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Governor Tony Evers  
Secretary Emilie Amundson  
  
Secretary's Office

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October 31, 2019

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' 2019 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, 2019, and fulfills the Department of Children and Families' reporting requirements under Section 48.981(9)(b), Wis. Stats.

We appreciate the legislature's interest in Wisconsin's child welfare system and their commitment to supporting the Department of Children and Families (DCF), county and tribal child welfare agencies, and the hundreds of non-profit organizations who work to protect Wisconsin children every day. Like you, we are saddened by all cases of child maltreatment and are committed to strengthening families so that child maltreatment does not occur. Wisconsin is fortunate to have dedicated and passionate child welfare workers and we want to recognize and express our appreciation for their commitment and compassion as they engage in these cases on a daily basis.

We encourage legislators and stakeholders to reinforce awareness that prevention of child maltreatment is a community-wide responsibility involving all individuals and organizations in the community, and to continue to support efforts at the local and state levels to develop a more robust and consistent array of child maltreatment prevention services. Through collaborative and data-driven analyses and discussions, we all can support efforts to strengthen the families in our state to provide safe, stable and nurturing homes for their children and help our families and children succeed and thrive.

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 62 children residing in out-of-home care.

*Dates of the Incidents:*

The 64 reported incidents are estimated to have occurred between May 12, 2019, and September 27, 2019. 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:*

Of the 64 reported incidents, maltreatment determinations were made for 42 (66%) of the reported incidents, while 22 (34%) maltreatment determinations are pending because the investigations are not complete.

Of the 42 reported incidents where the maltreatment determination was made, 33 (79%) were unsubstantiated (i.e., preponderance of the evidence indicating that sexual abuse occurred was not found), 8 (19%) were substantiated, and one (2%) was unsubstantiated/unable to locate source.

*Nature of Maltreater Relationship:*

Of the 8 substantiated incidents, the relationship of the maltreater to the child was a stranger in two incidents, a minor placed in the same facility as the child in two incidents, a parent's partner sharing the child's dwelling in one incident, a non-caregiver in one incident, a sibling in one incident, and another child in the same foster home in one incident. Of the 8 substantiated incidents, two included sex trafficking allegations.

*Types of Placement:*

Of the 8 substantiated incidents, one incident occurred while the child was placed in a kinship care court ordered placement, one incident occurred while the child was placed in a non-relative foster home, two incidents occurred while the child was placed in a non-relative treatment foster home, three incidents occurred while the child was placed in a residential care center, one incident occurred while a child was placed in a group home.

*Location of Substantiated Incidents:*

Of the 8 substantiated incidents of sexual abuse to children residing in out-of-home care, two incidents occurred in Dane County, one incident occurred in Eau Claire County, one incident occurred in Grant County, two incidents occurred in Milwaukee County, one incident occurred in Outagamie County, and one incident occurred in Racine County.

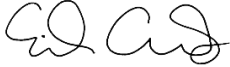
*Ages or Age Group of Children:*

The alleged sexual abuse was reported and investigated for children 0 to 17 years of age. Incidents of sexual abuse were substantiated for 7 children, one of whom was 3 years old at the time of maltreatment, one of whom was 11 years old at the time of maltreatment, one of whom was 12 years old at the time of maltreatment, one of whom was 13 years old at the time of maltreatment, two of whom were 15 years old at the time of maltreatment, and one of whom was 16 years old at the time of maltreatment.

Senate Chief Clerk Jeffrey Renk  
Assembly Chief Clerk Patrick Fuller  
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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilie Amundson".

Emilie Amundson  
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Governor Tony Evers

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
 Alleged Sexual Abuse/Child in Out-of-Home Care  
 Period July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019

County	Number of Incidents	Date of Alleged Maltreatment	Age at the time of Alleged Incident	Maltreatment Determination	Maltreater Relationship	Placement Setting	Allegation of Sex Trafficking
Adams	1	6/27/2019	12	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Adams	1	7/13/2019	10	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Ashland	1	7/9/2019	17	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	Y
Brown	1	7/31/2019	2	Unsubstantiated		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Brown	1	7/31/2019	8	Unsubstantiated		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Brown	1	8/29/2019	16	Pending		Residential Care Center	N
Buffalo	1	9/18/2019	4	Pending		Relative Foster Home	N
Chippewa	1	8/31/2019	7	Pending		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Dane	1	6/27/2019	15	Unsubstantiated		Shelter	N
Dane	1	6/27/2019	17	Unsubstantiated		Shelter	N
Dane	2	7/25/2019	12	Substantiated	Stranger	Non-Relative Treatment Foster Home	N
Dane	1	9/18/2019	13	Pending		Shelter	N
Door	1	7/25/2019	12	Unsubstantiated		Non-Relative Treatment Foster Home	N
Dunn	1	7/9/2019	4	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Eau Claire	1	7/4/2019	16	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center	N
Eau Claire	1	7/30/2019	13	Substantiated	Unnamed Minor	Residential Care Center	N

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Eau Claire	1	8/25/2019	6	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Eau Claire	1	8/30/2019	17	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center	N
Grant	1	7/5/2019	4	Unsubstantiated		Relative Foster Home	N
Grant	1	8/12/2019	15	Substantiated	Child in Licensed Care	Residential Care Center	N
Kenosha	1	8/19/2019	0	Pending		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Kenosha	1	8/19/2019	1	Pending		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Kenosha	1	9/11/2019	15	Pending		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
La Crosse	1	7/6/2019	12	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center	Y
La Crosse	1	7/6/2019	12	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center	Y
Manitowoc	1	7/31/2019	13	Unsubstantiated		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Manitowoc	1	9/11/2019	8	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Marathon	1	7/8/2019	14	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/3/2019	17	Unsubstantiated		Residential Care Center	N
Milwaukee	1	7/9/2019	15	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/9/2019	15	Substantiated	Non-Caregiver	Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/19/2019	16	Substantiated	Partner Sharing Dwelling	Residential Care Center	Y

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Milwaukee	1	7/19/2019	13	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	N
Milwaukee	1	7/24/2019	14	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/25/2019	15	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/26/2019	16	Not able to locate source		Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	7/31/2019	6	Unsubstantiated		Unlicensed Non-Relative	N
Milwaukee	1	7/31/2019	6	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Milwaukee	1	5/12/2019	9	Unsubstantiated		Non-Relative Treatment Foster Home	N
Milwaukee	1	5/12/2019	5	Unsubstantiated		Non-Relative Treatment Foster Home	N
Milwaukee	1	8/29/2019	15	Pending		Group Home	Y
Milwaukee	1	9/4/2019	1	Pending		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Milwaukee	1	9/23/2019	12	Pending		Relative Foster Home	Y
Milwaukee	2	9/27/2019	12	Pending		Non-Relative Treatment Foster Home	N
Outagamie	1	8/1/2019	3	Substantiated	Sibling	Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Outagamie	1	8/1/2019	10	Unsubstantiated		Kinship Care Court Ordered	N
Outagamie	1	8/4/2019	2	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Outagamie	1	8/4/2019	2	Unsubstantiated		None-Relative Foster Home	N

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Racine	1	7/15/2019	11	Substantiated	Child in foster home	None-Relative Foster Home	N
Racine	1	8/5/2019	8	Unsubstantiated		Relative Foster Home	N
Racine	1	8/6/2019	12	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Racine	1	8/8/2019	17	Unsubstantiated		Shelter	N
Rock	1	8/15/2019	7	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Rock	1	8/15/2019	9	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Sheboygan	1	9/6/2019	4	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Sheboygan	1	9/6/2019	8	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Sheboygan	1	9/6/2019	5	Pending		None-Relative Foster Home	N
Sheboygan	1	9/18/2019	3	Pending		Unlicensed Relative	N
Waukesha	1	6/6/2019	14	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	N
Waukesha	1	6/6/2019	14	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	Y
Waukesha	1	6/6/2019	14	Unsubstantiated		Group Home	N
Waupaca	1	9/2/2019	17	Pending		Residential Care Center	N