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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 31, 2017

Jeffrey Renk
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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' 2017 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, 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: 43

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 43 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 35 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 43 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between January 1, 2010 and September 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 13 (30%) of the reported incidents; 30 (70%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 13 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 10 (77%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur) and three (23%) received a substantiation determination signifying that there was a preponderance of evidence supporting the conclusion that the child victims were sexually abused while placed in out-of-home care.

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Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the three substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in out-of-home care was minor not named in one incident, unknown maltreater in one incident and a relative in a non-provider role in one incident. The incident in which the maltreater was unknown involved allegations of sex trafficking.

Types of Placement:

The three incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to three children in out-of-home care occurred in a foster home-non-relative home in one incident and a relative-unlicensed home in two incidents.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

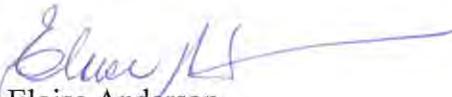
The three substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to a children residing in out-of-home care occurred in Milwaukee County, Outagamie County and Portage County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

The alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 1 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for three children ages 10, 16 and 17 year 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