



AAICAMA

Building Bridges Across State Lines

IMPORTANT NEWS

Children's Bureau praises AAICAMA's success

January 31, 1986: 9 states became the first parties to the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance, the ICAMA. From that modest beginning in Kansas City, Missouri—and with the support of state and county Child Welfare Directors, the American Bar Association (ABA), the Children's Bureau and American Public Welfare Association (now APHSA)—the original nine have been joined by 41 more jurisdictions. The ICAMA is now law in all but 2 states—a success story.

What better way to define success than to say that every day, across our country, the network of ICAMA administrators work together to help ensure that the children eligible for adoption assistance receive services—no matter what state they call home. ICAMA administrators work together as they coordinate the arrangement of Medicaid and help to facilitate educational and treatment services for children when they move to a new state.

AAICAMA has been successful in securing joinder by 98% of states and in building ICAMA administrators' understanding of the complexities of interjurisdictional practice. These achievements have been applauded by both public and private agencies that care about the special children protected by the ICAMA.

The generous support of the Children's Bureau over the past 22 years has enabled AAICAMA to establish an effective network of state administrators. This unique national network, made up of interstate child welfare staff across the nation, enables the association to work with the states as they provide sound, effective, and above all trouble-free interstate services to children and their adoptive families.

Christine Calpin, Associate Commissioner of the Children Bureau, formally congratulated AAICAMA's success and notes that: "...the newsletter *Bridges*, annual national conferences for ICAMA administrators focusing on relevant topics, and a checklist for administrators, as well as other technical assistance tools have been additional successful components of the project... I wanted to ... congratulate you and your team on your accomplishments. The Children's Bureau looks forward to continued collaboration with the Association as we all jointly strive to serve children and families."

For the last 22 years the states have been integral to AAICAMA's successful development of a strong foundation of partnership and effective practice. State staff who administer the ICAMA will continue to provide direction and advice as AAICAMA begins its next chapter. A dynamic, new Strategic Plan will be developed from their suggestions. AAICAMA invites you to go to their web site at <http://aaicama.aphsa.org/> to see the resources that are available to the states and how the association will continue to be responsive to the needs of the states as they work to help these special children and their families.



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

