

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

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

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. E. Byrne
Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. T. Ridge

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

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Cllr. G. McGuire

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. H. Kane, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications
Ms. M. Queally, Director of Health Promotion
Ms. C. Foye, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Ms. I. O'Neill, Senior Health Promotion Officer
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. A. Barry, A/Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. E. Smith, Office Manager, Operations
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

113/2003

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman also advised members of the following:-

1. *Election of Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen*

I would like to inform members of the outcome of elections held at the recent Committee meetings. The following members were elected:-

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Colm McGrath

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Don Tipping

Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services

Chairman: Cllr. Jim Reilly

Vice-Chairman: Ms. Maria Hoban

2. *December Board Meeting*

I would like to draw members' attention to the notice in the Agenda papers regarding the venue, date and time of the December Board Meeting.

The C.E.O.'s Office will be in contact with members in this regard.

3. *Meetings/Visit Schedule*

I would like to draw members' attention to details in the revised Schedule of Meetings and Visits circulated today. Since the Agenda Papers were sent out a number of items were clarified, confirmed and changed.

4. *Safe Disposal of Household Medications – Campaign Launch*

On the 9th October last I officiated at the launch of the **“DUMP”** (Dispose of Unused Medications Properly) campaign by Mr. Tim O'Malley, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, in the Dental School and Hospital, Lincoln Place. A number of children representing our younger generation from St. James's School in Basin Street and their teachers were also in attendance. To mark the official launch of the campaign a photocall was also held at a local pharmacy.

The campaign is the only one of its kind in the country which aims to reduce the possibility of suicide and attempted suicide. It also aims to reduce accidental child poisoning. In the first collection from pharmacies across the Board's area in September on and a half tonnes of medication were returned.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the launch of this campaign, in particular the Dental School and Hospital for facilitating the launch, Price's Medical Hall for facilitating the photocall, and the pharmacists and health board staff involved in this project.

114/2003

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 7th October, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ms. A. Harris.

115/2003

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. D. Tipping, seconded by Cllr. T. Ridge, it was agreed to answer the question which had been lodged.

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“The Child Care Act (1991) places a legal obligation on Health Boards to promote the welfare of children in its area who are not receiving adequate care and attention. In light of the considerable inadequacies across a wide range of services identified by S.W.A.H.B. in its Child & Family Service 2001: Review of Adequacy and again in the draft of its 2002 review, could the CEO detail to the Board how he proposes, in the last quarter of 2003 to meet his responsibilities under the legislation?”

Reply:

Pursuant to section 8 (1) of the Child Care Act 1991 the South Western Area Health Board prepares an annual review on the adequacy of the Child Care and Family Support Services available in its area. Section 8 (2) sets down the specific categories of children which must be reported upon; Section 8 (3) sets out the extent of the consultation process to be undertaken and Section 8 (4) mandates that a copy of the report is submitted to the Minister for Health and Children. It should be noted that apart from the 6 categories in Section 8 (2) we have extended the scope of the review to encompass all services for Children and Families. Furthermore, in 2001 at the request of the Board, the costs associated with the inadequacies identified were prepared and this has again been completed for the 2002 draft review. While we have identified certain inadequacies in the reports to date, it should be noted that we continuously prioritise children in our area who are identified as not receiving adequate care and protection. In particular, we focus on the categories identified in Section 8 (2), namely:

- Children whose parents are dead or missing,
- Children whose parents have deserted or abandoned them,
- Children who are in the care of the board,
- Children who are homeless,
- Children who are at risk of being neglected or ill-treated, and
- Children whose parents are unable to care for them due to ill health or for any other reason.

Based on the policy of prioritisation of the above six categories, the resources that are required to support these categories are also prioritised so that the core services are always provided.

Notwithstanding this policy of prioritisation, in certain circumstances while all children are receiving the core services, there may be some shortcomings in attendant areas as a result of resource deficiencies. By way of illustration, the 2002 draft review identifies shortcomings in terms of the national child care performance indicators. An example of this is the allocation of social workers to children in care. In terms of children in residential care: 95% have an allocated social worker; children in foster care: 86% have an allocated social worker and children in foster care with relatives: 84% have an allocated social worker. However, when children who do not have an allocated social worker require a service at short notice, the Team Leader or Duty Social Worker will make themselves available. This is an example of, while there may be a stated inadequacy, there is also a practical response at hand to deal with issues that arise. It should also be pointed out that in many situations the costings are predicated on the 'ideal' situation, however, in the current climate resources are not available to provide this level of service.

It should also be noted that apart from this review, a separate process has commenced to establish if there are any gaps between our statutory obligations to children and the services we are actually providing. If gaps do emerge, additional resources will be requested from E.R.H.A. to address the specific service requirement.

116/2003

PRESENTATION RE TOBACCO LEGISLATION FOR ALL WORKPLACES

Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced Ms. M. Queally, Director of Health Promotion, who gave a presentation to members on the forthcoming tobacco legislation for all workplaces. The presentation made reference to the roles of the board's health promotion and environmental health services in the implementation and enforcement of the new legislation.

Members thanked Ms. Queally for her presentation. Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. T. Ridge and Ald. M. Mooney contributed during which members' comments in support of the forthcoming legislation were noted. Mr. M. Rogan and Ms. C. Foye (Principal Environmental Health Officer) responded as follows:-

- Mr. Rogan highlighted the importance of the legislation in terms of health promotion and disease prevention.
- Ms. Foye outlined the various initiatives carried out by the environmental health service regarding the monitoring and enforcement of legislation on the sale of tobacco to minors and smoking on school buses.
- It was agreed to further investigate/follow up on a query raised by a member regarding a particular school bus route in the context of smoking by school children.

117/2003

RE LOTTERY FUNDING 2003

The C.E.O. advised members of the proposed allocation of Lottery Funding 2003, details of which had been circulated with the agenda papers, and requested that any members with specific queries regarding same should direct them to the office of the relevant Assistant Chief Executive after the meeting.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. K. Harkin, and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O. and Mr. H. Kane, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, responded as follows:-

- It was agreed to amend the table which outlined the various allocations to indicate the particular criteria which applied to those organisations that did not receive an allocation. In this regard, members were informed of the general principles which are applied when applications are being assessed, details of which were set out on the documentation included in the agenda papers.
- It was agreed to highlight this assessment procedure to the Department of Health & Children, with a view to reviewing the current level of health board staff involvement in same, in the context of the current and ongoing reform process.

Members noted the allocations.

118/2003

C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 12/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Coill Dubh Health Centre
- Aids and Appliances Funding
- Additional Funding for Primary Care Developments
- Physical and Sensory Disability Database
- Report of the National Task Force on Medical Staffing
- Partnership Funding
- National Anti-Racism Awareness Programme - Update
- Health Service for Homeless People - Update
- Launch of “DUMP” Campaign and World Mental Health Day
- Public Health Warning - DOB

Discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. T. Ridge, Ms. N. Harvey and Cllr. J. Reilly contributed and to which the C.E.O and Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive, responded as follows:-

- It was agreed to follow up on details concerning insurance for the former Health Centre premises at Coill Dubh.
- Members were informed that the Disability Database encompasses those under 66 years.
- A member's contribution regarding pharmacist input in primary care initiatives was noted.
- Members were informed of the follow up and evaluation process for the collaborative project concerning homeless people with alcohol problems. It was agreed to obtain information regarding the relapse rate for participants who had completed the programme.

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

119/2003**MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters for mention/matters arising from the minutes.

120/2003**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the progress report from the Primary, Acute and Community Services Standing Committee meeting dated 24th October 2003, was adopted.

On a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the progress reports from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting and Annual General Meeting dated 28th October were adopted.

121/2003**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Following discussion regarding the proposed disposal of lands at St. Loman's Hospital to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. C. McGrath and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded, the progress reports from the Finance and Property Committee meetings dated 3rd and 23rd October, 2003, were adopted on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne.

122/2003**PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Protocol and Procedures Committee meeting dated 23rd October, 2003, was adopted.

123/2003**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

The following motion which had been deferred from the October Board Meeting was proposed by Dr. K. Harkin and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath:-

“That this board shall not allow the paucity of occupational therapists to delay the installation of aids such as handrails, etc. to patients' homes and shall look at alternative models of service delivery such as the contracting of private therapists or the authorising of other disciplines such as public health nurses to make appropriate recommendations.”

Following discussion to which Dr. K. Harkin, Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. E. Byrne, Ms. N. Harvey, Dr. S. Barry, and Ms. M. Hoban contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded, it was agreed to arrange a meeting of the relevant professionals to discuss the issues raised.

The motion in the name of Cllr. C. McGrath and Cllr. J. Daly listed on the agenda as Item 11.2 was proposed by Cllr. C. McGrath and seconded by Ald. M. Mooney but was not discussed. Information regarding the issues outlined in the motion was given to Cllr. McGrath following which, at his request, and with the agreement of the members present, the motion was deferred until the December Board Meeting as Cllr. J. Daly (the co-proposer of the motion) was not in attendance.

124/2003**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

125/2003**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(NOVEMBER 2003)**

The revised Schedule of Visits for Board Members and Committee Meetings for November 2003, which was circulated at the meeting and referred to by the Chairman at Chairman's Business, was noted by members.

126/2003**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The December meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 9th December, 2003, at 6.00 p.m. in the Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

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

CHAIRMAN