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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

July 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' 2018 second 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, 2018, 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: 62

Wisconsin child protective services agencies screened in and investigated 62 reported incidents of suspected sexual abuse to 58 children residing in out-of-home care. Seventeen of the 62 reported incidents were allegations of sex trafficking.

Dates of the Incidents:

The 62 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between August 11, 2011 and June 26, 2018. 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 (45%) of the reported incidents, 34 (55%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete. Of the 28 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 21 (75%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., sexual abuse likely did not occur), five (17%) were substantiated, and two (8%) were unsubstantiated/unable to locate source.

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Nature of Maltreater Relationship:

Regarding the five substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child in out-of-home care was relative care provider in one incident, minor child in one incident, sibling in one incident, unknown maltreater in one incident and non-caregiver in one incident.

Types of Placement:

The five incidents of substantiated sexual abuse to five children in out-of-home care occurred in a court-ordered kinship placement in one incident, an unlicensed relative home in one incident, a non-relative treatment foster home in one incident, a group home in one incident and a residential care center in one incident.

Location of Substantiated Incidents:

Of the five substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care, one incident occurred in each of the following counties: Kenosha County, Milwaukee County, Oneida County, Saint Croix County and Walworth 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 five children ages 2, 3, 10, and 15 (two children) 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