

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Red House Country Hotel, Newbridge Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 12th December, 2000, at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. D. Tipping
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. E. Byrne	Ms. A. Harris
Ms. M. Hoban	Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. C. McGrath	Dr. B. Murphy
Ald. M. Mooney	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. C O'Connor	Cllr. J. Wall
Sen. T. Ridge	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. M. Murphy	

Observers

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Sen. S. Ó Fearghail	Dr. M. Gueret
Cllr. C. Byrne	Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. N. Harvey	

In the Chair

Cllr. C. O'Connor

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive
 Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
 Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
 Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
 Ms. P. Bryan, Senior Manager, Chief Executive's Office
 Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
 Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. J. Leech, Senior Manager, Finance
 Mr. R. Healy, Manager, Chief Executive's Office
 Mr. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office
 Mr. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office

96/2000

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman extended sympathy to those whose names were included on the list of condolences which had been circulated to members. The Chairman advised members of the following:-

- A special board meeting to look primarily at our Board's Provider Plan will be held on Tuesday, 9th January, 2001 at 2.00 p.m. in Bridge House, Cherry Orchard, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.
- A special board meeting to review board visits will be held on Monday, 29th January, 2001, at 11.30 a.m. in the Red Cow, Morans Hotel.
- The venue for the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting on 14th December, 2000, is the City West Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.
- The opening of the Mary Mercer Health Centre, Jobstown, will take place on Thursday, 8th February, 2001, at 4.30 p.m., in the Health Centre.
- The East Coast Area Board has cancelled the service visit to Leopardstown Park Hospital, Foxrock, scheduled for Tuesday, 19th December, 2000.
- The Association of Health Boards in Ireland is holding its annual conference in the Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal on 30th and 31st March, 2001. The complete conference programme and registration forms will be circulated to all members when available.

97/2000

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER, 2000

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 7th November, 2000, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Dr. S. Barry.

98/2000

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. E. Byrne, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Eric Byrne

Regarding the Commission to enquire into Child Abuse will the Chief Executive say if he has appointed a Director and/or Professional Counsellors yet to work in this field?

Will he now agree to update the Board on the current position and will he make a statement on this matter?

Reply:

A Director for the Counselling Services for Adult Survivors of Child Abuse in South Western Area Health Board has been appointed who will take up duty in mid-January 2001. An additional two counsellors have also been appointed. A further three counselling posts from the former regional service – LARAGH – have also been assigned to the South Western Area Health Board.

The Director and staff will be reviewing the service and locations for the counselling services in the coming months.

2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

Will the Chief Executive please outline any financial agreement agreed between this Board and the Doctor members of the Board that allows Doctors to engage Locums while in attendance at Board meetings and will he make a statement on this matter?

Reply:

The 1998 national agreement between the Department of Health and Children and the Irish Medical Organisation on a claim under the PCW provides for the payment of locum allowances to general practitioners attending meetings of statutory bodies and GP Committee meetings convened (and verified) by the Irish Medical Organisation.

Accordingly, locum allowances are payable to general practitioners in respect of attendance at meetings of health boards as this would constitute attendance at a meeting of a statutory body.

Payments of expenses to members of the Board must, under law, be in accordance with a scale determined by the Minister for Health and Children with the consent of the Minister for Finance. Any changes in current arrangements would require the approval of both Ministers.

3. Dr. Siobhán Barry

Could the Chief Executive explain the formal relationship between the South Western Area Board and the Blessington Children's Centre?

Is this centre owned and operated by Mr. Derek Nally's company, Secureway?

How many children do the Northern, South Western and East Coast Area Boards currently place in this centre?

Are the staff trained Child Care workers, and subject to Garda Clearance?

Is this centre subject to the Social Services Inspectorate?

Reply:

This service is operated by Secureway Ltd. Mr. Derek Nally, who was the founder and Managing Director of the company, retired in June 2000. The Managing Director is Mr. Colm Smith. There are two separate distinct sub-divisions within the company – the child care division and the security division. The premises in the Blessington/Naas area are rented and not owned by them. One young person is in a house in the Baltinglass area.

Currently, twenty young people are living in these different locations. The breakdown per Health Boards is as follows:

- East Coast Area Health Board 4
- Northern Area Health Board 8
- South Western Area Health Board 7
- Mid-Western Health Board 1

The staff are not required to have a formal qualification in child care. However, about 50% have a recognised qualification in child care. Other staff have relevant qualifications for working with young people. All staff have to obtain Garda Clearance.

There is no formal service agreement or arrangement between Secureway and any of the three area health boards. Young people are placed on an individual basis. Regular reviews are held, a teacher has been appointed to provide daily tuition and prepare the young people for mainstream education. A staff consultant/trainer has also been engaged by the company.

The Registration and Inspection Service is managed by the Northern Area Health Board on behalf of the three area health boards. The Registration and Inspection Service has made a preliminary visit and outlined the requirements if the service is to be registered as a childcare centre.

This service is an interim measure as the three area health boards are currently developing a wide range of new and alternative services for children and young people in the region.

99/2000

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive read Report No. 31/2000 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

1. Nursing and Midwifery Recruitment and Retention Initiative
2. National Children's Strategy
3. National Health Information Strategy
4. Sunday Independent Article
5. Visits by Board Members
6. Corporate Logo
7. Report of the Medical Manpower Forum
8. Services for Children with Hepatitis C at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin
9. Initiatives in relation to Social Workers
10. Industrial Dispute with Members of IMPACT
11. Minor Capital Allocation - Food Control
12. The National Counselling Service - Information for Clients
13. Refugee Act 1996 (as amended)
14. Health Promotion Christmas Message

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Corporate Logo

Following discussion to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr B Murphy, Mr G McGuire, Cllr. E. Byrne and Sen. T. Ridge contributed, it was agreed that some amendments will be made to the logo as presented and that its introduction will be phased into the South Western Area Health Board.

Industrial Dispute with Members of IMPACT

In response to a query from Dr. B. Murphy, the Chief Executive stated that the financing of the settlement of the dispute with IMPACT will be a matter for the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the Department of Health & Children.

Visits by Board Members

Dr. B. Murphy welcomed the special Board Meeting to review service visits. Cllr. C. O'Connor and Mr. G. McGuire expressed dissatisfaction at the cancellation of service visits by another Area Health Board.

100/2000

RE: PRESENTATION ON "WHY EMERGENCY PLANNING?" BY MR. JOE BYRNE, CHIEF EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER

Mr. Joe Byrne, Chief Emergency Planning Officer, made a presentation to members on "Why Emergency Planning?" (copy filed with official minute).

Members thanked Mr. Byrne for his presentation. The issue of difficulties for the emergency services because of grid-lock on the roads was discussed. Mr. Byrne responded by stating that the Gardaí and other services are examining alternative routes which could be used in emergency situations. He also indicated that the training of motorcycle paramedical personnel who can attend victims on site while awaiting the arrival of an ambulance is currently being examined.

101/2000

RE: LOTTERY FUNDING 2000

A copy of applications and allocations under National Lottery Funding 2000 was circulated. This report was noted by members.

102/2000

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. G. Brady, the progress report from the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee was adopted:

On a proposal by Cllr J Reilly, seconded by Ald M Mooney, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee was adopted.

103/2000

PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ald. M. Mooney, the progress report for the Finance and Property Committee was adopted.

In response to queries from Mr. G. McGuire and Sen. T. Ridge, Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), confirmed that it is expected that approximately eight clients will be resident in Teach Bán, which is located close to Peaumont Hospital, in Newcastle Co. Dublin.

**104/2000
NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion was proposed by Sen. T. Ridge, and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath:

“That this Board discuss the matter of children who, due to their health condition such as severe epilepsy or autism, are excluded from the main stream education system.”

Discussion followed to which Sen. T. Ridge and Cllr. D. Tipping contributed. In response, the Chief Executive indicated the responsibilities of the Department of Education and Science in these situations but acknowledged that the Health Board does work with that Department in ensuring that facilities are in place. In conclusion, the Chief Executive informed members that our Board has convened a Case Conference for the particular case raised by Sen. Ridge and confirmed that our Board will endeavour to assist in resolving the issue satisfactorily.

Motion was agreed.

**105/2000
CORRESPONDENCE**

Items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive’s Report, were noted.

**106/2000
SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS (DECEMBER 2000)**

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Committee Meetings for December 2000 which was circulated with the agenda papers was noted by members.

**107/2000
DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

A Special Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th January, 2001, in Bridge House, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

**CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN