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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 31, 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 third 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 July 1 through September 30, 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: 33

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 33 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 30 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations: 33 incidents

For reported incidents, 12 (36.4%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 18 (54.5%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Three (9.1%) 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 3 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 1 of the 3 cases was a sibling also residing in the foster home. In 2 of the 3 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a non-relative foster parent.

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Dates of the Incidents:

The 33 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 2007 and September 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 abuse involving non-verbal children, dates of alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Of the 3 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care, 1 occurred in each of the following counties: Eau Claire County, Grant County, and Milwaukee County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

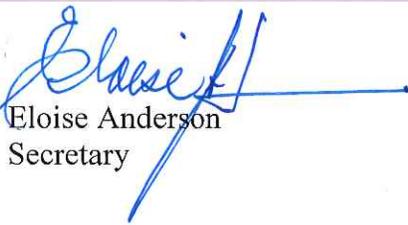
Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years. Sexual abuse was substantiated for 3 children, ages 12, 14, and 15.

Types of Placement:

All 3 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred while the child was placed in non-relative family foster homes.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide the attached information, in compliance with the reporting requirements under Section 48.981(9) (b), Wis. Stats. Feel free to contact the Department with questions or clarification requests.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc: Governor Scott Walker