



201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Telephone: 608-422-7000
Fax: 608-422-7161

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Emilie Amundson
Secretary's Office

January 31, 2019

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' 2018 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, 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: 57

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 57 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 48 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 57 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 1, 2013, and December 27, 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 the 57 reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for 35 (61%) of the reported incidents, 22 (39%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete.

Of the 35 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 27 (77%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., preponderance of the evidence indicating that sexual abuse occurred was not found), seven (20%) were substantiated, and one (3%) was unsubstantiated/unable to locate source.

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Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Of the seven substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a foster parent in one incident and a non-caregiver in six incidents. Of the seven substantiated incidents, five included sex trafficking allegations.

Types of Placement:

Of the seven substantiated incidents, one incident occurred in a licensed foster home, one incident occurred in a kinship care court-ordered placement, two incidents occurred in a shelter care facility, and three incidents occurred in an unlicensed relative home.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Of the seven substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care, one incident occurred in Dane County, one incident occurred in Kewaunee County, two incidents occurred in Milwaukee County, and three incidents occurred in Kenosha County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

The alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for five children ages 9, 10, 17, and 16 (two children) at the time of the incident.

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,



Emilie Amundson
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Governor Tony Evers