



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 30, 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' 2015 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, 2015, 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: 34*

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 34 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 32 children residing in out-of-home care.

*Dates of the Incidents:*

The 34 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 2014 and March 2015. 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 are often difficult or impossible to determine.

*Maltreatment Determinations:*

For reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for 56% or 19 of the reported incidents; 15 (44 %) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 19 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 16 (84.2 %) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and 3 (15.8%) received a substantiation determination signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

Honorable Leah Vukmir  
Honorable Rodriguez  
April 30, 2015  
Page 2

*Nature of Maltreater Relationship:*

Regarding the 3 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 1 case was that of the unlicensed relative's partner/friend sharing the dwelling. In 2 of the 3 cases, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a minor non-caregiver.

*Types of Placement:*

The 3 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred while the child was placed in a non-relative foster home, a non-relative treatment foster home, and an unlicensed relative home.

*Location of Substantiated Incidents:*

The 3 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Marathon County, Milwaukee County, and Racine County.

*Ages or Age Group of Children:*

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 3 to 17 years of age. Sexual abuse was substantiated for 3 children, 2 of whom were 5 years old and one who was 7 years old.

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