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Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

January 27, 2015

Honorable Leah Vukmir  
State Senator  
131 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Honorable Jessie Rodriguez  
State Representative  
204 North, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Senator Vukmir and Representative Rodriguez:

In compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, attached is the Department of Children and Families' 2014 annual 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 January 1 through December 31, 2014 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:*

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 169 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse for 144 unique children residing in out-of-home care during 2014.

*Maltreatment Determinations:*

For reported incidents, 108 (64%) were unsubstantiated, 37 (21.8%) are pending completion of the investigation, 1 was found to be "unable to locate source" (meaning the agency was not able to substantiate the allegation as the agency was unable to access critical information) and 23 (13%) were substantiated.

*Nature of Maltreater Relationship:*

Of the 23 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 9 cases was a foster parent or other adult in the child's placement. In 6 cases the maltreater was either another child living in the home or a peer maltreater. In 5 cases, the maltreater was an adult non-caregiver. In 2 cases, the maltreater was the biological parent or non-related guardian of the child. In 1 case, the maltreater relationship to the child was unknown.

*Dates of Occurrence:*

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred between April 2001 and December 2014. 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,

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Honorable Jessie Rodriguez  
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dates of alleged 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:*

Forty-one counties investigated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care. Eight counties substantiated incidents of sexual abuse, with the majority of substantiated cases (8) occurring in Milwaukee.

*Ages or Age Group of Children:*

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years. Sexual abuse was substantiated 5 times for children age 7 years and younger, with the majority of substantiations (18) occurring for children age 8 years and older.

*Types of Placement:*

Whereas the majority of victims of substantiated sexual abuse cases resided in non-relative foster homes and congregate care settings (e.g. Residential Care Center, Group Home, Shelter), the alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting in which a child resided in calendar year 2014 or by a maltreater residing in that placement setting during calendar year 2014.

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

Sincerely,

  
Eloise Anderson  
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Governor Scott Walker