



201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
Telephone: 608-266-8684  
Fax: 608-261-6972

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

April 21, 2014

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

Honorable Scott Krug  
State Representative  
208 North, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

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' 2014 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, 2014, 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: 37*

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 37 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 33 children residing in out-of-home care.

*Maltreatment Determinations: 37 Incidents*

For reported incidents, 13 (35.1 %) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 22 (59.5 %) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Two (5.4%) 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 2 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 1 of the 2 cases was another child residing in the foster home. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 2 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a non-relative foster parent.

*Dates of the Incidents:*

The 37 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between December 2010 and March 2014. 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:*

One substantiated incident of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Columbia County and one occurred in Eau Claire County

*Ages or Age Group of Children:*

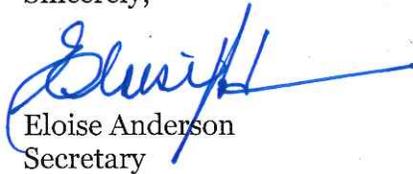
Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 2 to 16 years. Sexual abuse was substantiated for a 5 year old child and an 8 year old child.

*Types of Placement:*

Both substantiated cases of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in non-relative family foster homes.

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