

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
MID-WESTERN HEALTH BOARD HELD IN
THE BOARDROOM, CATHERINE STREET, LIMERICK, ON
FRIDAY, 11TH JULY, 2003.**

Presiding/ Cllr. S. Marsh, Caothaoirleach.

Present/	Dr. Y. Begley	Cllr. J. Bourke
	Cllr. P. Bugler	Cllr. R. Butler
	Cllr. J. Casey	Cllr. B. Chambers
	Cllr. J. Clifford	Sen. N. Coonan
	Cllr. P. Daly	Cllr. J. Egan
	Ms. M. Hogan	Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan
	Cllr. M. Hourigan	Ms. S. Marsh
	Cllr. J. Meagher	Dr. P. McKenna
	Mr. L. MacNamara	Ms. M. O'Donnell
	Dep. J. O'Sullivan	Cllr. K. Sheahan

Apologies/ Dr. D. Clinch
Dr. J. Mullane
Mr. D. McAvinchey

In Attendance/ Mr. S. deBurca, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. G. Crowley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J.O' Brien, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. Conway, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. O'Grady, Regional Manager
Mr. S. Woods, Regional Manager
Mr. P. McDonald, Director of Finance
Mr. S. McNulty, General Manager
Ms. M. Woods., Senior Executive Officer
Ms. O. Hartigan, Assistant Staff Officer

1(a) Urnaí Tosaí

1(b) Vote of Sympathy A vote of sympathy was extended to staff who had suffered recent bereavements. Condolences were also expressed to Dr. K. Kelleher, on the death of his father Dermot.

1(c) **Minutes** Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 13th June, 2003, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J.Bourke , seconded by Cllr.J. Clifford.

1(d) **Vote of Good Wishes** A vote of congratulations was extended to Cllr. J. Clifford on his election as Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council for the forthcoming year.

A welcome was extended to Cllr. Kieran Walsh, on his nomination by Limerick City Council, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Deputy Jan O'Sullivan. It was noted that Cllr. Walsh is the youngest Board member and Councillor in the country. Cllr. Walsh thanked the members for their good wishes and acknowledged the contribution that Deputy O'Sullivan has made as a Board member.

Cllr. S. Marsh, Cathaoirleach, expressed a wish to formally acknowledge the contributions of the former Oireachtas Board Members. It was agreed to invite Minister T.O'Malley, Deputy J.O'Sullivan and Deputy J. Cregan to lunch, following the September meeting of the Board.

3. **CEO's Report** **The Chief Executive Officer briefed the Members on the following:**

National Breast Screening Programme. Members were informed that work has commenced to deliver the National Screening Programme to the western and southern areas. The western area includes Clare and North Tipperary, with Limerick included in the southern area – this effectively splits the MWHB area. A number of the members expressed concern that the split might have consequences for the Centre of Excellence in Limerick. The CEO indicated that the Director of Breast Check would be invited to make a brief presentation at the next meeting of the Board in order to clarify outstanding issues.

Bed Capacity

78 additional beds have been allocated to this region, as part of the provision of additional beds announced in the National Health Strategy and the National Review of Acute Hospital Bed Capacity. This increased capacity has contributed significantly to the Waiting List Initiative. In view of the Board's performance under this Initiative, the National Treatment Purchase Fund has agreed to reduce the eligibility threshold for patients in the Mid-West Region to include adults waiting less than twelve months.

The Board is also in discussion with the National Treatment Purchase Fund with a view to becoming a provider of services, particularly in Orthopaedics. It is expected that plans in relation to this initiative will be finalised in the near future.

Ambulant Dementia Unit – St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West

Meetings are planned with the Design and Project Team for the purpose of finalising stages 4 & 5 of the process. If approval is forth-coming for these stages, approval will then be sought to proceed to the tendering stage.

Sen. N. Coonan expressed concern at the lack of progress with regard to a number of capital projects. He stated his disappointment that the meeting planned with the Minister for Health and a representative Deputation from the Board had not yet taken place, in view of the serious issues which need to be brought to his attention. He referred to the recent visit of Minister Calleley to the Hospital of the Assumption, during which the Minister seemed to indicate that the delay in progress regarding the new hospital was the result of an overspend in two other major projects by the Board. Cllr. J. Casey and Mr. J. Conway, who had been present during the Minister's visit to the

Hospital, disagreed with Sen. Coonan's statement and acknowledged that the Hospital of the Assumption Project was a priority for this Board. The CEO agreed, stating that the Minister was on record as being very complimentary of the progress with all relevant projects. Sen. Coonan, who had not been present at the meeting, undertook to seek clarification on the matter.

The CEO informed the members that unfortunately there had been no progress in securing a meeting with the Minister. Cllr. S. Marsh, Caothaoirleach, asked that a letter be forwarded, in her name, to the Minister, seeking a meeting in the immediate future.

Inis Gile

The members were informed that this matter had been progressed through the LRC and that a ballot of members was expected to take place within the next few weeks.

Ethics in Public Office

The CEO informed the members that as and from January, 2004, statements will be required to be submitted to him, of member's interests, and those of their spouses or children, which could materially influence the performance of the person's official functions. Board members will be contacted on an individual basis at a later date regarding the completion of such statements.

Third Geriatrician Post

Members were informed that there was no formal reply to date to the Motion, which had been forwarded to the Department regarding this post.

Cystic Fibrosis Unit – Mid-Western Regional Hospital

Members were informed that the delay in the commencement of this project was due to the tender being over budget and the necessity of revising the plans. It is hoped to commence

work by the middle of August

Private Hospital.

The CEO indicated that the future direction of this project was currently being assessed and that the Members would be briefed at the September meeting. Replying to Cllr.K. Sheahan's query regarding the possible establishment of a private hospital in Adare, the CEO indicated that he had no knowledge of this .

Memorial to Eamonn McLysaght

Cllr. P.Bugler informed the Members that he had been approached by An Clar as Gaeilge, regarding the erection of a memorial to Eamonn McLysaght, renowned Geneologist and Irish Language Scholar, at Raheen District Hospital, which had previously been the McLysaght family home. Cllr. Bugler proposed this action, which was seconded by Cllr.Sean Hillery.

4. Chief Executive Officer's Overview of Financial Results. Report No. 32/03

Report No.32/03 was noted.
The CEO indicated that while overspends in non-pay remain a cause for concern, radical action was not being considered at this stage.

It was agreed to have a meeting of the Service Plan Review Committee in September.

5. Report from Department of Health and Children – "The Health Service Reform Programme" Report No.33/03

Report No.33/03 was noted.
In view of the importance of this issue, it was agreed that this item would be deferred for a full discussion until the next meeting and that it should be the priority item, on a very limited agenda.

It was agreed to invite former Board member, Minister T.O'Malley to attend at a future meeting of the Board. This invitation is on foot of recent media reports concerning financial management in the Mid-Western Health Board, where the Minister's comments appear to be at variance with his previous public comments and is for the purpose of clarifying matters.

6. **Care and Case Management Report No.34/03** Report No. 34/03 was noted. Cllr. P. Bugler stated that this was an exceptionally successful initiative and he hoped that this model could be extended to other service areas
7. **Office of the Ombudsman – Annual Report 2002 Report No. 35/03** Report No. 35/05 was noted
8. **International Social Services Report No 35/05** Report No. 35/05 was noted
9. **Questions:** Cllr.K.Sheahan indicated that he had submitted a question for the meeting, but had been informed that it had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda. He disputed this and indicated that in accordance with Standing Orders, his question should have been accepted. The CEO reminded Cllr. Sheahan of the amendment to the printing schedule for the Board agendae and to the members agreement to same. Cllr. Sheahan indicated that his question arose from the Board's purchase of a property on the Dock Road and the purpose for which it was intended. Replying, the CEO indicated that the building was intended to be an information centre for Disability Services along the lines of a One-Stop-Shop. It had been purchased in 2001 for £675, 000 and it was intended to have the fit-out completed in 2003.

Cllr. Sheahan went on to state that he had not received a reply to a previous question, which he had submitted concerning Community Sevices and that he had in fact been informed that the original question, as submitted, had been mislaid.

Mr. G. Crowley informed Cllr. Sheahan that a comprehensive reply had been forwarded to him in connection with his question on Community Services.

Signed/

Cllr. S. Hillery, Chairman

S. deBurca, Chief Executive Officer

Date