



REPORT TO THE STATES

2021 - 2022

PERMANENCY MATTERS

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AAICAMA provides:

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- Legal and Legislative Analysis
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Hello, AAICAMA! Welcome to AAICAMA's Report to the States. This bi-annual report serves as an outreach and update to Members on the operation of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance and the work of its Association. It also serves as both an update and reassertion of the Mission of the Compact and Vision of the Association- the Who We Are, the What We Believe, and our accomplishments as a collection of states dedicated to the improvement of children's lives.

The *Report to the States* also serves as an opportunity to thank each of you for your work in support of the Compact and your collaboration across states. An interstate compact is only as successful as its members are willing to communicate and coordinate to find answers that serve state administration and children's wellbeing. Thank you for all you do and all you make possible.

The following is a look back at where we were last year, where we are now, and where we plan to be by the end of 2024. It is a recap of AAICAMA's projects, partnerships, and a presentation of its hopes for our work and its service to the field of child welfare. It's an exciting time for the Association- thank you for your part in it!

Accomplishments. Big. Bold. Growth.

2018-2020 saw great change for the Association. A new Secretariat in the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), a new home with CWLA at their offices on 15th Street in the District of Columbia, a new direction in partnerships, and a refocus on the operation of the Compact. We have steadily built on the growth achieved in those years to develop and strengthen, educate and train, raise our profile, increase stakeholder value, and refine and develop resources in service to our Members.

- **Strengthened Partnerships:** As a partner to CWLA, AAICAMA participated from session selection to staffing of our joint Conf22. Your input and presence enhanced our partnership with CWLA, advanced our shared vision, and dramatically increased AAICAMA's visibility through the conference's 600+ attendees. Through CWLA, we have revitalized our relationship with the Children's Bureau and attended meetings to increase federal agencies' understanding of the Medicaid needs of children and youth served by the Compact. CWLA provides monthly Policy Updates that educate and advocate on federal legislation to provide data that informs states and their initiatives for child welfare and Medicaid programs. AAICAMA is also collaborating with CWLA in its Letter to the 118th Congress to recommend support and funding of our work.
- **Improved Practice:** Increased ICAMA System functioning by updating and streamlining the ICAMA Forms to make the System more efficient and accurate for cases opened prior to use of the ICAMA System and for the states of California and New York who are not yet on the ICAMA System. This accomplishment was a first step in the ICAMA System's Redesign Project and a preparation for California to join the System.



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Accomplishments...continued

- **ICAMA System:** It's here! The ICAMA System Redesign Project is here! AAICAMA conducted an RFP process to engage a vendor to enhance and upgrade the ICAMA System. We welcome the vendor selected, eCare Vault: a state-of-the-art, secure, case-coordinator platform that streamlines digital hubs to break down communication barriers to transfers of vital data, information, and documentation. AAICAMA will work closely with eCare Vault to transform the ICAMA System into a contemporary tool that understands and meets ICAMA's needs.

State Announcement: California is joining the ICAMA System and will begin processing ICAMA cases through the System in early 2023. Welcome aboard, California!

- **Membership Engagement:** Renewed relationship with Puerto Rico and brought them into joiner discussion for the first time in over a decade. PR is in the final stage of its joiner and will join the Compact as an Associate Member. PR will fully utilize the ICAMA System, process ICAMA cases, and participate in the Association and the work of the Compact in accordance with the operational Articles of the Compact.
- **Financial Stability:** AAICAMA remains in the strongest, financial position since 2008. The vital increase in Assessments in 2019 has allowed the Association to expand staff hours, improve service to Members and increase access to AAICAMA staff and resources. It has enabled the planned redesign of ICAMA's most-used, interstate tool- the ICAMA System.
- **Training:** Provided a full day of training and state connections through an in-person conference held in conjunction with CWLA's Conf22 in Washington, DC. AAICAMA's greatest partners are you, the states. Coming together to create new relationships across states and strengthen existing ones is at the heart of ICAMA's success. Four sessions on education, training, and a forum for state needs, concerns, and triumphs were held and provided a rare opportunity for members to interact and network. Webinars and tailored trainings were offered throughout the year to inform and guide the work of ICAMA professionals on behalf of their states.
- **Leadership:** Provided guidance and updates on the Public Health Emergency and the Department of Health and Human Services' mandate for continued, Medicaid enrollment for children and youth receiving Adoption or Guardianship Assistance. Shared educational and learning opportunities provided by federal agencies and non-profit organizations. Mediated interstate divergence in legislative understanding, Compact law, and Medicaid and child welfare practices. Informed state, policy and practice choices, and shaped model practices through the Compact and the work of the Association.
- **Visibility:** Attended and presented at national conferences, shared AAICAMA materials to promote knowledge of our work, and recognition of the contribution of the Compact and its Association. AAICAMA Website: New and improved! Created a new website hosted on a new platform to bring Members a more vibrant, interactive, and resourced site that strives to meet the informational and educational needs of Members in their service to states, families, and the public.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provided answers, guidance, and resources on legislative, policy, practice, and Compact questions for states, families, nonprofits, and the public. Created memos, fact-sheets, and one-on-one exchanges with states to clarify issues on a wide variety of topics, including Medicaid, federal agency directives, the ICAMA, interstate practice, adoption, adoption assistance, guardianship, and post adoption support services.

**"Children are
the world's
most valuable
resource and
its best hope
for the future."**

- John F. Kennedy



PERMANENCY MATTERS

What's next for AAICAMA: 2023 to 2024



SAVE THE DATE!
May 9 - 11, 2023

AAICAMA CONFERENCE 2023
New ICAMA System | New Members | New Vision








ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

You Are Invited! Be a part of the Association's annual exchange of ideas, innovation, and training that is the forum created by convening states for an AAICAMA Conference. Conf23 will be held at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education and Conference Center. The Center is located on the beautiful grounds of Washington University in the heart of St. Louis, Missouri.

The hotel is on-site and the meeting spaces are state-of-the-art.

Conf23 will be held May 9–11, 2023. See you there!

Preliminary Agenda

-  Special opening night reception hosted by our Co-Host states, Missouri and Illinois
-  Introduction to and training on the redesigned ICAMA System. Welcome AAICAMA's new IT partner and vendor, eCare Vault
-  Advocacy: What ICAMA and the States can do to improve child wellbeing
-  Federal Policy Update by our partner, CWLA
-  ICAMA Administrator Training
-  Medicaid Training and Best Practices Exchange
-  Wellbeing: Selfcare for ICAMA Professionals



**PERMANENCY MATTERS****Current Financial Position**

AAICAMA Finances At-A-Glance: The Association's financial position continues to be strong. Current AAICAMA Leadership has led the Association since 2019 to operate in the positive. We are working to build a sustaining reserve to protect the Association and enable it to serve the states now and for years to come. The global recession's impact on state governments underscores this need.

Thank you for supporting the AAICAMA through state assessments and the ICAMA through your work intrastate and interstate. States are the ICAMA - together we are stronger! **#TeamAAICAMA**

AAICAMA Finances 2020	AAICAMA Finances 2021	AAICAMA Finances 2022 (Q3)
Revenue: \$320,106	Revenue: \$409,478	Revenue: \$355,535
Expenditures: \$250,264	Expenditures: \$269,530	Expenditures: \$237,465
Change in net asset: \$69,843	Change in net asset: \$139,948	Change in net asset: \$118,070

AAICAMA LEADERSHIP**Executive Board 2022****Officers**

Adrian Owens, President (GA)
LaTasha Henry, Vice President (TX)
Jennifer Kobel, Treasurer (OH)




Members-at-Large

Francis (Mike) Casey, (DE)
Vicki Davis, (TN)
Carissa Decker, (ID)
Kim Gunnell, (WA)
Monica Sekscinski, (MO)
Jeanie Weasel Tail, (MT)

Welcome New Board Members in 2023!

Michael Dobbs, Member-at-Large (CO)
Ashley Holmes, Member-at-Large (MN)
Monica Sekscinski, Member-at-Large (MO)

AAICAMA: WHAT WE BELIEVE

-  Permanency matters
-  The needs of children are paramount in the operation of child welfare services
-  Support services are vital to the success of a child's placement and their lives

AAICAMA's Mission: All children and youth served by the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance will receive the support services needed to strengthen families and promote permanency.

AAICAMA's Vision Statement: To increase ICAMA System functionality and expand stakeholder relationships to improve the quality of permanency.

STAFF:

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