

Jim Doyle  
Governor



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April 30, 2010

Honorable Robert Jauch  
State Senator  
Chair, Committee on Children and Families and  
Workforce Development  
118 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Jauch:

This is the first installment of the Department of Children and Families' quarterly report on sexual abuse of children in out-of-home care placement, in compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78. This document includes reports of sexual assaults made January 1 through March 31, 2010 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats.

Child safety is at the heart of our work at the Department of Children and Families. Over the last 22 months, we have worked to make children in Wisconsin safer and improve their future. With your support, we have made great progress on behalf of the children and families of this state.

Even while facing a budget deficit, Governor Doyle and the Legislature remained committed to doing what was in the best interests of children:

- We are increasing support for the heart of the foster care system – the foster parents. By increasing their payment rates and providing statewide training, we are helping them meet the needs of their foster children.
- We have created an alternative response pilot, which will ensure that more children are safe from abuse and neglect, will better support families overwhelmed by life circumstances, and will reduce the number of children going into foster care in Wisconsin.
- Due to your support, major reforms are taking place at the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, including the Nurse Family Engagement program that adds nurses to the child welfare team. This effort will increase the early detection of neglect and abuse, as well as increase the health and well-being of vulnerable children in Milwaukee.

**The following is the summary of reports received from January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.**

*Number of Incidents Reported: 40, Number of Incidents Substantiated: 3*

DCF received 40 reports of suspected sexual abuse in an out-of-home placement during the first quarter. Of the incidents reported, 50% or 20 cases were found to be unsubstantiated. Seventeen cases are pending further investigation. Finally, only 7.5% of the incidents reported (three cases) were found to be substantiated.

*Nature of Relationship:*

In the three cases where confirmed sexual abuse occurred, two were the result of peer to peer abuse. The victims were each located in treatment foster homes. The third case involved an adult relative when the child was absent from the Shelter Care facility.

*Dates of the Incidents:*

The incidents reported during the first quarter of 2010 occurred between 2002 and March 30, 2010. Children disclose abuse when they feel ready, so it is common for abuse to be reported months or even years after the incident occurred.

*County in which the incident occurred: 13*

Incidents were reported to the Department from throughout the state. The counties with multiple reports were Clark, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, and Winnebago.

*Age or Age Group of child: 0-18*

The Department received reports of suspected abuse for children between the ages of 0-18. The smallest number of reports was of children aged 0-1 year. The age groups of 10-12, 13-15, and 16-18 all had seven reports of suspected abuse. Children between the ages of 6-9 had a reported eight incidents and those aged 2-5 had a reported 10 incidents.

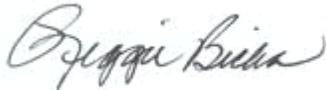
*Type of Placement: 8*

Reports of suspected abuse were disclosed while the children were residing in eight different types of out-of-home placements. The disclosed sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by a maltreater in that setting, but rather that is where the child resided when he or she disclosed the alleged abuse. Reports of suspected abuse came most frequently from foster family homes and treatment foster homes. These homes also had the highest amount of cases found unsubstantiated.

County	Date of Alleged Sexual Abuse	Number of Incidents per Report	Age at Alleged Incident	Maltreatment Determination	Maltreater Relationship	Placement Setting
Winnebago	01/01/10	1	13	Pending		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Winnebago	01/01/10	1	18	Pending		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Racine	03/07/10	1	3	Pending		Kinship Care - Court-Ordered
Rock	01/29/10	1	9	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Rock	01/29/10	1	5	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Columbia	03/13/10	1	12	Pending		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Milwaukee	01/21/10	1	4	Pending		Foster Family Home (Relative)
Milwaukee	2007	1	10	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	02/17/10	1	3	Pending		Kinship Care - Court-Ordered
Milwaukee	02/24/10	1	17	Pending		Kinship Care - Court-Ordered
Milwaukee	02/14/10	1	14	Pending		Residential Care Center (RCC)
Milwaukee	03/11/10	1	16	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	11/01/09	1	16	Pending		Group Home
Outagamie	03/30/10	1	1	Pending		Receiving Home

Racine	03/08/10	1	6	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Winnebago	2002-2008	1	12	Pending		Residential Care Center (RCC)
Winnebago	2002-2008	1	10	Pending		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Kenosha	01/02/10	1	16	Substantiated	Adult Relative	Shelter Care
Outagamie	12/25/09	1	14	Substantiated	Peer Maltreater	Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Vilas	01/22/10	1	15	Substantiated	Peer Maltreater	Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Clark	01/21/10	1	3	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Clark	02/23/10	1	2	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Jackson	01/05/10	1	11	Unsubstantiated		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Manitowoc	11/26/09	1	17	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center (RCC)
Milwaukee	12/26/09	1	4	Unsubstantiated		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	01/11/10	1	15	Unsubstantiated		Group Home
Milwaukee	02/09/10	1	3	Unsubstantiated		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	02/11/10	1	8	Unsubstantiated		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	02/11/10	1	7	Unsubstantiated		Treatment Foster Home - Non-Relative
Milwaukee	02/22/10	1	6	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Milwaukee	02/22/10	1	6	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Milwaukee	03/02/10	1	10	Unsubstantiated		Reception Center - Shelter
Outagamie	01/12/10	1	4	Unsubstantiated		Receiving Home
Rock	2008	1	11	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Relative)
Rock	2008	1	7	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Relative)
Rock	2008	1	6	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Relative)
Rock	2008	1	5	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Relative)
Rock	01/07/10	1	13	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Waushara	01/11/10	1	14	Unsubstantiated		Foster Family Home (Non-Rel)
Wood	03/01/10	1	17	Unsubstantiated		Kinship Care - Court-Ordered

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha  
 Secretary

cc: Michael Morgan, Department of Administration