

University at Albany

University of Maryland

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Michigan State University

University of Michigan

Fordham University

Portland State University

National Indian Child Welfare
Association

Children's Bureau/ACF/DHHS

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to "KAM land." KAM stands for Knowledge Assessment and Management and is a set of activities that rests with the Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver and includes all of the NCWWI partners, cutting across the mission of the Institute.

What our team does

The primary goals of the KAM team are to:

- (a) identify critical competencies and skills necessary for leadership at different levels of the workforce;
- (b) collect and assess resources for leaders, including child welfare agency administrators, middle managers, supervisors, and training directors; and,
- (c) identify best practices and gaps in resources and work within NCWWI and the Child Welfare Information Gateway (CWIG) to support dissemination of information.

The KAM team conducts routine searches of 17 journals, the CWIG, and multiple websites for articles and resources in topical areas pertaining to leadership and workforce issues in child welfare. Resources are reviewed and those with relevance for child welfare leaders are flagged for distribution to the NCWWI team and the field as a whole. A relationship has been established with the CWIG, allowing the KAM team to directly upload resources not currently available on the CWIG, and offer reference information (copyrighted materials) or hyperlink (PDF or other accessible documents), along with a brief abstract. Members of the NCWWI team are also able to access more than 400 copyrighted and accessible documents through a private NCWWI section of the CWIG. Most of these references have also been made available to the field at large as well.

How our work benefits and strengthens the field

KAM led the development of the NCWWI's Leadership Competency Framework, which has provided the foundation for the development of the LAS and LAMM curriculum. KAM has collected and screened more than 600 articles, resources, and materials across a variety of workforce and leadership topical areas, in an effort to identify resources that support the work of child welfare leaders. We also work with other teams to contribute to the development and review of NCWWI products, such as the LAS and LAMM curriculum, and specialized on-line training modules.

What's on the horizon

Our upcoming efforts will focus on the ongoing search for timely and relevant resources and working closely with our partners to promote dissemination of those resources. We will also be developing practical and practice-oriented guides that support child welfare leaders in enhancing their knowledge and skills and promote a competent, stable workforce.

We look forward to connecting with you in the months and years ahead.

With warm regards,

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