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Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson  
  
Secretary's Office

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January 31, 2018

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, attached is the Department of Children and Families' 2017 annual report, which details alleged sexual abuse of children residing in out-of-home care. The attached data details reports of alleged sexual abuse for the period January 1 through December 31, 2017 and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981 (9)(b), Wis. Stats. The following information summarizes the key findings in the attached report:

*Number of Incidents Reported: 181 Incidents*

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 181 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 161 children residing in out-of-home care during 2017.

*Dates of Occurrence:*

The incidents reported are estimated to have occurred between January 2010 and December 2017. Children disclose abuse in different stages, therefore it is common for abuse to be reported months or even years after the incident occurred. In cases of alleged abuse to younger children, dates of alleged maltreatment may be difficult or impossible to determine because of the child's inability to effectively communicate details of the incident(s).

*Maltreatment Determinations:*

For reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for 153 (85%) of the reported incidents, 116 (76%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) while 31 (20%) of the reported incidents were substantiated. In addition, maltreatment determinations in two incidents (1%) could not be made because the agencies were not able to locate the family and/or information, for four incidents (3%) services were determined not to be needed. Maltreatment determinations for the remaining 28 incidents (15%) are pending because the investigations are not complete.

*Nature of Maltreater Relationship:*

Of the 31 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was:

- A non-caregiver in 10 incidents
- Another child living in the home in 5 incidents
- A non-relative foster home provider or partner in the home in 3 incidents
- A relative, non-caregiver in 3 incidents
- Unknown in 3 incidents
- A family friend in 2 incidents
- Group home staff in 2 incidents
- A biological parent in 1 incident
- A temporary caregiver in 1 incident
- A teacher/other school employee in 1 incident

Of the 31 substantiated incidents listed above, sex trafficking was identified as the type of sexual abuse in eight incidents, each involving one child.

*Types of Placement:*

Of the 31 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to children in out-of-home care, 10 occurred while the children were placed in non-relative foster homes or treatment foster homes, seven occurred while the children were placed in group homes, five while the children were placed in unlicensed relative homes, four while the children were placed in shelter care, three while the children were placed in residential care centers, and two while the children was placed in relative foster homes. The alleged sexual abuse did not necessarily occur within the placement setting or by a maltreater who resided in the setting.

*Location of Substantiated Incidents:*

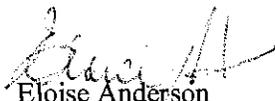
Thirty-five counties investigated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care. Eleven counties had substantiated incidents of sexual abuse, with eleven of the substantiated incidents occurring in Milwaukee County, three substantiated incidents occurred each in the respective counties of La Crosse, Outagamie and Trempealeau, two substantiated incidents occurred in the respective counties of Adams, Crawford, Rock and Waupaca and one each in the respective counties of Portage, Sauk and Wood.

*Ages or Age Group of Children:*

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 1 to 17 years. Of the 31 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse, there were 6 substantiated incidents for children age 7 years and younger and 25 substantiated incidents for children age 8 years and older.

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