



wisconsin department of
children & families

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Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 30, 2012

Honorable Spencer Coggs
State Senator
109 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

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

Dear Senator Coggs and Representative Pridemore:

In compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, attached is the Department of Children and Families' 2012 third quarter report, which details alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care. The attached data details reports of alleged sexual abuse for the period July 1 through September 30, 2012 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following information summarizes the key findings in the attached report:

Number of Incidents Reported: 48

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 48 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 43 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations: 48 Incidents

For reported incidents, 25 (52%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) while 14 (29%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigation is not yet complete. Nine (19%) of the reported incidents were substantiated, which means these children were sexually abused following removal from home.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

For substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in all nine cases was a non-caregiver (three minors and six adults). During the third quarter of 2012, no foster parents were substantiated for sexual abuse to a child in their care.

Dates of Occurrence:

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred between June 2011 and September 2012. Children disclose abuse in different stages, therefore it is common for abuse to be reported months or even years after the incident occurred. In cases of alleged abuse to younger children, dates of alleged

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maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine because of the child's inability to effectively communicate details of the incident(s).

Counties of Occurrence:

Buffalo, Juneau, and Rock Counties each had one incident of substantiated sexual abuse to a child residing in an out-of-home care placement. Milwaukee County had six incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 1 to 17 years. The nine substantiated incidents involved one child age 6 years, two children ages 13 years, one child age 16 years and one child age 17 years.

Types of Placement:

Whereas victims of substantiated sexual abuse cases resided in non-relative treatment foster homes and a group home, the alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by a maltreater in the setting.

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

Sincerely,


Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc: Governor Scott Walker