

15TH MARCH, 2001

DO GACH COMHALTA DEN MBORD

A CHARA,

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD WILL BE HELD IN **THE BOARDROOM, NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD HEADQUARTERS, UNIT B, SWORDS BUSINESS CAMPUS, BALHEARY ROAD, SWORDS, CO. DUBLIN ON THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH 2001 AT 5.00 P.M.** TEA IS ARRANGED FOR 4.30 P.M.

HEREUNDER IS THE AGENDA.

MISE, LE MEAS,

M. WINDLE

PRÍOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. CHAIRPERSONS BUSINESS
2. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2001
(A) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES
3. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
5. DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL HOUSING AID FOR THE ELDERLY – REPORT NO. 9/2001
[COPY HEREWITH]

6. FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT 1999 –
REPORT NO. 10/2001 [COPY HEREWITH]
7. Report of The Working Group on St. Paul's, Beaumont – Report No.
11/2001 [to be circulated]
8. PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES
 - (A) COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CONTINUING CARE
COMMITTEE
 - (B) ACUTE HOSPITAL AND PRIMARY CARE COMMITTEE.
9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 SEN. DR. DERMOT FITZPATRICK

“THAT THE CEO ORDER A SURVEY OF ALL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES IN THE NAHB WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A COMMON HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE AND COMFORT FOR THE CLIENTS AND THE STAFF OF THE NAHB. THAT THIS SURVEY BE REPORTED TO THE BOARD WITHIN 12 MONTHS.” (DEFERRED FROM THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING).

9.2. ALD. IVOR CALLELY, T.D.

“THAT THIS BOARD ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT ST. JOSEPH'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL, RAHENY, AND THE HUGE POTENTIAL FOR THE PROVISION OF A RANGE OF SERVICES, THAT WILL GREATLY BENEFIT THE N.A.H.B. IN THE PROVISION AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES.”

9.3 CLLR. MICHAEL O'DONOVAN

“THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE GIVE AN UP-TO-DATE REPORT ON

(A) INITIATIVES TO REDUCE THE WAITING LISTS FOR ORTHODONTIC SERVICES AND (B) PROGRESS ON OUR PLANS TO BUILD A REGIONAL ORTHODONTIC UNIT IN BLANCHARDSTOWN.”

9.4 CLLR. ROISIN SHORTALL, T.D.

“THAT THE CEO REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF HEALTH BOARD

(A) LONG-STAY BEDS

(B) RESPITE BEDS

(C) REHABILITATION BEDS

WITHIN ITS AREA, FOR THE ELDERLY, WITH DETAILS OF THE NUMBERS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED OR BLOCKED IN EACH CASE, AND THAT SHE BRING FORWARD A PLAN FOR THE OPENING UP OF ALL THESE BEDS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.”

9.5 ALD. IVOR CALLELY, T.D.

“THAT THIS BOARD ACKNOWLEDGES THE TREMENDOUS ROLE OF THE HOME HELP SERVICE AND ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO FUND EXISTING NEED AND TO ENSURE

ENHANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE, ESPECIALLY THE SERVICE IN AREA 7 WORKING FROM THE VERNON AVENUE, HEALTH CENTRE.”

9.6 CLLR. MICHAEL O'DONOVAN

“THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT ON WHAT ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE CAN BE GIVEN TO PATIENTS RESIDING IN THE NAHB CATCHMENT WHO NEED TO AVAIL OF TREATMENTS OR THERAPIES IN OTHER E.U. COUNTRIES.”

9.7 CLLR. ROISIN SHORTALL, T.D.

“THAT THE CEO ARRANGE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION MATERIAL ON ADDICTION SERVICES, INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE DIRECTORY ON AVAILABLE SERVICES TO ALL GARDA STATIONS, DOCTOR'S SURGERIES, HEALTH CENTRES, AREA OFFICES, AND ANY OTHER VENUE WHERE THE PUBLIC MIGHT EXPECT TO FIND SUCH MATERIAL AS IT HAS BEEN THE EXPERIENCE OF SOME THAT THIS MATERIAL IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS”.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting of the Northern Area Health Board

**held in the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin**

On Thursday 22nd March, 2001, at 5.00pm

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Ald. I. Callely, T.D.
Mr M. Cowley
Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr G. McGuire
Dr. Bernard Murphy
Cllr. D. Murray
Cllr. E O'Brien
Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Dr. J. Reilly
Cllr R Shortall

In the Chair

Cllr A Devitt

Apologies

Cllr L Creaven
Mr J Fallon
M C. Quinn
Mr L Tuomey

Officers in Attendance

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr M. Walsh, Asst Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr J. Lamont, Asst Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms N. Byrne, Director of Communications
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary
Mr N. Doyle, Eastern Community Works

Mr K. O'Doherty, Human Resources Department
Mr G. Hanley, Operations

22/2001.

CHAIRPERSONS BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report

1. List of Condolences

I am sure members will join with me in expressing sincere sympathy with those whose names have been included on the list of condolences which has been circulated to members.

2. Postponement of Annual Conference 2001 – Association of Health Boards

I wish to draw member's attention to notification of postponement of Annual Conference

3. Visit – Northern Area Health Board

I wish to advise members of a deferral of a visit scheduled for Friday 23rd March. Visit will now take place on Friday 30th March, 2001, to Aoibhneas Women's Shelter, Kilmore Road, Coolock, Dublin 5 at 11.00am

4. Visit by French National Youth Orchestra

I wish to advise members of a planned visit to St. Ita's Hospital by the French Youth Orchestra on 11th April, 2001. Details to be circulated at a later date. All ERHA members to be invited to attend.

23/2001.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 15th February, 2001.

On a proposal by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Murray, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15th February, 2001 were agreed.

The Chief Executive agreed to bring a report on the equipment replacement programme for James Connolly Memorial Hospital to the next Standing Committee for Acute Hospitals and Primary Care.

On a proposal by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr Devitt, it was agreed that the plan for services to be developed in the "One Stop Shop", planned for Sean McDermott Street, would be brought before the Board, for consideration.

24/2001.

On a proposal by Cllr Devitt, seconded by Cllr Burke, it was agreed to answer the questions that had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Michael O'Donovan

“Will the Chief Executive give a brief progress report on the recruitment and induction of nursing personnel from abroad into NAHB hospitals.”

Reply

<i>No. of Nurses</i>	<i>Arrival Date</i>	<i>Clinical Placement</i>	<i>Commence Duty</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
			Aug 2000 19/03/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6 St Mary's Hospital▪ 2 St Mary's Hospital
16	16/02/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1 week orientation;▪ 3 weeks St. Mary's Hospital▪ 3 weeks Beaumont Hospital	09/04/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 11 St. Mary's Hospital▪ 2 Seanchara Community unit▪ 2 St. Clare's Home▪ 1 Cuan Ros Community Unit
18	30/03/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1 week orientation;▪ 3 weeks St. Mary's Hospital▪ 3 weeks Beaumont Hospital	21/05/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 13 St. Mary's Hospital▪ 2 Seanchara Community unit▪ 2 St. Clare's Home▪ 1 Cuan Ros Community Unit

Further groups are due in May, July and September 2001.

James Connolly Memorial Hospital

6 nurses who have completed their clinical placement programmes commenced duty in James Connolly Memorial Hospital on 19th March 2001. A further 21 nurses from Australia, New Zealand and Philippines are scheduled to arrive in Ireland in April

Induction:

Each nurse prior to commencing duty undertakes 1 week's orientation and 6 weeks competency training. The orientation week includes a variety of topics, relevant to nurses. Some examples include workshops on the history of the organisation, occupational health, policies and procedures, infection control, nursing systems and structures, fire safety and a mini tour of Dublin is also included.

2. Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.

“Will the CEO indicate what steps have been taken to offset the serious staff shortages in the payroll section of the Health Board; is she aware of the enormous delays to staff and former staff in receiving payment of long outstanding pay awards as a result of these shortages; and will she give immediate priority to addressing these unacceptable delays.”

Reply

The Payroll Section of Eastern Health Shared Services in Dr. Steevens' Hospital has been operating at full complement over the last number of months.

The Director of Shared Services is addressing the current difficulties through a range of initiatives. An external consultant with payroll expertise has been employed as an Interim Payroll Manager and an Expert Group has been established to streamline and improve processes where possible. Arising from a series of workshops and training sessions for payroll staff, problem areas have been targeted and improvements are being realised. In addition a number of extra staff with payroll expertise have been employed to specifically deal with arrears payments.

The delay in paying Special Pay Awards and National Pay Awards stems from the number and in some cases complexity of the awards and the timing of receipt of the sanction for payment from the Department of Health & Children.

In relation to the current dispute with non-nursing staff over the timing of the payment of the non-nursing analogue increase, staff have been advised of the payment schedule. The pay increases due for this group of staff will be implemented by the 29th March 2001. The arrears are currently being calculated and will be paid for all affected pay groups during April 2001 and no later than the end of April.

Shared Services staff and representatives of the East Coast Area Health Board are engaging in further discussions with SIPTU, representing non-nursing staff on this issue.

3. Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.

“Will the CEO report on the recent outbreak of Hepatitis A and viral infection in much of the St. Michael's House network, and the steps taken to control the spread of these”.

Reply

St. Michael's House did not have a recent outbreak of Hepatitis A viral infection at the end of November 2000, a staff member was diagnosed as having Hepatitis A. St. Michael's House has a standard policy of action for the management of notifiable and non-notifiable infectious disease. In the case of a notifiable disease St. Michael's House's policy is to communicate and facilitate the work of Public Health Doctors of the Health Board.

In this case following notification of this disease to Dr. Leila Thornton, Public Health Specialist, E.R.H.A., St. Michael's House wrote to every contact or Guardian/Parent of a contact with the case of Hepatitis A, informing them of the case and arranging an appointment with the Community Care Medical

Officer from Public Health to inform them of the steps that are taken in the follow up management of a case of Hepatitis A and contacts of that case. Following this appointment all the contacts were screened to see whether they were immune to Hepatitis A or not, if they were found not to be immune they were offered vaccination against Hepatitis A.

Outbreak of Viral Infection at St. Michaels House.

On 11th January 2001, it was noted that a number of service users in one of our Children's units developed acute gastroenteritis. The Department of Public Health in Dr. Steevens Hospital were informed immediately. It was decided that the Health Board should convene a full Outbreak Control Team which was led by Dr Leila Thornton, Public Health Specialist, E.R.H.A. The virus causing this acute gastroenteritis was identified as SRSV which is very contagious and can be spread from person to person very easily.

Because of the contagious nature of the virus, very strict controls and measures had to be implemented within the organisation to prevent the spread of the virus as much as possible. This resulted in the closure of units and in the case of residential units co-horting of the residents of those units at different times.

For almost six weeks St. Michael's House convened an Outbreak Control Team which met on a daily basis to manage and enforce control measures, as advised by the Outbreak Control Team from the E.R.H.A.. Families and Guardians of service users and staff members were updated regularly on the situation regarding the virus throughout the six week period.

Service users and staff affected from 11th January to 1st March.

- Service Users = 205
- Staff = 120.

4. Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.

"To ask the CEO to report on the speech therapy services at Geraldstown House, Ballymun given the large turnover of staff; the number of current vacancies for speech therapists in the Northern Area Health Board; the action being taken to address the shortfall; and to indicate what steps are being taken to improve the service in Geraldstown House."

Reply

The Speech & Language service for the Ballymun catchment area is located at Geraldstown House. There is one approved post of basic grade Speech & Language Therapist. This post is currently vacant since 12th March 2001. As this post is a single-handed post, in line with the recommendations of the "Report of the Expert Group on Various Health Professions, April 2000," this post has now been sanctioned to be upgraded to a Senior post. It is hoped that this will now attract more applicants due to the upgrading.

Eight sessions of Speech Therapy are provided on a weekly basis by the basic grade and approximately 20-22 children are seen in any one week. The current waiting list for assessment in the Ballymun Sector is 3 months, 25 children are awaiting assessment and 67 are waiting for therapy, however pending the filling of this post, an emergency service will be provided.

There are currently 6.5 WTE vacant Speech Therapists posts in the Northern Area Health Board, however steps are being taken to fill these posts as quickly as possible.

There have been difficulties recruiting Speech Therapists over the past number of years due to the fact that only 26 training places are available in Trinity College each year.

25/2001.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Following discussion on matters in the Chief Executive's Report to which Cllr Burke, Cllr Devitt and Mr Maguire contributed and to which the Chief Executive replied, the report was noted.

The Members expressed support for the Chief Executive and Asst Chief Executive's on their handling of the issues currently before the courts. It was agreed that a Special Board Meeting on Child Care would be arranged.

SERVICE MATTERS

Foot and Mouth Disease

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copy of measures introduced by (Dept of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Dept of Health & Children, and advice from the Director of Public Health) to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease. Measures outlined include

- Provision of disinfectant mats at all NAHB premises
- Curtailing visits to farms by Health Board personnel to a minimum
- Where visits to farms are considered absolutely necessary, providing staff with the necessary protective footwear and clothing to prevent the potential spread of infection.

Copies of these directives have been circulated to all Health Board Staff.

Home First

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, a report on Home First a new structured support service which will enable older persons discharged from hospital to return home, which was launched in the Northern Area Health Board on Monday, 5th March, 2001.

Post Mortem Inquiry – Independent Counselling Service

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, details of an Independent Counselling Service for relatives of those who have been subject to Post Mortem examinations, and who feel the need to raise their concerns with the Post Mortem Inquiry (Dunne Inquiry).

Community Childrens Centre

I would like to take this opportunity to appraise the members of the situation regarding recent media reports from the High Court concerning a child in the care of the Northern Area Health Board.

This child was under a care order, and an incident occurred which necessitated a reappearance in the High Court on the 14th March, 2001. At that time the child had been placed in the Community Children's Centre in Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

In the course of the proceedings in the High Court, Judge Peter Kelly requested information from the three Area Health Boards in the region, in relation to the circumstances and details of the services provided to the boards by the Community Children's Centre Incorporated and details in relation to other organisations that provide child care to the boards but not directly managed by the three Area Health Boards.

This case is in progress in the High Court and I will bring a full report back to the Board as soon as the case is complete.

A question was raised recently by the Board Members in relation to the Community Children's Centre Incorporated at the NAHB meeting. You will find a copy of the responses for the Board members information in section 2 of your board papers.

PRESS RELEASES

Irish Medicines Board Appointments

Copy of press release, dated 12th March, 2001, from Micheal Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, announcing the appointment of a number of persons as members of The Irish Medicines Board, in accordance with Section 7 of the Irish Medicines Board Act, 1995, for a period of five years, ending 31st December, 2005.

National Health Strategy Consultative Forum

I have circulated with papers for this meeting notice from Mr Michael Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, postponing the inaugural meeting of the National Health Strategy Consultative Forum, due to the threat posed by Foot and Mouth Disease.

Arrangements are being put in place to advertise in the National Press, inviting submissions to the Consultative Forum, to aid the development of the new Health Strategy.

The meeting of the Forum will be rescheduled at the earliest possible opportunity.

26/2001.

**Department of Environment and Local Government –
Special Housing Aid for the Elderly – Report No 9/2001.**

It was agreed to refer Report No 9/2001 (copy filed with official minute), to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee.

27/2001.

**Food Safety Authority of Ireland Annual Report 1999
Report No 10/2001.**

It was agreed to refer Report No 10/2001, to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee

28/2001.

**Report of the Working Group on St. Paul's, Beaumont
Report No 11/2001**

The report was noted and it was agreed to refer to Report No 11/2001 (copy filed with official minute), to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee

29/2001.

Progress Report from Standing Committees

(1) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr Maguire, the report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report

- Health Services Employers Agency – Annual Report 1999
- Irish Social Services Inspectorate's Report on the investigation of Newtown House
- Nursing Education Forum – A strategy for a Pre-Registration Nursing Education Degree Programme.
- Submission Towards the Drafting of a Disabilities Bill

(2) Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee

On a proposal by Dr Laffoy, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, the report from the Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- The Comhairle na nOspideal, 8th Report – December, 1995 – 2000
Report No : 1/2001.
- Water Fluoridation and Public Health Report -
Report No 2/2001.
- Bed capacity in the Northern Area Acute Hospitals

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The motion in the name of Dr Fitzpatrick, deferred from the last meeting of the Board, was not moved due to Dr Fitzpatrick's absence.
2. The motion in the name of Deputy Callely, with his agreement, was not moved, and deferred to the next meeting of the Board.
3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr Devitt

“That the Chief Executive give an up-to-date report on
 (a) Initiatives to reduce the waiting lists for orthodontic services and
 (b) Progress on our plans to build a Regional Orthodontic Unit in
 Blanchardstown.”

Reply

Mr Walsh, Asst Chief Executive presented report as requested. Following discussions to which Cllr O'Donovan, Deputy Callerly, Dr O'Reilly, Deputy Shortall, Cllr Burke, Mr Maguire, Cllr Devitt and Mr Murphy, contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Asst Chief Executive responded, the motion was agreed. It was agreed that further clarification on the figures presented on the waiting list would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

4. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Shortall, and seconded by Cllr Devitt

“That the CEO report on the number of Health Board
 (a) long-stay beds
 (b) respite beds
 (c) rehabilitation beds
 within its area, for the elderly, with details of the numbers which are currently closed or blocked in each case, and that she bring forward a plan for the opening up of all beds as a matter of urgency.”

Reply

The Chief Executive presented a report as requested. Following discussion to which Deputy Shortall, Mr Cowley, Cllr Burke and Dr Laffoy, Dr Reilly contributed and to which the Chief Executive responded, the report was noted. It was agreed that the Board would be kept informed re the deployment of Immigrant Nurses and subsequent service improvements.

5. The following motion, proposed by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr Devitt, was agreed

“That this Board acknowledges the tremendous role of the home help service and ensure adequate funding is available to fund existing need and to ensure enhancement and development of this service, especially the service in Area 7 working from the Vernon Avenue Health Centre.”

Deputy Callely raised the issue of medical cards for over 70's, and the Chief Executive responded. Further discussion on this issue was ruled out of order.

6. The motion in the name of Cllr O'Donovan was, with his agreement, withdrawn, to be submitted as a question for the next meeting of the Board.
7. The following motion, proposed by Deputy Shortall, seconded by Cllr Burke, was agreed

“That the CEO arrange for the distribution of information material on addiction services, including a comprehensive directory on available services to all Garda Stations, doctor's surgeries, health centres, area offices, and any other venue where the public might expect to find such material as it has been the experience of some that this material is not available at these locations”.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

CORRECT:

**M WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN