



wisconsin department of
children + families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

April 29, 2011

Honorable Pam Galloway
State Senator
409 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Don Pridemore
State Representative
318 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Galloway and Representative Pridemore:

Enclosed please find the Department of Children and Families' 2011 first quarter report on alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care placement. The attached data report addresses reports of alleged sexual abuse for the period January 1 through March 31, 2011 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following information summarizes some of the findings in the attached report:

Number of Incidents Reported: 33

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 33 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 30 children residing in out-of-home care placement during the first quarter of 2011.

Maltreatment Determinations

For reported incidents, 12 (36%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse did not occur). Thirteen (39%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigation is not yet completed. Eight (24%) of the reported incidents were substantiated, which means these children were sexually abused after they were removed from their homes and placed into out-of-home care placement. This does not mean that the child was maltreated in the placement or by a member of that household. Please see the following section on maltreater relationship.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

For substantiated incidents (8) during this quarter, the relationship of the maltreater to the child is most commonly a relative caregiver (2 or 25%). In 5 cases, the maltreater was not in a caregiver role, and in 1 case the substantiated maltreater is the child's biological parent.

Dates of the Incidents:

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred between 2010 and 2011. 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

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cases of alleged abuse to younger 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 substantiated incidents occurred: 8

Milwaukee and Brown Counties had the largest number (3 each) of incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to a child residing in out-of-home care placement. Marathon and Portage Counties each had 1 substantiated incident per county.

Ages or Age Group of children: 3-17 years

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 3 through 17 years, with sexual abuse being substantiated in 8 cases for children ages 5, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 years. Seventeen-year-old youth were the largest group (2 per age group) of children that were sexually abused. One 15-year-old youth is counted twice in the report due to 2 substantiated incidents by 2 different maltreaters.

Types of Placement: 3

Cases of confirmed (substantiated) sexual abuse were disclosed by children residing in 3 different types of out-of-home placements, including non-relative treatment foster homes (2), non-relative foster homes (4), and court ordered Kinship Care (2). As stated earlier, the alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by an individual residing in that setting, but rather that is the child's current or most recent type of placement.

2010 Final Report

Also attached is the 2010 Alleged Sexual Abuse of Children Residing in Out-of-Home Care Placement final report. All of the 2010 cases that were pending at the end of the 4th quarter are now completed and are included in this comprehensive report.

If you have any questions about this summarized information or the attached report, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Cindy Polzin, Governor's Office