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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, please accept the Department of Children and Families' 2014 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, 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:

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 38 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 36 children residing in out-of-home care.

Maltreatment Determinations:

For reported incidents, 12 (31.2 %) were unsubstantiated, 22 (57.9%) are pending completion of the investigation, and 4 (10.5%) were substantiated.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 4 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 1 case was that of the foster parent's partner/friend sharing the dwelling. In 3 of the 4 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a minor non-caregiver.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 38 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between August 2014 and December 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.

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Location of Substantiated Incidents:

All 4 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Milwaukee County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 1 to 17 years of age. Sexual abuse while placed in out-of-home care was substantiated for 4 children, ages 8, 10, 11, and 13.

Types of Placement:

All 4 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children placed in out-of-home care occurred while the child was placed in a non-relative foster home.

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

Attachment

cc: Governor Scott Walker