

Conference 2023 AAICAMA: Bridging States and Strengthening Children Focus on the Child Welfare Professional



PROGRAM AGENDA: 2023 AAICAMA National Conference and Meeting *May 9th – 11th, 2023 St. Louis MO*

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023: Day One, AM Sessions

Session One. **The ICAMA System: An Introduction to the ICAMA System Redesign and eCare Vault**

Panel: Erin Boyle, Project Manager, eCare Vault and Warren Graver, Co-Project Manager, eCare Vault

Scott Boyle, IT Program Manager, AAICAMA

AAICAMA is excited to share the redesign of the ICAMA System and introduce our new partner in IT service to the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance- eCare Vault. eCare Vault will present its system design and discuss the features tailored to meet the needs of the Compact, the States who operate it, and the children and youth it serves. The System's key is connectivity- improving and increasing it within the System and across states. The session will present the new, ICAMA System's construct and take users through the eCare Vault application.

Session Two. **The ICAMA System: Training and State Discussion/Q&A Session**

Presenter: Scott Boyle, IT Program Manager, AAICAMA and Erin Boyle, Project Manager, eCare Vault

The session will inform and provide an initial training on the new, ICAMA System in its general use and compare old and new features of the System. The goal is to promote state discussion and provide states with an opportunity for an extensive Questions and Answers session. State-specific use needs and questions are encouraged as the Association works to improve the exchange of data between states and increase state efficacy, maintain case stability, and reduce workforce time. Updates to the ICAMA System and interstate, practice challenges will be discussed and solutions explored. *What do states need in and from the ICAMA System?*

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Darrell Missey, Director, Missouri Children's Division

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023: Day One, PM Sessions

Session One. **Committed to Children's Welfare: A Life Journey from Attorney to Judge to Director. Getting It Done in Missouri.**

Presenter: Darrell Missey, Director, Missouri Children's Division

Director Missey will share his commitment to child welfare and the path that has led him from his career in the law as attorney and judge to his position as Director of Missouri's Children's Division. Missouri faces the same workforce needs and staff stressors inherent to child welfare. Missouri is working to "front-end load" services to reduce hotline intake and child removals, shifting from reactive to proactive practices. Director Missey will share his overall vision for Missouri's child welfare staff, the children it serves, and detail the specific plans and practices to implement that vision.

Session Two. **Advocacy in Child Welfare: From 60k feet to Desk Level- How You Can Influence Child Outcomes**

Presenters: Joe Huang-Racalto, Vice President of Public Policy and Strategic Partnerships, CWLA

Sharon McCartney, Director, AAICAMA

The session will educate AAICAMA Members in the "Why, the Who, and the How" of advocacy. Advocacy takes many shapes- from federal, legislative initiatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC to state, legislative bodies, state agencies, and the desks of child welfare professionals. AAICAMA's partner, CWLA will guide AAICAMA through its federal initiatives to affect improvements in child welfare outcomes and who- everyone!- can participate and how they can participate. AAICAMA will take advocacy down to the desk level. We will discuss how state child welfare staff can advocate internally for state policies and services and, most importantly, to train prospective and adoptive parents to become self-advocating on behalf of their children.

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Wednesday, May 10th, 2023: Day Two: AM Sessions

Session One. ICAMA Compact Administrator Training: Getting It Done Interstate

*Presenters: Adrian Owens, President, AAICAMA, LaTasha Henry, Vice President, AAICAMA
Sharon McCartney, Director, AAICAMA*

Members will receive comprehensive education and training in the general administration of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance, Title IV-E permanency programs, and the Compact's role in implementing those programs. Session will include the history and construct of the Compact and how it functions to serve states and provide information and training on ICAMA informational exchanges, practices, and procedures. Members will come away with increased understanding of the intent of the ICAMA and the vital role it plays in securing and ensuring the receipt of adoption and guardianship benefits- particularly Medicaid- and the role these benefits can play in permanency outcomes.

Session Two. Federal Legislative Update

Presenter: Joe Huang-Racalto, Vice President of Public Policy and Strategic Partnerships, CWLA

The federal, legislative landscape continues to change, and much is uncertain in child welfare- funding and federal initiatives continue to evolve. CWLA will present the status of current reauthorizations, bills, and provide a comprehensive update on federal legislation. Updates will be given on the impact on states and families of the delay of the zero-age criteria under the Applicable Child standard in determining Title IV-E eligibility (*Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act 2008*) and the success of states in reinvesting realized savings back into post adoption services. CWLA will present an overview of current legislative concerns regarding child welfare and discuss a wish list for Congress going forward. *Note: Materials will be provided on the 21st Century Cares Act that acknowledges the protections under EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Program of Medicaid) and permits the use of Medicaid for children and youth in IMDs/inpatient care.*

Wednesday, May 10th, 2023: Day Two: PM Sessions

Session One. Training: Title IV-E/Non-Title IV-E and Medicaid. *Securing Services and Ensuring Health.*

Presenter: Sharon McCartney, Director, AAICAMA

Medicaid 101: Basics for understanding the provision of Medicaid in Adoption Assistance programs.

- a.) Title IV-E Adoption Assistance:** Mandatory provision, Medicaid State Plans, services, and coverage to the minimum age of 18 and maximum age of 21. *Option to extend to age 21: States practices/ICAMA System and the policy- and interstate- implications.*
- b.) Non-title IV-E Adoption Assistance:** Optional provision, Medicaid State Plans, services, and coverage to the age chosen by Agreement State to extend adoption assistance. Q&A on state practices to ensure health coverage in the states that do not provide Medicaid to this population re: HI, IL, NM, and NV.

Session Two. Comprehensive Care for the Child Welfare Professional: Addressing Workforce Needs from the Top Down

Presenters: Derrick Stephens, Innovation and Immersion Learning Manager, Florida Institute for Child Welfare and Steven Simmons, Director, Client Solutions and Partnerships, eCare Vault

The session will discuss the workforce/professional and support needs of child welfare staff, share the MyALIGN system that Florida built to meet these needs, and learn who the Florida Institute of Child Welfare is and how they were brought in to address high turnover and burnout in the child welfare workforce. To accomplish these goals, FICW sought a technological and thought partner to develop and implement its vision to provide support to the child welfare workforce, so that they, in turn, can better support families and vulnerable children. A technological solution was designed to help to meet key goals of creating a multi-faceted, interactive community that allows frontline child welfare workers, supervisors, and leaders to grow in their child welfare careers; have easy access and connection to well-being and mental health resources and support; increase system-wide understanding of recruitment, retention, and turnover issues; and contribute toward the achievement of a number of outcomes related to improving workforce engagement and retention.

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Thursday, May 11th, 2023: Day Three: AM Sessions

Session One. Mental Health and the Impact of COVID: Where Are We and How Do We Move Forward?

Presenter: Lisa Betz, Deputy Director, Illinois Department of Human Services

The impact of COVID on all industries, individuals, and countries is vast and only just beginning to be assessed and analyzed. The realities of the pandemic- it's isolation, fears, and life-changes- was especially felt in state, departments of child and family services as they worked to meet the frontline needs of children and families in crises. We became First Responders. The lasting impression of this role, workforce implications, and individual and departmental, mental health will be presented, and an opportunity given to share your state's experiences in a supportive, open forum of interstate exchange.

Session Two. Self-Care: Targeted Practice to Improving Health Through Mindfulness

Presenter: TBD.

The workforce of state, departments of child and family services are part of the frontline of care for our society's most vulnerable. The stress this can create is well-documented and affects people personally and agencies systemically. This session will continue the theme of support for child welfare staff and address the physical and emotional health of its AAICAMA Members. Participants will learn, discuss, and practice ways to use mindfulness at work and leave work- at work. This interactive and informative presentation will introduce tools that attendees can put immediately into practice to improve work-life balance and overall health. Destress, rejuvenate, and recommit to the vital, wonderful work of permanency through the application of mindfulness.

Closing Plenary: *Conf23 Impressions and Thank You to Members: AAICAMA President, Adrian Owens (GA) and AAICAMA Director, Sharon McCartney, AAICAMA National Offices, Washington, DC. 12:00 PM to 2 PM/Lunch included*

AAICAMA Conference and Meeting 2023 Adjourns for all Members and Attendees