



PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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August 11, 2015

Ken Schatz, Commissioner
Vermont Department for Children and Families
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-5920

Dear Commissioner Schatz,

It is with great sorrow that I acknowledge the loss of your social worker Lara Sobel. News of Ms. Sobel's death reached me this weekend along with the media account that she was shot and killed by a mother involved in a Vermont Children and Families' case. I have viewed the video of the memorial held for Ms. Sobel and heard the tributes given by her co-workers. It is clear that Ms. Sobel was an outstanding and dedicated social worker who acted in the best interest of the children and families she served. Her death is truly a tragedy. On behalf of the 7,500 employees of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, please share my condolences with your entire staff and with the family of Ms. Sobel.

Sincerely,

PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

PLB:am