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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 31, 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 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, 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: 71

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 71 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 63 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 71 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between July 2012 and September 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 45 (63.4%) of the reported incidents; 26 (36.6 %) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 45 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 33 (73.3%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), 2 (4.4%) received a substantiation determination signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care, and in 10 (22.2%) the agency investigating the allegation was unable to locate necessary sources of information.

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Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 2 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in 1 case was a relative primary care provider. In the remaining case, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a biological parent(s).

Types of Placement:

The 2 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred while one child was placed in relative – unlicensed care and while the other child was placed in kinship care- court ordered.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

The 2 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Dane and Marathon Counties.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years of age. Incidents of sexual abuse were substantiated for one child who was 5 years old at the time of the abuse and one child who was 13 years old at the time of abuse.

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