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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

January 31, 2014

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

Honorable Scott Krug
State Representative
208 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 fourth 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 October 1 through December 31, 2013, and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following is a summary of the findings in the attached report:

Number of Reported Incidents: 23

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 23 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 20 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations: 23 Incidents

For reported incidents, 7 (30.4%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 9 (39.1%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. In 1 (4.3%) of the reported incidents, CPS could not access critical sources of information to substantiate or unsubstantiate the alleged sexual abuse. Six (26%) of the reported incidents received a substantiation determination, signifying the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care, following removal from their homes.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 3 of the 6 cases was another child residing in the foster home or household. In 2 of the 6 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was another minor. In 1 of the 6 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a relative, non-care provider. During the fourth quarter of 2013, no foster parents were substantiated for sexual abuse of a child.

Dates of the Incidents:

The reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between December 2007 and December 2013. Because children disclose abuse in different stages, it is common for children to report incidents months or even years after the incident occurred. Furthermore, in cases of alleged

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abuse involving non-verbal children, dates of alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Four substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children cases residing in out-of-home care occurred in Walworth County. One occurred in Waukesha County and 1 occurred in Jackson County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

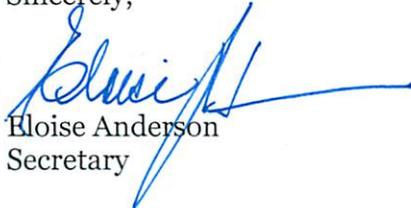
Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 2 to 17 years. Sexual abuse was substantiated 6 times for ages 12 to 17. For this quarter, no substantiated cases involved a child under the age of 12.

Types of Placement:

The substantiated cases of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in non-relative treatment foster homes (4), a non-relative foster home (1) and a relative foster home (1). 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.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide the attached information, in compliance with the statute. Feel free to contact the Department with questions or clarification requests.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc: Governor Scott Walker