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**Department of Children and Families
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October 29, 2010

Honorable Bob Jauch
State Senator
Room 118 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Tamara Grigsby
State Representative
324 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Jauch and Representative Grigsby:

This is the Department of Children and Families' third quarter report on alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care placement, in compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78. This report includes reports of sexual abuse made July 1 through September 30, 2010 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. Also included in this report is updated information on cases reported in the previous quarter.

The following is the summary of reports received from July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010.

Number of Incidents Reported: 31, Number of Incidents Substantiated: 1

DCF received reports of 31 suspected incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in an out-of-home placement during the second quarter. Of the incidents reported, 45% or 14 cases were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse did not occur). Sixteen reports are pending further investigation. Finally, only 1 of the incidents reported was substantiated.

Nature of Relationship:

In the single case where sexual abuse was substantiated or confirmed, the maltreater was a relative of the child who did not reside at the same residence as the victim.

Dates of the Incidents:

The incidents reported during the first quarter of 2010 are estimated to have occurred between 2002 and September 27, 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. In cases of alleged abuse to younger

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children, dates of the alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine due to the child's inability to effectively communicate about the incident(s).

Counties in which the incidents occurred: 20

Incidents were reported to DCF from throughout the state with multiple (i.e., more than one) incidents reported in Dane, Kenosha, Langlade, and Milwaukee Counties.

Ages or Age Group of children: 1-17 years

The Department received reports of suspected sexual abuse for children between the ages of 1-17. During this quarter, no incidents were reported for children ages 6, 7, and 12 years. The lowest number (1) of reported incidents per age group was for children ages 1, 4, and 14 years. Sixteen year olds were reported as the having highest number (5) of incidents of suspected sexual abuse per age group.

Types of Placement: 7

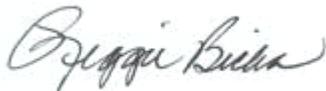
Reports of suspected abuse were disclosed while the children were residing in 7 different types of out-of-home placements. The alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by a maltreater in that setting, but rather that is where the child resided when he or she disclosed the abuse. Reports of suspected abuse came most frequently from non-relative foster family homes.

Updated Second Quarter Report

At the end of the second quarter the maltreatment determination for 17 cases was pending when the quarterly report was produced. The updated maltreatment determinations for the second quarter are 21 cases unsubstantiated, 4 cases substantiated and 3 remain pending.

Please see the attached data report for detailed information about the third quarter cases. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha
Secretary

Enclosure