MOTION: NOHE  
SECOND: MAY  
RE: DESIGNATE THE BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AS THE LOCAL BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DESIGNATE THE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES AS THE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, PURSUANT TO § 63.2-305, VA CODE ANN.  
ACTION: APPROVED  

WHEREAS, the structure for the provision of social services in Virginia localities, including Prince William County, was first codified by the Commonwealth beginning in 1902 when local boards of social services were constituted as arms of the Commonwealth and appointed by the Circuit Courts; and  

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth modified the structure for its provision of social services in localities over the years since 1902 as follows:  

- 1908 – The General Assembly created the five member Board of Charities and Corrections;  
- 1922 – The General Assembly changed this to the Board of Public Welfare and a state reorganization created the Department of Public Welfare;  
- 1948 – General Assembly reorganized state government and merged Public Welfare with Corrections creating the Department of Welfare and Institutions;  
- 1974- This merger proved unsatisfactory and the departments were once again separated;  
- 1981 – The General Assembly changed the name of the state department from the Department of Welfare to the Department of Social Services; and  

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County made its first appointments to its local, administrative Board of Social Services in 1972. At that time, the population of the County was 111,000 and the budget of the Department of Social Services was $2.1 million and it had one employee; and  

WHEREAS, with more responsibility for the funding and provision of social services devolving from the Commonwealth to the localities, the General Assembly passed legislation in 1977 that allowed local jurisdictions to choose to change the structure to deliver these services directly through the local governing body assisted by an advisory board (formerly the administrative board of social services); and
WHEREAS, there is a growing trend among local governments to shift from an administrative board structure to an advisory board structure including all Northern Virginia jurisdictions excepting Prince William County including Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington Counties, and the Cities of Alexandria, Manassas, and Manassas Park as well as many jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in the FY2015 adopted budget, the provision of social services to the residents of Prince William is the responsibility of a local department which currently serves a County population of 430,000 with an annual budget of $32 million of which half is local taxpayer money, employing a staff of 306 employees providing services to thousands of clients through six major programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is operated by a volunteer citizen board which remains administrative as it was first created, which has the responsibility to determine the policy and mission of the Department but which has delegated the majority of oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Department, to include financial oversight and management of staff, to its Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is one of seven human services agencies within the County government that provide services to Prince William residents with a combined FY2015 budget of $125 million, a total staff of 673 employees, and formal partnerships with 50 community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors has an ongoing commitment to its citizens to determine the most effective structure of County government to provide services to taxpayers in the most efficient way possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to § 63.2-302, VA Code Ann., the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby designate itself and the County Executive as the local Board of Social Services and does hereby designate the Board of Social Services as the Advisory Board to the Board of County Supervisors and the County Executive, pursuant to § 63.2-305, VA Code Ann. The powers and duties of the Advisory Board shall be:
• To interest itself in all matters pertaining to the public assistance and social services needed by people of Prince William County;
• To monitor the formulation and implementation of public assistance and social services programs by the Department;
• To meet with the local government official or his/her designee who constitutes the local Board at least four times a year for the purpose of making policy recommendations on policy matters concerning the department;
• To promote a positive image of the Department through advocacy and education for the community and the Department;
• To act as a conduit from citizens to the members of the Board of County Supervisors on the needs for social services within the community;
• To provide input to the Board of Supervisors on the adoption of the four-year County Strategic Plan;
• To provide input to the Director of Social Services on the annual budget recommendations to the County Executive and as part of the budget process present an annual report concerning the administration of the public assistance and social services programs;
• To recommend two members to serve on the County Executive's hiring panel for the selection of the Social Services Director;
• To submit to the Board of County Supervisors other reports the Advisory Board deems appropriate;

The appointments, terms, and membership of the Board of Social Services shall be unchanged as they have been previously established by the Board of County Supervisors;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the policy oversight for the Department of Social Services will be the responsibility of the Board of County Supervisors with delegation of the day-to-day management and oversight of the Department and its staff to the County Executive;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that with the conversion of the Board of Social Services from an Administrative Board to an Advisory Board the position of Social Services Executive Director, which serves at the pleasure of the Board of Social Services, is hereby abolished and a Director of Social Services will be appointed by the Board of County Supervisors upon the recommendation of the County Executive following a recruitment process that will include two members of the Advisory Board of Social Services on the interview panel;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby provide resources within the adopted Fiscal Year 2015 budget at no additional cost to taxpayers to provide enhanced oversight and better coordination for all human services agencies by shifting a long-term vacancy in Social Services (PCN 890106) to the Office of Executive Management to create a Deputy County Executive for Human Services and shifting health insurance savings from non-departmental to cover these expenses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby direct the County Executive to take all necessary steps to implement the Board’s Policy Guidance and to report back as appropriate.

Votes:
Ayes: Candland, Jenkins, May, Nohe, Stewart
Nays: Principi
Absent from Vote: None
Absent from Meeting: Caddigan

For Information:
County Attorney

ATTEST: ____________________________
Clerk to the Board