

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, Oak House, South Western Area Health Board H.Q., Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Friday, 5th July, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D.
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Mr. J. Fallon
Cllr. C. McGrath
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail, T.D.
Sen. T. Ridge
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

Non-Voting Members

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. M. Hoban

Ms. N. Harvey
Ald. M. Mooney

In the Chair

- (i) Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D.
- (ii) Sen. T. Ridge

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
Ms. R. Buckley, Director – Disability Services
Mr. M. Rogan, Director – Mental Health and Addiction Services
Mr. J. Leech, Management Accountant
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. A. Barry, Office Manager, Operations
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

88/2002

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

At the outset, Cllr. C. O'Connor welcomed members and extended good wishes to those members running in the forthcoming Seanad elections. Cllr. O'Connor then proceeded to address members as follows:-

"Members, I am very pleased to welcome you to our A.G.M. Before we commence the elections, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words before I vacate the chair for the voting.

I want to begin by saying how honoured I am to have been elected the Chairman of the Board for the past two years and I want to thank you for bestowing that honour on me. During my two years of office we have had many achievements and challenges as we had to establish a new Board and at the same time ensure that services continued with the minimum of disruption. I am pleased to say that we did get through it all and we have prevailed.

I believe that one of the reasons that we got through all of it was because we worked together, both Board and staff. In this regard I want to thank each member of the Board for your continued support and assistance throughout my time as Chairman. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of the various committees:

- The Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee, chaired by Cllr. Jim Reilly, which did much to progress hospital services and develop plans for them. May I also extend a special word of thanks to Cllr. Jim Reilly who as Vice-Chairman of the Board was very helpful to me in my first year as Chairman and equally thank Sen. Therese Ridge, our current Vice-Chair, both who deputised for me on a number of occasions.
- The Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee, chaired by Cllr Tommy Cullen, who worked hard to guide and plan new developments.
- The Protocol and Procedures Committee, chaired by Cllr. Colm McGrath, which made excellent progress in devising protocols and procedures to regulate the conduct of the Board.
- The Finance and Property Committee, which I chair myself, made good progress in acquiring necessary properties for our services and in monitoring our finances.
- And the Child Care Advisory Committee, chaired by Deputy Sean O Fearghail, which also made good progress.

To one and all I extend my sincere thanks.

I now want to turn to our staff. The success and achievements of the Board would not have happened without the commitment of our staff. I want to begin by extending our sincere thanks to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Pat Donnelly, and to acknowledge the hard work and effort that he has put in since the beginning to bring us all this far. I am sure he intends encouraging and driving us to even greater and better things in the future!!

I want to record on your behalf, and indeed my own, our thanks to all of the staff in the Chief Executive Officer's Office for the professional and efficient service provided to the Board. As I am not seeking re-election, on a personal note, I do want to express my personal thanks

to all in the C.E.O.'s office who have always assisted and helped me as Chairman. I am sure that that support will continue into the future. I also want to express our thanks to all of the members of the senior management team and to all of our staff for their hard work and commitment, without whose help and hard work, as I have said, we could not have achieved so much over the past two years.

As we saw from our Annual Report earlier this week, we again recorded good progress in 2001 and we should be proud of this. We also faced many challenges, not least in the area of recruitment. However, as we all know full well, there is much more to be done and particularly in light of the new National Health Strategy we face a big challenge into the future. However I have no doubt that if we continue to work together, both staff and Board, we will meet these challenges and succeed. Indeed, I know that the organisational plans and developments that the C.E.O. and management team have been leading us through will place us well to meet the challenge and indeed assist us in being able to deliver the new Health Strategy.

It is my wish and desire that when the elections are over today we will continue to work together, Board Members and Staff, all the more harder to ensure that we have the best possible health services to meet the needs of the people we serve. As a member of this Board I intend to continue to support our Board and our staff in achieving the best health service for the public we serve.

Finally, while my time as Chairman was often challenging and difficult, I have thoroughly enjoyed it and once again my sincere thanks to all of you, Board Members and Staff.

I will now vacate the Chair so that the elections can commence.”

89/2002

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Sen. Therese Ridge was proposed by Cllr. C. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath. Cllr. J. Reilly also supported the nomination.

As there were no further nominations, Sen. T. Ridge was declared elected as Chairman of the Board.

Sen. Ridge thanked her proposer, seconder and Cllr. Reilly. She congratulated Cllr. O'Connor on his hard work as Chairman over the previous two years and indicated that she was looking forward to working with the Board Members and staff in her new role.

The C.E.O. congratulated Sen. Ridge on her election and confirmed that he was also looking forward to working with her as Chairman over the next year.

The C.E.O. then paid tribute to Cllr. C. O'Connor for his work as Chairman of the South Western Area Health Board since the establishment of the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the three Area Health Boards. Presentations were then made to Cllr. O'Connor in recognition of his term of office as Chairman.

Sen. Ridge then assumed the chair. She welcomed Mr. Joe Fallon to the Board to represent the Intellectual Disability sector in place of Mr. Michael Murphy.

90/2002

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ald. M. Mooney was proposed by Cllr. T. Cullen and seconded by Sen. S. O Fearghail.

As there were no further nominations, Ald. M. Mooney was declared elected as Vice-Chairman.

91/2002

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

The Chairman advised members regarding arrangements for any members who may wish to change from their current Standing Committee. Members were also notified that Mr. Joe Fallon replaces Mr. Michael Murphy on the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee. As Sen. Ridge is now an ex-officio member of both Standing Committees, Cllr. C. O'Connor takes her place on the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee.

Finance & Property Committee

The Chairman advised members that, following consultation by the Board Secretary with the Group Leaders, the following members remain as rotational members on the Finance & Property Committee for the coming year:-

- **Cllr. Catherine Byrne**
- **Cllr. Martin Miley**
- **Cllr. Colm McGrath**
- **Cllr. Eric Byrne**

Members were further advised of the following changes to the permanent members of this committee:-

Cllr. C. O'Connor replaces the incoming Vice-Chairman, **Ald. M. Mooney**, who is now an ex-officio member of the committee. **Sen. T. Ridge** remains on the committee but in an ex-officio capacity. **Mr. J. Fallon** replaces Mr. M. Murphy as a permanent member of the committee.

Protocol and Procedures Committee

The Chairman advised members that, as incoming Vice-Chairman, **Ald. M. Mooney** is now an ex-officio member of the Protocol and Procedures Committee, replacing Cllr. C. O'Connor.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN