



wisconsin department of
children & families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

July 31, 2013

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

Honorable Leah Vikmir
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 second 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 April 1 through June 30, 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: 26

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 26 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 26 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations: 26 Incidents

For reported incidents, 13 (50%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 12 (46%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigation is not yet complete. One (4%) reported incidents was substantiated, indicating this child or children were sexually abused following removal from their homes and placed into out-of-home care.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

In the one substantiated incident, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a non-caregiver (minors). During the second 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 April 2010 and June 2013. Children disclose abuse in different stages, therefore it is common for children to report incidents months or even years after the incident occurred. In cases of alleged abuse to non-verbal children, dates of the

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

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Jackson County noted one incident of substantiated sexual abuse to a child residing in an 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 only substantiated incident involved one child, age 10 years.

Types of Placement:

The case of substantiated sexual abuse was disclosed by a child residing in a non-relative, treatment foster home. 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