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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

April 17, 2018

Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk
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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' 2018 first 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 January 1 through March 31, 2018, 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: 71

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 71 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 57 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 71 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between July 5, 2015 and March 26, 2018. 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, dates of alleged maltreatment are often difficult or impossible to determine.

Maltreatment Determinations:

For reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for 36 (51%) of the reported incidents; 35 (49%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 36 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 24 (67%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), 10 (28%) were substantiated, and two (5%) were unsubstantiated/unable to locate source.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 10 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in out-of-home care was relative foster parent in one incident, partner/friend in a shared dwelling in one incident, minor child in one incident, children in foster homes in four incidents and non-caregiver in three incidents.

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Types of Placement:

The 10 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to five children in out-of-home care occurred in a court-ordered kinship placement in one incident, an unlicensed relative home in one incident, a relative foster home in one incident, a non-relative treatment foster home in four incidents and a group home in three incidents.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Of the 10 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care, one incident occurred in Iowa County, one incident occurred in Racine County and four incidents occurred in each of the following counties: Marathon County and Milwaukee County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

The alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 4 to 16 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for four children ages 4, 8, 10, and 16 years old at the time of the incident and one child had two sexual abuse incidents- one at age 13 years and one at age 14 years.

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