under a policy of COBRA-reciprocity is one that requires regular clarification and consistent training. To provide a [definitive resource](#) to states, the association dedicated the lead articles in the Spring and Winter editions of *Bridges* to this subject. To ensure complete accuracy, review of both was solicited from and provided by CMS. *Bridges* is AAICAMA's newsletter which is provided to states, parents, and private organizations in both print and electronic versions.
- ★ The availability of [complete and accurate information](#) about each state's staff, and interstate policies and procedures is important for the efficient administration of the ICAMA. A survey to collect this information was developed and piloted in 2007. This instrument captures state specific information regarding time frames to issuance of a Medicaid card, availability of temporary or emergency Medicaid cards, method of conducting annual Medicaid redeterminations and key state contacts. This information will be available on AAICAMA's website.
- ★ The [state law differences survey](#) was analyzed and formatted into a chart with state-specific information on home studies, Title IV-E and state-funded AA programs. A request for a final verification of the information presented in the comparison was sent state child welfare directors. The final charts will be released in 2008.
- ★ The numbers of children receiving adoption assistance and moving between states was collected from 30 states. These [data were analyzed](#) and a report submitted to the Children's Bureau in September.
- ★ The [state Adoption Assistance Pages](#), housed on the Child Welfare Information Gateway site, were reviewed and updated during 2007.



Legislative Analysis

- ★ Working with the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) and Legislative Affairs unit at APHSA, Secretariat staff analyzed the practice implications of both the technical corrections to and the Final Regulation in the [Deficit Reduction Act \(DRA\)](#) of 2005 regarding its Citizenship and Identity Requirements. Memos clarifying the requirements that impact children eligible for adoption assistance were distributed.
- ★ IM-07-04—[Assisted Guardianship](#) Child Welfare Demonstration Projects and the Categorical Eligibility for Medicaid for Title IV-E Eligible Children—was released by the Children’s Bureau in May. A memo summarizing its impact was sent to members.
- ★ Use of [Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads](#) and the revised implementation date for their use was clarified in a memo sent to Child Welfare Directors and ICAMA administrators.

Building & Strengthening Working Partnerships

- ★ AAICAMA’s President and Program Manager attended the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) meeting sponsored by the Children’s Bureau to participate in discussions and work groups on issues such as the Child and Family Service Reviews and ways to systemically improve child welfare practice.
- ★ The association Manager established a working partnership with [CMS](#) to review and comment on Medicaid related publications and trainings.
- ★ Program Manager presented an overview of AAICAMA grant and association work at the [NAPCWA’s](#) Executive Committee Meeting held during their Spring Meeting.

Joinder

Joinder is the most important and the most successful initiative of the association. It is with pleasure we report that:

[New York](#) became an associate member in January 2007 and that [Vermont](#) will become a member in 2008.

The ICAMA will be state law in 49 states and one jurisdiction.

AAICAMA Financial Statement

2007 Income

Member state dues	
\$4,000.00 per year	
x 44 (of 49) members	\$176,000
Adoption Opportunities	
Grant 90-CO-0999 (Year IV)	\$199,914
Total Income	\$ 375,914

2007 Expenditures

Salary & Fringe	\$187,083
Indirect Costs	\$ 81,001
Other Expenses	\$ 39,558
Total Expenses	\$307,642

Coming in 2008

AAICAMA’s Annual Meeting will be hosted by Wisconsin in April.

‘Meeting the Medical Needs of Adoption Assistance-Eligible Children’ —a training CD with 4 Lessons—will be sent to the states.

AAICAMA’s member-designed website will be launched.

Comprehensive New ICAMA Administrator training will be released.

4th Annual update of the State Adoption Assistance Pages will be completed.

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