

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, South Western Area Health Board H.Q., Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 4th March, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne
Mr. J. Fallon
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. J. Reilly

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. K. Harkin

Cllr. T. Ridge

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, A/Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. J. Leech, A/Director of Finance
Ms. P. Daly, A/Director of Communications
Ms. M. Gorry, Employee Relations Manager
Ms. B. Manning, Operations Manager, Childcare
Ms. M. Clear, Director, Childcare Services
Ms. M. Glynn, Management Accountant
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. M. FitzPatrick, Manager, Orthodontics Service
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

23/2003

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

At the outset, Ald. M. Mooney, Vice-Chairman, advised members that Cllr. T. Ridge, Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting as she was ill. Ald. Mooney expressed good wishes on behalf of the members to Cllr. Ridge for a speedy recovery. Ald. Mooney took the chair.

Members were then invited to join with the Chairman in standing for a minute's silence to express sincere sympathy to those whose names were included on the list of condolences.

The Chairman then advised members of the following:-

1. April Board Meeting

I would like to inform Board Members that Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director of BreastCheck, has accepted an invitation to address members at the April Board Meeting.

24/2003

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 4th February, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly.

25/2003

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

Re: Temporary Consultant Psychiatrist posts:

"Could the C.E.O. inform the Board of the duration (asked but not covered in C.E.O. response in February 2003) of the temporary Consultant Psychiatrist posts in the S.W.A.H.B. and could he indicate which of these posts have been approved by Comhairle na n-Ospidéal and which are unapproved?"

Reply:

There are a number of Consultant Psychiatrists in temporary positions in the South Western Area Health Board at this time.

In the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Services, one post (the fifth Consultant Team) was approved by Comhairle na n-Ospidéal and has been filled on a temporary basis since August 2002. The second post (Mid-West Kildare Sector) has been filled on a temporary basis since June 2000. Both of these positions are currently with the Local Appointments Commission and short-listing for interview is taking place on 5th March, 2003.

In the Dublin West/South West Mental Health Service there are four Temporary Consultants in post. One post has been filled on a temporary basis since 31st December, 1994, and another since 5th July, 1998. Both of these posts were subject to discussions with our service partners, the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children's Hospital (AMiNCH), Tallaght. The new Rehabilitation Post has been filled on a temporary basis since December 2002. These three posts are currently awaiting interview (short-listing takes place on 4th March, 2003).

Due to the retirement of a Consultant Psychiatrist in January 2003, another temporary post has occurred. The South Western Area Health Board is applying to Comhairle na nOspidéal in order to re-fill this post on a permanent basis.

2. Dr. Siobhán Barry

Re: Employment-related costs savings (C.E.O. Report, September 2002):

“Could the C.E.O. inform the Board which of the extensive range of measures indicated in the above have taken place and comment on the impact of these on service delivery?”

Reply:

With regard to the employment related cost savings outlined in my September 2002 Report, I have taken each area individually and outlined the current situation.

- *“Clerical support to the Mental Health Home Care Team which is part of the St. Loman's service – it is planned to develop the service in 2003 to provide a home-based clinical support service to patients in the Clondalkin area.”*

Clerical support for this service has not been put in place yet as this proposed development is not operational. No impact on service delivery.

- *“Secretarial support to the Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Team for the Blanchardstown area - this service has been established. We are currently seeking an appropriate consultant to fill the post on a temporary or full-time basis.”*

No extra secretarial support in place, administration for the current team (2 staff members) provided from another centre. The consultant post has been advertised however there were no applicants and the post will have to be re-advertised. No impact on services as this would have been a new development.

- *“Additional administrative support to persons with autism to support the further development of these services.”*

This referred to a supervisory post which has not yet been put in place. The service continues to manage with the current complement.

- *“Clerical support to day services for young people with addiction problems based in Bridge House, Cherry Orchard – it is planned to develop this service over the next twelve months.”*

- *“Clerical support to the new addiction services for young people – approval has been received to appoint the consultant to this team and this service will be developed over the next few months.”*

The clerical support for the Addiction Services for Young People is being resourced from within the current administration complement at Bridge House. The Consultant to this team is now in place. This will enable the board to develop and enhance the addiction service provided to young people in the board's area

- *“Additional clerical support to enhance the administration that we have provided at local level for disability services.”*

At present there is adequate clerical support in place to support and enable the Managers of Disability Services to develop and enhance the local service.

- *“Additional clerical and administrative support is intended for the child health programme throughout the community care areas, including for the administration of current programmes and the development of the Best Health programmes for children and adolescents which the health boards have been working on as part of their strategic plan for this care group.”*

Clerical and administrative support is being provided from within current staffing complement. This has not had any impact on service delivery as the current programme for Best Health is soon to commence as outlined in the my CEOs Report today.

- *“Additional clerical and administrative support was intended for the further development of the Board's food safety control services. Most of these service developments are taking place in 2003.”*

These developments have not yet taken place so there is no impact on current service delivery.

- *“The Board has been developing additional data quality and information services across a range of care groups and these developments form part of a national framework of the establishment of databases and further quality control in such areas as child care. The Board had planned to provide additional clerical/administrative support towards the development and maintenance of these systems.”*

These systems are still under development and at present do not require further clerical/administrative support.

- *“One of the few remaining centralised services that is in the process of devolution to the three Area Boards from the Eastern Health Board structure is the foster care service. Additional clerical and administrative support was sought to assist the devolution of the foster care service and payments structure to local level.”*

The payments to foster carers is still with the Northern Area Health Board, devolution of this service has not taken place. One placement committee has been devolved and there is now a placement committee in each of the area

boards. The South Western Area Health Board has a placement committee that currently deals with both Intercountry Adoptions (ICA) (Regional) and Fostering. We are in the process of separating fostering from ICA and are currently processing two administrative posts which are necessary to devolve the service.

- *“The National Palliative Care Advisory Committee has recommended that Boards develop additional liaison services to co-ordinate the palliative care services within our Board. It was intended to provide additional administrative support to this development.”*

This service has not yet been developed and therefore does not require additional administrative support at present.

- *“The Board had planned to further develop it’s support and advisory services to general child care services in the community, particularly child-minders.”*

The South Western Area Health Board has four Child Minder Advisory Officers in place since 2002. The process of acquiring these posts commenced in early 2002 and all officers were in post by October 2002.

- *“The Board’s child care development plans include the provision of additional youth homelessness services and family placement services at local level. These are multi-disciplinary teams developing support services for young people out of home and appropriate alternative care services. It is planned to provide additional clerical and administrative support to assist these teams. Project Managers for two of these services are in place and it is planned to recruit the multi-disciplinary teams over the coming months.”*

The youth multi-disciplinary teams are currently being recruited.

The Family Placement Initiative is to be developed on an incremental basis. A Co-ordinator and two Social Work posts have been filled. A further Social Work and clerical support post will be in place this year. The balance of funding intended for posts will be used to buy in services e.g. psychology, speech & language and specialised foster care places for the more challenging over 12’s.

- *“A number of support posts in Naas General Hospital have still not been filled. These include clerical and administrative support to developing departments such as radiology and anaesthetics and other administrative structures such as patient liaison and complaints. The Board is recruiting the necessary clinical specialities for the development of the new hospital and this will be a priority for the Board in the coming months.”*

A competition for radiologist posts (joint posts with AMiNCH) is currently underway, while 3 anaesthetists (joint posts with AMiNCH) have already been appointed. Clerical and administrative support to these and other clinical specialities is currently being met from the local clerical pool and is being reviewed on an ongoing basis.

26/2003

PRESENTATION – UPDATE RE ORTHODONTICS SERVICE

Ms. Mary FitzPatrick, Manager, Orthodontics Service, gave a slide presentation to members outlining the work done to address the orthodontic waiting list over the past year.

Following the presentation, on a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, it was agreed that the sound system in the Board Room be reviewed as a matter of priority before the next Board Meeting.

Members thanked Ms. FitzPatrick for her presentation and commended all staff involved in working to reduce the waiting list including the Consultant Orthodontist; Ms. FitzPatrick; Mr. H. Kane; and support staff.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. D. Tipping, Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. T. Cullen, and Cllr. J. Reilly contributed.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Tipping, members requested that the Board ask the Minister for Health & Children to accept the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) Category 4D onto the guidelines for eligibility for orthodontic treatment.

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, responded to members' contributions as follows:-

- The waiting list for Category 1 patients is currently 2 years. Additional staff and resources would be required to assist in reducing this waiting time.
- Referrals to the orthodontic services are made through primary care (dentists).
- The implications for the Board in the delivery of orthodontic services to additional children if the IOTN Category 4D was included for eligibility would have to be considered.
- The ongoing support from Board Members for the orthodontic service was acknowledged.

The presentation was noted by members.

27/2003

C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 3/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Regional Child Care Framework
- Clondalkin Addiction Service
- St. Loman's Hospital – Advance Accommodation
- Pilot Project – Safe Disposal of Household Medicines
- Suicide Prevention
- Smoking Cessation Service
- Best Health for Children
- National Study on Domestic Abuse
- Report of the Working Group on Elder Abuse
- Cardiovascular Disease Strategy – National Heartwatch Programme
- Assistant Chief Executive Post

In conclusion, the C.E.O. advised members that Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, has taken over the brief for Acute Hospitals following Mr. S. O'Brien's retirement.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. S. Barry, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. C. McGrath and Ms. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Cllr. E. Byrne was requested to submit details regarding an issue he raised re Crumlin Hospital.
- Clarification was provided regarding the ongoing role of C.A.S.P. in view of the Board's proposed development of an addiction treatment centre in Clondalkin.
- The need to look at service outcomes for childcare in order to match resources for this service was acknowledged. It was agreed that a report re the cost of residential care will be brought to a future Standing Committee meeting.
- A member's suggestion regarding the development of linkages with the new Family Support Agency was noted.
- It was agreed that a survey regarding medicine management/prescribing in our area be initiated.

Members paid tribute to Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive, on his work for the Board over the past number of years and wished him well in his new post as C.E.O. of the Family Support Agency.

The C.E.O.'s report was noted.

28/2003

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was agreed that supporting documentation circulated at Board Meetings be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

In response to a query, the C.E.O. advised that members will be informed as soon as possible following the outcome of discussions with the Eastern Regional Health Authority regarding this year's Provider Plan. In response to members' concerns, and acknowledging limitations on funding in general this year, the C.E.O. advised that it is preferable to await confirmation of the Board's agreement with the Authority rather than speculating on staffing/service issues at this time.

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, updated members regarding progress with a property issue related to the mental health services in Kilcock.

29/2003

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, the progress reports from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meetings dated 30th January, 2003, and 13th February, 2003, were adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 30th January, 2003, was adopted.

30/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the progress report from the Finance & Property Committee meeting was adopted.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. J. Reilly, the C.E.O. advised members regarding a recent meeting he had with the Kildare County Manager concerning the proposed acquisition by the Board of the St. Mary's (Kildare County Council) building. He indicated that he has requested the A/Director of Finance to carry out an option appraisal based on the issues discussed at the above meeting in order to assess the most suitable way of progressing this matter.

Further contributions from Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. J. Reilly, Mr. P. Aspell and Cllr. D. Tipping were noted.

31/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Protocol & Procedures Committee meeting was adopted.

32/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Child Care Advisory Committee meeting was adopted.

33/2003**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MARCH 2003)**

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Committee meetings for March 2003, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

34/2003**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The April meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 1st April, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, South Western Area Health Board H.Q., Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

CORRECT:

P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN