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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 31, 2016

Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk
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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 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, 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: 49

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 49 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 44 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 49 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between May 14, 2016 and September 26, 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 24 (49.0%) of the reported incidents; 25 (51.0%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 24 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 20 (83.3%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), and 4 (16.7%) received a substantiation determination signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

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Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 4 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was the following: one child in a residential care center was maltreated by another child in care; one child in a licensed foster home was maltreated by the caregiver; one child in a treatment foster home was maltreated by another child in the home; and one child in out-of-home care was maltreated by her legal guardian's spouse.

Types of Placement:

The 4 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children in out-of-home care occurred while children were placed in one incident in an RCC; in two incidents in a treatment foster home (non-relative); and in one incident in a foster family home (non-relative).

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

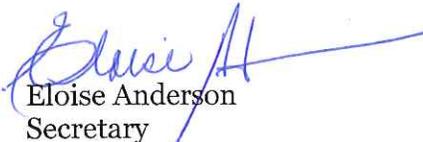
The 4 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Burnett County, Eau Claire County, Portage County, and Winnebago County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 0 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for 4 children ages 3, 8, 14, and 15 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