

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 1st July, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. C. McGrath
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly

Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. J. Daly
Cllr. M. Miley
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. D. Tipping

Non-Voting Members

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Ms. A. Harris
Ms. N. Harvey
Cllr. T. Ridge

Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. M. Hoban

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications
Mr. J. Doyle, Area Operations Manager, Addiction Services
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. S. Mugan, Child & Adolescent Development Officer
Ms. E. Norton, Office Manager, Operations
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

In Attendance

Dr. E. Keenan, Clinical Director, Addiction Services
Dr. B. Smith, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist with a special interest in Substance Misuse

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Members were 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 also advised members of the following:-

1. *Annual General Meeting*

I wish to draw members' attention to Item 12 on the Agenda that the Board's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, on Wednesday, 9th July, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.

2. *Visit by President to Bellvilla Community Unit*

I wish to inform members that President Mary McAleese will visit Bellvilla Community Unit, 129 South Circular Road, Dublin 8, next Tuesday, 8th July, at 11.00 a.m.

3. *September Board Meeting*

Following consultation with the C.E.O., I would like to propose to members that we hold the September meeting of the Board in Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin on 2nd September, 2003. I have asked the C.E.O. to discuss the matter with the C.E.O. of the hospital and make the necessary arrangements.

The Chairman informed members that the venue for the September Board Meeting was listed on the Agenda as Oak House, however, details of the new venue as outlined above will be confirmed by post to members.

4. *Committee*

In relation to membership of Standing Committees, I would like to advise you that the Board Secretary will be in contact with members before September in this regard.

In response to members' queries, the C.E.O. advised members that the residents of Bellvilla Community Unit for Older Persons had invited the President to visit the unit.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE, 2003, AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 3rd June, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Special Board Meeting held on 19th June, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. D. Tipping.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Re: Continuing Care beds within the Kildare Mental Health Services:

- Could the C.E.O. inform the Board of the unit cost of the six continuing care beds which the South Western Area Health Board had been purchasing from St. John of God Hospital (C.E.O. Questions & Answers, May 2003) and could he compare this cost to the unit cost of the Kildare Services’ own provision of continuing care beds?
- Could he furthermore inform the Board on the location & type of facility in which the Kildare Mental Health Services currently provide continuing care beds for its service users?”

Reply:

In the past the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Service utilised beds in St. John of Gods whilst the high support hostel, Bramble Lodge, was under construction. This arrangement ceased when Bramble Lodge became operational some years ago.

An arrangement was made to access up to a further six beds in St. John of Gods at a time when pressure was placed on the Lakeview acute unit in Naas General Hospital. In the event, at no time were all six beds in use. One was accessed in July 2001 until April 2003 when the patient died. Up to four other patients were accommodated there for periods of a few months prior to discharge back to Kildare/West Wicklow or on to Highfield Hospital (see below). The unit cost per day of a bed is €300.

There are no patients in this facility at present.

An alternate plan to secure continuing care beds at that time resulted in an arrangement whereby suitable patients were accommodated in Highfield Hospital. This resulted in two patients being transferred to this hospital, one in July 2002 until March 2003 when the patient died, and the other in December 2001 to date. The unit cost per day of a bed is €128.

There are currently four patients under 65 years of age from the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Service who are accommodated in nursing home beds in the Kildare/West Wicklow community services area. These receive treatment from the relevant sector team. The unit cost per day of these nursing home beds range from €72.57 to €128. This arrangement is the subject of a review by the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health management team at present.

In relation to the comparison requested between the cost of these beds and the cost of similar care in the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Service’s own high support hostels, it has not been possible to calculate an accurate comparison on a "like for like" basis for a number of reasons which I now outline:

- The majority of patients in the high support hostels are physically fit and do not need a large amount of medical intervention.
- The hostels provide a range of other services to the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Service, i.e. respite care for patients.
- The financial data currently available does not provide a facility to break down the expenditure for these service differences.

However, Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health management team are confident that the means of providing continuing care by way of high support hostels is the most cost-effective means available at this time.

2. **Dr. Siobhán Barry**

“Re: Learning Disability Services in the South Western Area Health Board:

- Could the C.E.O. inform the Board of the current service provision to those whose needs are not being met by the 14 different agencies operating within the Board, and for whom individual arrangements have consequently to be made?
- Could he quantify the cost of these special arrangements & inform the Board of the number of service users who avail of service in such a manner?”

Reply:

- Schedule II and Section 65 agencies provide the majority of services for people with an intellectual disability in our Board.

Services for People with an Intellectual Disability did not receive any funding for new residential, respite or day services in 2003, subsequently, there are a number of high priority cases for which the Board has had to make special arrangements.

The Board, through the voluntary agencies, provides services to approximately 3,000 people with learning disability. Services include day services, respite, residential, rehabilitative training, sheltered work, early services and summer camps. Every effort is made to enable the providers to meet the needs of the various individuals. This is evident in many cases where more than one agency is involved with an individual.

Many people with intellectual disabilities are known to service providers and we endeavour to develop this further with the enhancement of the National Intellectual Disability Database. Some individuals' needs can't be met by the service providers in the South Western Area Health Board and in some of those instances services are accessed in another Board, i.e. Gheel Services, Northern Area Health Board, and Camphill, Northern Ireland.

There are currently three people in acute psychiatric hospitals awaiting placement. Two of these people are in hospital and attend a day service in an intellectual disability centre but, despite funding being available in 2002, a residential placement could not be found. One person receives constant respite at weekends. Another person is being cared for in a community house.

- The cost of such arrangements varies depending on the needs of the individual but the Board is always cognisant of its obligation to deliver services within available resources. When a special arrangement is put in place, the Eastern Regional Health Authority is made aware of the funding implication and efforts are made to secure additional funding. The estimated cost to the Board for 2003 is €1m.

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PRESENTATION RE UPDATE ON ADDICTION SERVICES IN THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

At the outset, Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive for Mental Health and Addiction Services, introduced Mr. J. Doyle, Area Operations Manager, Addiction Services, Dr. E. Keenan, Clinical Director, Addiction Services, and Dr. B. Smith, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with a special interest in Substance Misuse.

Mr. Doyle then gave a slide presentation updating members regarding the addiction services in the South Western Area Health Board during which he thanked members for their previous and ongoing support for this service. Dr. Smith provided background to his work and outlined his role in the service.

Members thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation. Discussion followed to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. M. Miley and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which Dr. Keenan and Mr. Doyle responded as follows:-

- Members were informed of the results of two previous studies carried out regarding the number of drug misusers in the Dublin area. The latest study indicated that there had been a reduction of approximately 1,000. The Area Operations Manager indicated that this reduction demonstrated significant progress in the prevention of a major escalation of the drugs problem.
- In response to a member's suggestion regarding the provision of heroin free of charge on a trial basis in order to address the crime consequences arising from drug misusers having to pay "dealers", the Clinical Director suggested that there is insufficient evidence as yet to indicate if this method would work and emphasised the importance and comparative benefits of the current Methadone Maintenance Treatment Programme.
- Members were informed that the Board's Addiction Services are governed by the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 and are currently working to implement over 100 actions from this strategy.
- There is very structured, high level collaboration between the Board's Addiction Services and the Gardaí.
- Board Members for the Tallaght area will be kept informed of developments in their area.
- The Area Operations Manager, through the relevant Assistant Chief Executive, to link with the Board Members for Kildare regarding future service developments for the area.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and members for their contributions and indicated that this subject should be discussed further at a future meeting.

Members noted the presentation.

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SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD – DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2002

The C.E.O. gave an overview of the Board's Annual Report 2002, which had been previously circulated to members [copy filed with official minute].

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Miley, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, members adopted the Annual Report 2002.

74/2003

C.E.O.'S REPORT

At the outset, the C.E.O. provided clarification regarding the recent disposal of a property in Tallaght and plans for investment of the proceeds in the designated service. In response to a query from Cllr. D. Tipping regarding another property in the area, it was agreed to obtain information for him in this regard.

The C.E.O. then presented Report No. 9/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Reform of the Health Services
- Meath Community Unit
- Special Olympics
- Recent Public Health Doctors' Dispute
- Public Private Partnerships
- Working Group on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Update re: Review of Adoption Legislation
- Open Space Forum

Following the report, the C.E.O. introduced Mr. Don Delaney as the Board's newly-appointed Director of Communications. Members congratulated Mr. Delaney and wished him well in his work.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. M. Miley, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. J. Daly and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O responded:-

- It was agreed, at a member's request, to amend a point in the item in the C.E.O.'s Report titled "Reform of the Health Services" which outlined members' recent comments/views on this issue.
- The recent Open Space Forum was commended by a member who had attended same.
- Following contributions from several members, it was agreed that a Special Board Meeting be arranged soon to discuss the issues raised regarding the Meath Hospital development, Public Private Partnerships and other aspects of services for older persons.

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

75/2003**MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Members congratulated Dr. B. Murphy on his recent invitation to become a Fellow of the International College of Dentists.

76/2003**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the progress reports from the following Standing Committee meetings were adopted:-

- Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting of 12th June, 2003.
- Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting of 19th June, 2003.
- Joint Standing Committee meeting of 11th June, 2003.

77/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. M. Miley, the progress report from the Finance & Property Committee, which was circulated at the meeting, was adopted.

78/2003**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

79/2003**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JULY 2003)**

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

80/2003**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, 9th July, 2003, in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare at 2.00 p.m.

The September meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 2nd September, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. in the Education Centre, Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

CORRECT: **P. DONNELLY**
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN