



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 22, 2013

Honorable Leah Vukmir
State Senator
109 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Scott Krug
State Representative
318 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Vukmir and Representative Krug:

In compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, please accept the Department of Children and Families' 2013 first 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 January 1 through March 31, 2013, and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following information summarizes a portion of the findings in the attached report:

Number of Incidents Reported: 38

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 38 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 35 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations:

For reported incidents, 12 (32%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 23 (60%) maltreatment determinations remain pending because the investigation is not yet complete. Three (8%) reported incidents were substantiated, indicating these children were sexually abused following removal from their homes and placement in out-of-home care.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

In the three substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a non-caregiver (all minors). During the first quarter of 2013, no foster parents were substantiated for sexual abuse of a child in their care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred between January 2009 and March 2013. Children disclose abuse in different stages, therefore it is common for children to report incidents months or even years after the alleged occurrence. In cases of alleged abuse to non-verbal children,

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dates of the alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine because of the child's inability to provide specific dates or times of the alleged incident(s).

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Brown County noted one incident of substantiated sexual abuse to a child residing in out-of-home care. Milwaukee County documented two 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 2 to 17 years. The three substantiated incidents involved one child aged 7 years; one child aged 12 years; and one child aged 13 years.

Types of Placement:

The cases of substantiated sexual abuse were disclosed by children residing in a non-relative, treatment foster home (two reports) and a non-relative foster family home (one report). The alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by a maltreater in that setting. The data simply notes the child's current or most recent placement at the time of disclosure.

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

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc: Governor Scott Walker