

**Department for Children and Families**  
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*Agency of Human Services*

November 21, 2014

Dear Legislators,

Please find the attached report from the Vermont Citizen's Advisory Board (VCAB) regarding the child fatality case reviews they performed. This report can also be found on the Department for Children and Families website: <http://dcf.vt.gov/strengtheningDCF> and will be released to the media today.

In summary, the report provides specific recommendations in the following areas:

- Training and evaluation of child protection system professionals;
- Policies and practices of child protection system professionals;
- Communications and information sharing between professionals throughout the child protection system;
- Courts and statutes;
- Staffing and contracting; and
- Child safety and ongoing risk to children.

We appreciate this thoughtful review and will be using it to help further guide our ongoing system improvements. We are also looking forward to the reports and recommendations from Casey Family Programs, the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, and the Legislative Committee on Child Protection.

Thank you,



Ken Schatz, Commissioner  
Department for Children and Families  
Agency of Human Services

CC: Health Care Oversight Committee  
Legislative Committee on Child Protection  
AHS Acting Secretary Harry Chen  
Judge Amy Davenport

