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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

April 28, 2017

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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' 2017 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, 2017, 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: 64

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 64 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 58 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 64 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 1, 2010 and March 29, 2017. 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 30 (47%) of the reported incidents; 34 (53%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 30 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 23 (77%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), 1 (3%) was unable to locate the source, and 6 (20%) 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 6 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was other minor(s) in the child's household in two incidents; and 2 non-related adults and 2 related adults all of whom were non-caregivers in the four incidents. The 2 cases in which the maltreater was a non-related adult involved allegations of sex trafficking.

Types of Placement:

The 6 incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to five children in out-of-home care occurred while children were placed in a resident care center in one incident; in relative (unlicensed) in one incident; in a foster home (non-relative) in two incidents; two incidents apply to one child once while the child was with a relative (unlicensed) and once in a group home.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

The 6 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Adams County, Milwaukee County, and Outagamie County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

Alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 3 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for 4 children ages 13, 15, 16, and 17 years old at the time of the incident. One child had two separate incidents of sexual abuse substantiated, one while the child was 15 and the other while the child was 16.

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