

need to be resolved so that the state's youngest and most vulnerable children and families get the support they need and deserve:

The state's mental health system is not solid in its recognition that very young children can have mental health issues that need intensive mental health treatment. Some of the state's Regional Service Networks (RSN's) do not accept Medicaid billings for very young children. The DC-03R crosswalk with the DSM has not been recognized throughout the state, and as a result, many young children are not meeting the state's Access to Care Standards. There is a working group of state and local leaders that are working on this issue, and WA-AIMH is involved in advocating for change.

There are pockets of the State, notably east of the Cascade Mountains and in rural areas, where there is a shortage of professionals with specific training and experience in infant mental health. Professional development opportunities need to be expanded so that they are readily available throughout the State.

In addition to training, there is a need to develop more professionals who can provide Reflective Supervision that meets the standards of WA-AIMH Endorsement®. WA-AIMH has been "vetting" supervisors and will make the list available on their website, but there is a need to train and support more supervisors. In addition, the cost of reflective supervision can be prohibitive for some.

In spite of these issues, there is great interest at the state and local levels in infant mental health and in endorsement, and WA-AIMH is playing a leadership role in supporting the emerging work force in infant mental health in Washington.

## Bob Emde as a Plenary Speaker at 15th World Congress of WAIMH

Robert N. Emde, is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, School of Medicine, in the US, and currently serves on the faculty at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health in the Colorado School of Public Health.

His CV lists over 300 publications in the fields of early socio-emotional development, sleep research, infant mental health, diagnostic classification, early moral development, evaluation of early childhood intervention, psychoanalysis, behavioral genetics, and research education.

He served as President of the World Association of Infant Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines from 1986-1989 and currently serves as Honorary President of WAIMH. He has also served as President of the Society for Research in Child Development and on the boards of many organizations that deal with infant development, mental health and research training.

Bob Emde's Plenary is titled "Infant Psychiatry and the Origins of WAIMH; Remarkable early contributions that energized our field"



Bob Emde will be a Plenary Speaker in the WAIMH World Congress in Prague. Photo with courtesy of Bob Emde..

The presentation will address the following questions. Why did Infant Psychiatry, for many a worrisome designation, become a rallying point for our field? Why were psychoanalysts early leaders? Why were our congresses from the start international, being centered in Europe? The presentation will examine historical trends leading up to the first World Congresses of our organization and its two influential volumes "The Frontiers of Infant Psychiatry". It will also remind us of vital contributions given then of some pioneers who are no longer with us now, but continue to inspire and lead us with questions.



Rene Spitz 1970 with young Infant Mental Health investigator Robert Emde. Photo with courtesy of Bob Emde.