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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

July 31, 2017

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' 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 April 1 through June 30, 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: 54

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 54 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 51 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 54 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 1, 2013 and June 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 21 (39%) of the reported incidents; 33 (61%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 21 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 20 (95%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and one (5%) received a substantiation determination signifying a preponderance of evidence that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the one substantiated incident, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was other child(ren) in the foster home.

Types of Placement:

The one incident of substantiated sexual abuse to a child in out-of-home care occurred while the child was placed in a foster home (non-relative).

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

The one substantiated incident of sexual abuse to a child residing in out-of-home care occurred in Shawano 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 one child age 7 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