



# REPORT TO THE STATES

## 2023

### PERMANENCY MATTERS

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#### AAICAMA provides:

- Training
- Education
- Resources
- Technical Assistance
- AAICAMA.ORG
- Legislative and Legal Analysis
- Mediation and State Support
- Interstate Forums

**Hello, AAICAMA! Welcome to AAICAMA's Report to the States.** This 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 to reassert our Mission and Vision- the "Who We Are", "What We Believe", and "What We Do." It is an opportunity to share our accomplishments of the previous year and celebrate the dedicated collection of interstate professionals that is the AAICAMA.

The *Report to the States* is also a way to thank each of you for your support of the Compact, your collaboration across states, and commitment to improving children's lives. The success of an interstate compact relies on the willingness of its Members to communicate and coordinate to find answers that serve state administration and children's wellbeing.

The following is a look back at where we were last year and our plans for where we'd like to be by the end of 2024. It is a recap of AAICAMA's projects, growth, partnerships, and hopes for our work and its service to the field of child welfare. It's an exciting time for the Association. **Thank you for all you do and all you make possible.**

### Accomplishments. **Big. Bold. Growth.**

2023 saw great progress for the Association. A new, redesigned ICAMA System, new partnerships, and increased efforts to improve the ease and operations of the Compact. We have steadily built on the growth achieved in the past, two years to develop and strengthen our communications, educate and train new and experienced AAICAMA Administrators and their staff, raise our profile, increase stakeholder value, and refine and develop resources in service to our Members.

- **Improved ICAMA System: It's here!** The many years of planning, saving, and seeking an improved System resulted in the ICAMA System Redesign Project. August 2023 was its rollout, and we continue to work with and improve its functioning to better serve you. Thank you, AAICAMA for your patience, dedication, and input as the System evolves. AAICAMA continues to work closely with its new partner, eCare Vault, to transform the System into a contemporary tool that understands and meets ICAMA's needs. The ICAMA System redesign has increased efficiency, functioning, and interstate communication via the eCare Vault platform. The new System is more comprehensive and interactive, and we welcome your feedback to improve current features and to add new ones.
- **Increased Medicaid Access: Mahalo, Hawaii!** Medicaid policy in HI was changed to provide Medicaid interstate to resident children and youth receiving Non-Title IV-E Adoption Assistance. This is an expansion in category coverage under Medicaid and long-sought by AAICAMA in its partnership with states that did not provide Medicaid interstate to this population. This is a wonderful outcome for HI and all children served by the Compact.



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## Accomplishments...continued

- Created and Strengthened Partnerships: Hola, Puerto Rico!** Puerto Rico is now a Member of the ICAMA! Puerto Rico joined the ICAMA as an Associate Member in 2023. Like all Members, PR has a designated Compact Administrator and Deputy Compact Administrator as the interstate points of contact for the Territory. Their Administrators are being trained to use 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. Congratulations, PR, and welcome!
- California: Welcome to the ICAMA System, California!** California is now a part of the ICAMA System. CA counties are being trained to use the ICAMA System and process new cases via the System. All, new CA cases or cases transferred to or from CA after their join of the System will be electronic, not through the ICAMA Forms. This aids all states' ICAMA work and promotes efficiency serving children interstate. Congratulations, CA!
- Child Welfare League of America (CWLA):** As AAICAMA's Secretariat and partner, our work and collaboration with CWLA is vital to the Association. AAICAMA's Director presented at and attended the CWLA's Conf23 and CWLA staff presented and attended AAICAMA's Conf23. CWLA provides monthly Policy Updates to Members that inform state understanding, aid implementation of federal legislation, and shape state initiatives in child welfare and Medicaid programs. CWLA and AAICAMA also collaborated in drafting CWLA's Letter to the 118th Congress to recommend legislation and funding crucial to our work.
- Conf23: Training, Education, and Community:** St. Louis, MO | May 9-11, 2023. We hosted one of AAICAMA's best-attended conferences in one its best venues- the beautiful campus of Washington University. Sessions included training for Compact Administrators, the ICAMA System, Medicaid, and the lingering effects of COVID on workers' mental health. The MO Child Welfare Director inspired with his personal story and vision for children's wellbeing in MO and the nation. We came together to network, learn, create, and strengthen relationships across states to improve ICAMA practices and create a community of support and understanding. These relationships are the heart of ICAMA's success. Come, join us for Conf24 in Ann Arbor, Michigan and be a part of the forum created when Members come together in person!
- Leadership:** Provided guidance and updates on the conclusion of the Public Health Emergency and the Dept. of Health and Human Services' mandate for continued, Medicaid enrollment and educational resources on the "unwinding" process and its requirements.
- Visibility:** AAICAMA attended and presented at national conferences, shared materials to promote knowledge of our work, and increased recognition of the contribution of the Compact and its Association to the field of children's health and wellbeing.
- Technical Assistance:** One of the Association's most valued services, AAICAMA Staff provided answers, guidance, resolutions, and resources on legislative, policy, practice, and Compact questions. Held multiple, Member-wide trainings, Q&As, and one-on-one webinars to train and guide states in the use and utility of the new ICAMA System. Created All-State Memos and Factsheets to clarify Medicaid, Compact, and child welfare issues.



**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, organized citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."**

- Margaret Mead



JOIN US! • **June 4th – 6th, 2024** at the  
[ANN ARBOR MARRIOTT YPSILANTI at EAGLE CREST](#)  
 • ANN ARBOR, MI •

*Permanency | Partnership | Professional Wellbeing*

We are excited to announce **Conf24 AAICAMA!** The conference dates this year are June 4th – 6th, 2024, and the location is the beautiful lakeside resort near Ann Arbor in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Click here for a preview of the grounds, hotel, and the conference venue of the [ANN ARBOR MARRIOTT YPSILANTI at EAGLE CREST.](#)

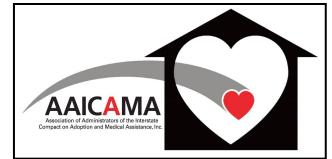
Please join us in education, training, discussion, and celebration of the field of child welfare, permanency, and the state workforce that makes it all happen- you. Below, please see the *AAICAMA Preliminary Agenda* for its Conf24.

Visit [www.AAICAMA.org/Events](http://www.AAICAMA.org/Events) for details and conference and hotel registration.

#### AAICAMA Conf24 Preliminary Agenda

- ☑ Partners in Healthcare: Medicaid/Managed care, package approaches to children's health
- ☑ Partners in the Adoption Journey: The need and value of pre- and post-adoptive supports
- ☑ Partners in Permanency: Attorneys, the Courts, State Programs
- ☑ The ICAMA System: Updates, training, state Q&As
- ☑ Self-care for state, child welfare staff
- ☑ Federal Policy Update/CWLA
- ☑ ICAMA Administrator Training
- ☑ Medicaid/Title IV-E Training





## 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 2021	AAICAMA Finances 2022	AAICAMA Finances 2023 (Q3)
Revenue: \$409,478	Revenue: \$355,535	Revenue: \$411,748
Expenditures: \$269,530	Expenditures: \$237,465	Expenditures: \$597,991
Change in net asset: \$139,948	Change in net asset: \$118,070	Change in net asset: \$-186,244

## AAICAMA LEADERSHIP

### Executive Board 2023

**Officers**

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

**Members-at-Large**

Michael Dobbs (CO)  
Francis (Mike) Casey (DE)  
Carissa Decker (ID)  
Ashley Holmes (MN)  
Monica Sekscinski (MO)  
Kim Gunnell (WA)

*Welcome New Members and Positions  
to the AAICAMA Executive Board 2024!*

Carissa Decker, President (ID)  
Adrian Owens, Immediate Past President (GA)  
Heather Richardson, Member-at-Large (FL)

**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 ICAMA will receive the support services needed to strengthen families and promote permanency.*

**AAICAMA's Vision:**

*To increase ICAMA System functionality and expand stake-holder relationships to improve the quality of permanency.*

**STAFF**

**Director:** Sharon McCartney (DC)  
**Executive Coordinator:** Charlene Haskell (DC)  
**IT Program Manager:** Scott Boyle (UT)

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## PERMANENCY MATTERS

