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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

January 31, 2017

Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk
State Capitol, B20 SE
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Patrick E. Fuller
Assembly Chief Clerk
Risser Justice Center
17 West Main Street, Suite 401
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chief Clerk Renk and Chief Clerk Fuller:

In compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, please accept the Department of Children and Families' 2016 fourth quarter report on alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care. The attached data addresses reports of alleged sexual abuse for the period October 1 through December 31, 2016, and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following is a summary of the findings in the attached report:

Number of Reported Incidents: 20

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 20 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 18 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 20 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 8, 2016 and December 21, 2016. Because children disclose abuse in different stages, it is common for children to report incidents months or even years after the incident occurred. Furthermore, in cases of alleged abuse involving non-verbal children, the actual dates of alleged maltreatment are often difficult or impossible to determine.

Maltreatment Determinations:

For reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for six (30%) of the reported incidents; 14 (70%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the six reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, one (16%) was unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), and five (84%) received a substantiation determination

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signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the five substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a sibling living in the home, an adult relative living in the home and three non-caregivers.

Types of Placement:

The five incidents of substantiated sexual abuse in out-of-home care occurred while one child was with an unlicensed relative, two children were placed in Kinship Care and two children were in a Group Home setting.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

The five substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care with one incident occurred in Walworth County and four incidents occurred in Milwaukee County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years of age. Sexual abuse was substantiated for five children ages 8, 13, 17 and two 15 years-old at the time of the reports.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide the attached information, in compliance with the statute. Feel free to contact the Department with questions or clarification requests.

Sincerely,


Eloise Anderson
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Governor Scott Walker