

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held
in Baltinglass District Hospital, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow,
on Tuesday, 6th May, 2003, at 6.00 p.m.*****Present***

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. T. Ridge

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Mr. G. Brady

Dr. K. Harkin

In the Chair

Cllr. T. Ridge

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Ms. M. Clear, Director, Children & Families
Ms. B. Manning, Operations Manager, Childcare
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
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

45/2003**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

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

The Chairman also advised members of the following:-

1. *Resignations of Board Members*

Following on their notices of resignation from E.R.H.A. and the South Western Area Health Board, I would like to pay tribute to Deputy Seán O Fearghail and Mr. Joe Fallon for their work for our Board and thank them for their support to myself as Chairman.

2. *Healthy Lifestyles Campaign*

I recently presided at the closing of the Healthy Lifestyles Campaign at Scoil Mhuire, Newbridge, which I launched in February, at which I presented certificates to students in the Junior and Senior Schools following completion of their six week Healthy Lifestyle Project.

3. *Official Opening of Rialto Day Care Centre*

I would like to inform members that I will be attending the official opening of the Rialto Day Care Centre by Minister of State, Ivor Callely, on Thursday week, 15th May, 2003, at 4.30 p.m. I understand that all members have been invited to this opening and I look forward to seeing you there on the day.

4. *Baltinglass Hospital*

Finally, I would like to thank the Matron and her staff for facilitating us in holding our Board Meeting here this evening.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent of behalf of the Board Members to Deputy Seán O Fearghail and Mr. Joe Fallon. Cllr. E. Byrne, with the support of the members present, paid tribute to Mr. J. Fallon for his particular dedication, expertise and service to the the Board.

Cllr. T. Cullen, as the local representative, welcomed the Board Members and Executive to Baltinglass and expressed his appreciation to the Matron and staff of Baltinglass District Hospital for their hard work. He acknowledged the achievements that have taken place in the area over the years through the work of the former Eastern Health Board and currently through the South Western Area Health Board.

46/2003**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1ST APRIL, 2003**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 1st April, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

47/2003

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

Re: Adult Mental Health Services in S.W.A.H.B.

“Could the C.E.O. inform the board of the additional expenditure of securing acute inpatient beds that has arisen from time to time as a consequence of the Board’s own public beds being full, since its inception in March 2000?”

Reply:

Adult Mental Health Services in the South Western Area Health Board are provided by the following services:-

St. Patrick’s/St. James Service – No acute in-patient beds were purchased. Continuing care beds were purchased in 2002 to accommodate long-stay clients.

Dublin West/South West Mental Health Service – No acute in-patient beds were purchased.

Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Service – No acute in-patient beds were purchased. Six continuing care beds were purchased from St. John of God’s Service during this period, however, the South Western Area Health Board has ceased payment for these beds as they are not currently required.

2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Given the increasing reluctance of many carers and family members to allow their loved ones to be placed in long term care in Brú Chaoimhín, Cork Street, not because of the quality of care that they receive, but rather the old rundown look of the structures, will the C.E.O. please say how much money he is committing for the capital re-development of this facility?”

Will he also agree that, in comparison with the excellent new unit on the South Circular Road, that is the standard that is expected and that any other unit that falls below this standard is unacceptable to this Board in this day and age and will he will make a comprehensive statement on this issue?”

Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board currently has 158 beds available for care of the elderly at Brú Chaoimhín. It is a listed building situated in pleasant grounds and comprises four separate two- and three-storey units. The number of beds in the units were reduced some years ago in order to provide a more satisfactory environment for our clients.

Brú Chaoimhín was initially built as a fever hospital and in the last century it became a welfare home for both males and females, therefore, the structures and layout of the

building are not always suitable for its existing use. Consequently, it would be unfair to compare it to a modern purpose-built unit such as Bellvilla on the South Circular Road.

The most important aspect of our long-stay services for older persons is the exceptional level of care given by our staff to our elderly clients. In this context, I must acknowledge the excellent care given to our clients by the staff at Brú Chaoimhín.

Some positive developments took place last year in Brú Chaoimhín such as the increase in medical cover to 25 hours per week and the introduction of Activities for Older Persons, including a Tai Chi Programme.

In addition, the kitchen was completely upgraded within the last two years to HSAP Standards and there is also a permanent maintenance presence on site.

There is agreement for the development of a 50-bed Community Nursing Unit (CNU) through Public Private Partnership at Brú Chaoimhín. As part of the long-term development of services for older persons in our Board's area, Brú Chaoimhín would not be regarded as a suitable facility, however, it will require considerable investment to provide an alternative facility. The Public Private Partnership development will be a first step in this process.

48/2003

REPORT 5/2003 – SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS IN THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

At the outset, Cllr. T. Ridge informed members that she was happy to accept the following report in answer to the motion she had tabled on the agenda. Cllr. J. Reilly seconded the motion. The members present agreed to this arrangement.

The C.E.O. read Report 5/2003 on Services for Older Persons in the South Western Area Health Board [copy filed with official minute] to members.

Members thanked the C.E.O. for his presentation. A wide-ranging discussion followed to which Cllr. T. Ridge, Mr. G. McGuire, Cllr. M. Miley, Cllr. T. Cullen, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. D. Tipping, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. C. Byrne, Dr. B. Murphy, and Ms. N. Harvey contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The C.E.O. thanked members for their contributions to the discussion on the above report.
- The forthcoming publication of the report from the Forum on Care of Older Persons was acknowledged as a potential source of additional proposals for enhancing service delivery to this care group.
- A further costed report will be prepared which will take into account the various views expressed by members at the meeting.

It was agreed that Report 5/2003 be brought to the relevant Standing Committee for further discussion, following the publication of the report from the Forum on Care of Older Persons.

49/2003

C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 6/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Management of Infectious Disease Cases
- Primary Care e-Project
- Special Olympics
- Report on Definition and Usage of High Support in Ireland
- Derek Dockery Innovation Awards
- Organisational Strategy
- Consultant Haematologist Post
- Allocation for Palliative Care Services
- Ombudsman Report
- Bilateral Adoption Agreement
- Environmental Health Officers Association Handbook
- Mental Health Leaflets
- Cancer Services
- Social Services Inspectorate Annual Report
- Assistant Chief Executive Portfolios
- Resignation of Board Members

Members were also informed that a second Consultant Orthodontist post will be advertised in the near future.

The C.E.O. introduced Ms. Regina Buckley and Mr. Martin Rogan as the new Assistant Chief Executive appointments. Members welcomed Ms. Buckley and Mr. Rogan and wished them well in their new posts.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. D. Tipping, Ms. M. Hoban, Dr. S. Barry, Ms. A. Harris, Ms. N. Harvey, Dr. B. Murphy and Cllr. T. Cullen contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The matter of notice of inspection of children's residential centres is to be referred to the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee for further discussion.
- Members were updated regarding current arrangements for the procurement of masks as part of the contingency plans for dealing with SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).
- It was agreed to refer a query regarding the South Inner City Primary Care Partnership to the relevant Standing Committee.
- A query regarding complaints upheld against the South Western Area Health Board in 2002, as referred to in the Ombudsman's Report, to be referred to the relevant Standing Committee.
- The C.E.O. agreed to bring the issue of leave for staff volunteering their services for the Special Olympics back to the national C.E.O. group for further discussion.
- The Operations Manager, Childcare, outlined the service currently available for adolescents in need of care "out of hours".

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

50/2003**MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters for mention.

51/2003**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Cullen, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 10th April, 2003, was adopted.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meetings dated 25th February, 2003, and 17th April, 2003, were adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Cullen, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Joint Standing Committee meeting dated 26th March, 2003, was adopted.

52/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. T. Cullen, the progress report from the Child Care Advisory Committee was adopted.

53/2003**NOTICE OF MOTION**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, and with the agreement of the members present, the motion listed in the name of Cllr. Ridge regarding services for older persons was answered through the presentation and discussion of Report 5/2003 earlier in the meeting (see Minute Item No. 48/2003).

54/2003**CORRESPONDENCE**

The items of correspondence, as referred to in the C.E.O.'s report, were noted by members.

55/2003**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MAY 2003)**

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

56/2003**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The June meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 3rd June, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

CORRECT:

P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN