

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,
8th January, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne
Dr. M. Gueret
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Sen. T. Ridge
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Observers

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. M. Murphy

In the Chair

Sen. T. Ridge

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. P. Bryan, Director of Acute Services and Primary Care
Ms. A. Walsh, Primary Care Unit Manager
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. P. Daly, Communications Officer
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

1/2002

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

At the outset Senator Therese Ridge advised members that she would chair the start of the meeting as Cllr. C. O'Connor, Board Chairman, was unavoidably delayed. (Senator Ridge subsequently remained in the chair for the duration of the meeting.)

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.

Senator Ridge then proceeded to advise members of the business of the Chairman, Cllr. C. O'Connor, over the previous month as follows:-

1. *February Board Meeting*

Following conversations with Mr. Paul Kavanagh, the Chief Executive of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, I can confirm that our Board Meeting on 5th February will be held there. Details of exact location, parking and arrangements will be forwarded to you with the February Agenda Papers.

2. *Presentation of Certificates to Peer Advocates in our Mental Health Services*

On 7th December last I presented Certificates of Participation to the first group of Peer Advocates in our Mental Health Services who completed the recent Training Programme.

The Peer Advocacy Training Programme will allow the participants to become advocates for others in times of crisis and confusion. The dedication of the participants in giving up their own time is testament to their commitment and interest in advocacy. This ceremony took place in the last month of the Year of the Volunteer and with this in mind I acknowledge the important work carried out by volunteers and voluntary groups not only last year but now and in the future.

The course itself was delivered by the Irish Advocacy Network and is accredited by the Open College Network in Northern Ireland, another great example of cross border co-operation.

At this ceremony I also launched the 'Unique Insight' Report. This report gives an account of client based research which involved wide consultations with people in hospital and in the community. Many of the suggestions from this report have been incorporated into our In-patient Unit at Tallaght Hospital.

3. *Launch of the South Western Area Health Board Partnership Committee*

On 12th December I launched the South Western Area Health Board Partnership Committee and the Board's Employee Charter.

The Partnership Committee has been meeting since March last year, developing new ways for management and staff representatives to work together and develop workplace partnerships. The emphasis for the committee at all times is on finding positive solutions to the challenges that faces the board.

One of the key initiatives identified by the Committee at the outset was the development of an Employee Charter. This charter outlines the key values that mark the South Western Area

Health Board as a good place to work, including Employee Well-being, Employee Development and Performance, Client Focus and Commitment.

I also unveiled the Partnership Website which itself was developed through another partnership, this time with the trainees of the Youthreach Project in Tallaght. The pages of the website include the Employee Charter and details of both the South Western Area Health Board Partnership and its Committee.

4. *Visit of President McAleese to Aisling House, Maynooth*

I would like to inform members that I will be speaking at the forthcoming visit by President McAleese to Aisling House, Maynooth.

Aisling House is a community based facility, which provides residential homes for twenty two people with severe intellectual disabilities who also present challenging behaviours. The President is visiting Aisling House to be shown the facilities and to meet the residents and staff, along with the 'Relatives and Friends' group.

As this event is an informal and intimate visit by the President, invitations will be limited to the Vice-Chairman and the Kildare/West Wicklow members.

5. *Service Visit for Members*

I wish to confirm that the Northern Area Health Board service visit scheduled for Monday, 28th January, 2002, will be to James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.

Cllr. T. Cullen then attempted to raise a matter not on the agenda which the Chairman requested that he defer to the appropriate stage of the meeting (Matters Arising/Matters for Mention). Cllr. Cullen withdrew from the meeting in protest.

2/2002

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER & 12TH DECEMBER, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings held on 29th November, 2001, and 12th December, 2001, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

A brief discussion followed regarding the KDoc Initiative, arising out of an issue raised at the Board Meeting of 12th December, 2001.

On a proposal by Cllr. D. Tipping, seconded by Cllr. M. Miley, it was agreed to hold a special meeting to facilitate the provision to members of an update regarding this initiative.

3/2002

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“To ask the C.E.O. to respond to the question raised about the shortage of speech therapists in the Dolphins Barn/Rialto area (see accompanying correspondence) and will he make a statement on this issue?”

Reply:

The Board recognises the difficulties which exist in relation to Therapy Grades, including Speech & Language Therapists. The Bacon Report “Current and future supply and demand conditions in the Labour Market for Certain Professional Grades” (March 2001) also acknowledges the problems and recommends:

- Increase in the number of college places
- A review of career structures
- The appointment of assistant therapy grades
- A system of Professional Registration to be established
- Overseas Recruitment

The South Western Area Health Board is currently involved in a countrywide Health Board project which is being managed by the Northern Area Health Board on behalf of all Boards, which will be embarking on an overseas recruitment drive with agencies who specialise in the recruitment of therapy grades. Part of the project also includes the validation of qualifications of all therapists from 1st January, 2002.

The South Western Area Health Board is itself involved in ongoing local recruitment and advertising.

2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the C.E.O. say when the necessary additional funding will be forthcoming that is required to part fund the purchase of a mini-bus required by the Saint Matthew’s Parish Centre to care for the elderly and will he make a statement on this issue?”

Reply:

The funding required for the mini-bus for the Saint Matthew’s Parish Centre has been included in the Board’s Service Plan for the Elderly 2002.

The Manager for Services for the Elderly, Dublin West, will be meeting with the relevant personnel from the centre to progress this matter early in the new year.

3. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the C.E.O. provide me with an up to date report on when the necessary work on the transfer of land and financial supports will be forthcoming for the development of the additional Day Centre places at the Mother McAuley Centre in Drimnagh and will he make a statement on this issue?”

Reply:

The Board has been working in partnership with the Mother McAuley Day Centre for some time with a view to developing services there. From January 2002 we are funding the appointment of a full-time Supervisor at the Centre. The appointee will work closely with the Day Attenders to assess and establish needs for the future.

It is planned later this year to develop an on-site catering service which will require some reconstruction to the present building and the employment of catering staff.

Capital funding for major development work has been sought under the NDP. The transfer of land for this purpose would be premature at this stage but will be addressed whenever funding becomes available to proceed with the development.

4. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Could the C.E.O. comment on: The Tallaght Hospital Psychiatry of Old Age Service, established in November 1998:

- (i) When does the Board plan to open the 6 acute beds and/or the Day Hospital envisaged for this service?
- (ii) Given that this service was afforded No. 1 priority in the EHB 10 Year Action Plan for the Care of the Elderly 1999-2008, how close is this service to the targets set out in this plan, and what implementation timescale is envisaged for the substantial outstanding service developments?”

Reply:

The 6 Bed Unit for Psychiatry of Later Life (Aspen) at The Adelaide and Meath Hospitals Dublin, Incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, remains unopened as an Acute Unit due to nursing staff shortages. This service currently carries in the region of 45 nursing vacancies and it is not envisaged that sufficient nursing resources will be available in the near future to enable an acute service to be provided at this location. A Design Brief for the Day Hospital for Psychiatry of Later Life has been submitted to the Tallaght Hospital authorities and it is anticipated that this Day Hospital will be included in the future development of the hospital.

In the interim, approval has been received from the Tallaght Hospital authorities to temporarily use Aspen Unit as a base for the provision of a community service until September 2003. Secretarial staff have been recruited and an advertisement is being prepared for placement in the national newspapers and relevant journals for - Social Worker, Senior Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Community Mental Health Nurses and Nursing Officer (Day Hospital).

4/2002**REVIEW OF ADEQUACY OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD) 2000**

The Review of Adequacy of Services for Children and Families (South Western Area Health Board) 2000, having been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

5/2002

RE: LOTTERY FUNDING 2001

The list of proposed allocations of 2001 Lottery Funding, having been previously circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

Members were informed that, as an additional allocation of Lottery Funding was received late in 2001, individual allocations to the various organisations could only be finalised at a late stage and that queries from members about specific allocations could be directed to Ms. Bríd Clarke's office. The input of staff, and in particular Mr. Ray Kavanagh, in this regard was acknowledged.

It was agreed to circulate information to members regarding 2002 funding as early as possible this year and that proposals for allocations will be brought initially to Standing Committee prior to noting at a Board Meeting.

6/2002

RE: PRESENTATION RE PRIMARY CARE

The Chief Executive Officer gave a powerpoint presentation to members on the primary care element of the new Health Strategy – “Primary Care – A New Direction”.

Areas covered in the presentation included:-

- Strategy Vision
- Frameworks for Change
- General Practice in South Western Area Health Board – Statistical Information
- Definitions of Primary Care
- Primary Care Team
- Primary Care Network
- Review of Current Service
- Strengths in South Western Area Health Board
- Primary Care Partnerships
- South Inner City Partnership
- Tams and Network
- Way Forward
- Challenges
- Actions
- Immediate Priorities for South Western Area Health Board
- Summary

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. J. Reilly, Ms. M. Hoban, Dr. K. Harkin, Dr. S. Barry, Dr. B. Murphy, and Sen. T Ridge contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- A needs assessment to be carried out on primary care in our Board's area.
- The provision of future funding for primary care developments will be dependent on their relevance and adherence to the aims, principles and targets of the strategy.
- The possible establishment of primary care teams in specific locations will require further discussion and consultation with stakeholders. Members were advised that the national Primary Care Task Force will make final decisions in this regard.

On a proposal by Sen. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, it was agreed that a special meeting be held to discuss in more detail the implementation of the primary care strategy in our Board's area.

7/2002

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive read Report No. 1/2002 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

1. National Health Strategy Update
2. Ambulance Service – Baltinglass Area
3. Revised Medical Card Guidelines
4. Additional Allocations
5. Crisis Pregnancy Agency
6. Springboard Evaluation Report
7. Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin
8. National Committee on Breastfeeding
9. Foster Care Allowance

Members were updated regarding recent media reports concerning ambulance services in the Baltinglass area. It was agreed to circulate members with copies of the relevant media articles and members were advised that further information in this regard will be given at the forthcoming meeting of the Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee on 17th January, 2002.

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

8/2002

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

With reference to the Letter of Determination to the E.R.H.A., Mr. G. McGuire expressed disappointment regarding the allocation for residential places for mentally ill patients. Further discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. S. Barry, Sen. T. Ridge and Cllr. D. Tipping contributed. Members' views were noted, however, the C.E.O. advised that our Board is required to submit a Provider Plan to the Eastern Regional Health Authority soon, based on the allocations as notified.

9/2002

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposal by Cllr. E. Byrne, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress reports from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meetings dated 13th December and 18th December (Special Meeting) were adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell, the progress reports from the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee meetings dated 15th November, 2001, and 6th December, 2001, were adopted.

10/2002

NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Sen. T. Ridge.

“That this Board will ensure as far as possible that patients from the Dublin region needing long-term care will be located in a nursing home convenient to their home and family.”

Following discussion during which Cllr. Byrne outlined a specific case relating to the motion, members were informed of the current facilities available for young chronic sick persons requiring long-term care. Proposed plans to address this issue for the future were outlined and members were advised that, in the interim, every effort will be made to facilitate families who may be inconvenienced by their present arrangements.

Motion was agreed.

(b) The following motion was proposed by Dr. K. Harkin and seconded by Sen. T. Ridge.

“That this board shall undertake a review of the provision of modified shoes for orthopaedic purposes as a matter of urgency.”

In the discussion which followed, members were advised that a review has been carried out in this regard and that a meeting between the three Area Health Boards to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the review has been arranged. It was agreed to circulate members with the report drawn up by the review committee.

(c) The following motion was proposed by Sen. T. Ridge and seconded by Ms. M. Hoban.

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide a medical card under the 1970 Health Act long-term illness and disability scheme for children and young adults who have been diagnosed with Crohn’s Disease/Ulcerative Colitis.”

Motion was agreed.

It was proposed that a letter be submitted to the Minister for Health & Children and the Eastern Regional Health Authority requesting that consideration be given to the above.

11/2002

CORRESPONDENCE

The items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive’s report, were noted by members.

12/2002

SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2002)

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for January 2002, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

13/2002

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 5th February, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.

CORRECT:

**P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN