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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

January 31, 2018

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' 2017 fourth 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 October 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 is a summary of the findings in the attached report:

Number of Reported Incidents: 51

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 51 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 42 children residing in out-of-home care.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 51 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between December 15, 2013 and December 28, 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 28 (55%) of the reported incidents; 23 (45%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 28 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 20 (72%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), seven (25%) were substantiated, and one determination concluded that services were not needed.

Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the 7 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in out-of-home care was temporary caregiver in one incident, non-caregiver in two incidents, other children in the foster home in two incidents and group home staff in two incidents.

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Types of Placement:

The seven incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to seven children in out-of-home care occurred in a residential care center in one incident, a group home in two incidents, a relative foster home in two incidents and a non-relative foster in two incidents.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

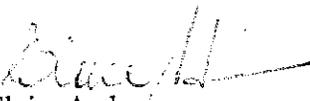
Of the seven substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care occurred one incident occurred in Milwaukee County and two incidents occurred in each of the following counties: Crawford County, Trempealeau County, and Waupaca County.

Ages or Age Group of Children:

The alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children ages 2 to 17 years of age. An incident of sexual abuse was substantiated for seven children ages 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 16 and 17 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