



201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Telephone: 608-267-3905
Fax: 608-266-6836

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

July 31, 2016

Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk
State Capitol, B20 SE
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Patrick E. Fuller
Assembly Chief Clerk
Risser Justice Center
17 West Main Street, Suite 401
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chief Clerk Renk and Chief Clerk Fuller:

In compliance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, please accept the Department of Children and Families' 2016 second 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 April 1 through June 30, 2016, 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: 32

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 32 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 29 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 32 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between March 22, 2012 and June 29, 2016. 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 14 (43.8%) of the reported incidents; 18 (56.2%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 14 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 9 (64.3%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), and 5 (35.7%) received a substantiation determination signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

Senate Chief Clerk Jeffrey Renk
Assembly Chief Clerk Patrick Fuller
July 31, 2016
Page 2

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 5 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a non-relative foster parent(s) in two incidents; unknown in two incidents; and a minor not named-non-caregiver in one incident.

Types of Placement:

The 5 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children in out-of-home care occurred in three incidents with a foster family (non-relative), one incident with a relative (unlicensed), and one incident with a non-relative (unlicensed).

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

The 5 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Barron County, Dane County, Polk County, Taylor County, and Wood County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 1 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for 5 children ages 4, 6, 8, 11, and 14 years old at the time of the incident.

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