



EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 7th September at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. Gerard Brady	Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Ald. I. Callely T.D.
Cllr. M. Corrigan	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. Anne Devitt	Mr. J. Dolan
Cllr. P. Doran	Cllr. A. Doyle
Mr. J. Fallon	Dr. J. Fennell
Cllr. T. Fox	Ms. A. Harris
Ms. N. Harvey	Cllr. D. Heney
Ms. M. Hoban	Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. P. Ledwidge	Cllr. C McGrath
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. O. Mitchell	Dr. M. Molloy
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Mr. Michael Murphy	Cllr. D. Murray
Cllr. E. O'Brien	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Dr. P. O'Connell	Cllr C. O'Connor
Cllr. M. O'Donovan	Mrs. C. Quinn
Cllr. J. Reilly	Dr. J. Reilly
Sen. T. Ridge	Cllr. R. Shortall TD
Cllr. D. Tipping	Mr. L. Tuomey
Cllr. Jack Wall TD	

In the Chair

Alderman I. Callely T.D.

Apologies

Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick	Dr. M. Gueret
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In Attendance

Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive

Mr. Pat McLoughlin

Mr. Martin Devine

Mr. Liam Woods

Ms. Maureen Browne

The Chairman read the Opening Prayer

00/09/41

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members that Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive of the ERHA has been appointed to the Review Group set up by the Minister there to examine the acute hospital services in Northern Ireland. On his own behalf and on behalf of the members he congratulated him on his appointment and wished him well in his work.

00/09/42 Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting held on the 11th July 2000 *Agenda Item No. 2*

The minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting held on the 11th July 2000, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Charles O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Paddy Aspell.

00/09/43 Appointment of Committees to the Board *Agenda Item No. 3*

Mr. Devine circulated a list of membership to the following committees

- Committee for Acute Hospitals & Primary Care
- Committee for Continuing Care

The list had been drawn up in line with the recommendations of the Protocol Committee, and is set out as follows:

Name	Acute Hospitals & Primary Care	Continuing Care & Social Services
Alderman Ivor Callely TD	✓	✓
Alderman Mary Mooney	✓	
Alderman Sen. Joe Doyle	✓	
Cllr. Andrew Doyle	✓	✓
Cllr. Ann Devitt	✓	✓
Cllr. Catherine Byrne	✓	
Cllr. Charles O'Connor	✓	✓
Cllr. Christy Burke	✓	
Cllr. Deirdre Heney	✓	
Cllr. Dermot Fitzpatrick	✓	
Cllr. Dermot Murray	✓	
Cllr. Don Tipping		✓
Cllr. Dr William O'Connell		✓
Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien	✓	
Cllr. Eric Byrne		✓
Cllr. Jack Wall TD		✓
Cllr. James Reilly	✓	✓

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne		✓
Cllr. Laurence Butler	✓	
Cllr. Liam Creaven	✓	✓
Cllr. Maria Corrigan		✓
Cllr. Martin Miley	✓	
Cllr. Michael O'Donovan		✓
Cllr. Olivia Mitchell TD		✓
Cllr. Pat Doran		✓
Cllr. Roisin Shortall TD	✓	
Cllr. Thomas Cullen		✓
Cllr. Tony Fox	✓	✓
Dr. Bernard Murphy	✓	
Dr. James Reilly	✓	
Dr. John Fennell	✓	
Dr. Kieran Harkin		✓
Dr. Marie Laffoy	✓	
Dr. Maurice Gueret	✓	
Dr. Michael Molloy	✓	
Dr. Philip O'Connell		✓
Dr. Ray Hawkins	✓	
Dr. Siobhan Barry		✓
Mr Martin Cowley	✓	
Mr. Colm McGrath		✓
Mr. Gerard Brady	✓	
Mr. Gerry McGuire	✓	
Mr. Joe Fallon		✓
Mr. John Dolan		✓
Mr. Larry Tuomey		✓
Mr. Michael Murphy		✓
Mr. Patrick Aspell	✓	
Mr. Paul Ledwidge		✓
Mrs. Catherine Quinn	✓	
Ms. Anne Harris		✓
Ms. Maria Hoban	✓	
Ms. Noeleen Harvey		✓
Sen. Sean O'Feaghail		✓
Sen. Thérèse Ridge		✓

On the proposal of Cllr. Charles O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. Larry Butler the membership of the committees was unanimously agreed.

00/09/44 Standing Orders

Agenda Item No. 4

✓ Part 2 of the Standing Orders (*copy appended to the Official Minute*), having been agreed and recommended to the Board by the Protocol Committee were **proposed by Cllr. Jim Reilly, seconded by Mr. Gerry Maguire and unanimously agreed.**

✓ **00/09/45 Bed Capacity (Report No. 07/00)**

Agenda Item No. 5

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 07/00 on Bed Capacity (*copy appended to the Official Minute*) to the Board. The report sets out the first stage findings of a Bed Capacity Review into the adult acute hospital services of the region. The review is continuing and the second stage will investigate deficits in bed capacity by speciality. The Chief Executive suggested that the second stage findings might be presented to the Board's Committee for Acute Hospitals and Primary Care. **This was agreed.**

A lengthy discussion took place to which the following members contributed – Dr. M. Molloy, Cllr. E. Byrne, Mr. G. Maguire, Cllr. R. Shortall, Cllr. C. O'Connor, Mr. J. Dolan, Cllr. D. Tipping, Sen. T. Ridge, Dr. J. Fennell, Cllr. J. Reilly, Mr. M. Cowley, Dr. M. Laffoy, Ald. I. Callely, Dr. J. Reilly and Cllr. C. McGrath.

On the recommendation of the Chairman, the Board decided to note the report pending the issue of the next stage.

✓ **00/09/46 Services for Older Persons (Report No. 08/00)**

Agenda Item No. 6

The Chairman suggested that Report 08/00 on Services for Older Persons (*copy appended to the Official Minute*) be referred to the recently formed committee for Continuing Care & Social Services. **This was proposed by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. B. Murphy and unanimously agreed.**

✓ **00/09/47 National Development Plan (Report 09/00)**

Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. Pat McLoughlin, Director of Planning & Commissioning, presented Report 09/00 on the National Development Plan (*copy appended to the Official Minute*) to the Board. The report set out moneys which had been allocated to the three Area Health Boards and the Hospital sector.

Following presentation of the report a debate followed and a number of members sought further detail on the monies allocated. The following members contributed – Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. R. Shortall, Alderman I. Callely TD, Cllr. E. Byrne, Mr. M. Murphy, Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. D. Murray, and Cllr. M. Corrigan.

Mr. McLoughlin responded to questions asked and the report was *noted on the proposal by Mrs. C. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. C. Burke.*

00/09/48 Questions to the Chief Executive
Agenda Item 8

On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

Cllr Roisin Shortall

Q1

“Will the CEO Report on the extent of the Child Psychiatric Services within the ERHA with details on

- (a) Number of staff***
- (b) Number of referrals***
- (c) Length of waiting times for assessment/Consultant appointment***
- (d) Number of child psychiatric beds***
- (e) Reasons for drastic scaling back of capacity at Warrenstown House***
- (f) Proposals for development of service in the current year and timescale planned”***

(A) Number of Staff

There are 136 staff employed in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services. The objective of the service is to provide a high quality, multi-disciplinary, in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescent. The majority of children and adolescent are seen as part of their families in the context of the local community through the network of Child and Family Centres. When residential psychiatric assessment and treatment are necessary, the primary focus is to restore children to their families as quickly as possible, or to alternative placement as deemed appropriate.

(B) Number of referrals

In 1999 services were made available at the Child and Family Centres to 1,419 new referrals, 16,618 return attendances and 3,536 participants in group sessions.

(C) Length of waiting times for assessment/Consultant appointment

All referrals are assessed by a multi-disciplinary team on receipt, and classified in accordance with the degree of urgency in each individual case. Urgent cases are generally seen within two days or on the same day if referred by a hospital casualty

department. Semi-urgent cases are seen within a maximum of 12 weeks, and the waiting list for non urgent cases is currently 5-7 months.

Number of child psychiatric beds

There are 16 in-patient beds catering for children with emotional/psychiatric problems in the region. These beds are managed by SWAHB. In addition there are nine beds catering for the residential/respite needs of children on the autistic spectrum.

Warrenstown House

Following a review of the referrals to Warrenstown House and taking account of new developments in childcare, the service has been restructured to meet current needs. Additional staff are being recruited and the house has been refurbished.

Proposals for development of service in the current year and timescale planned

The notifications of the treatment psychology services at Warrenstown House taking into account the changing patterns of referrals with a view to having the unit operating to its capacity of 8 beds by December 2000.

The extension and improvements of facilities at Castleknock Child and Family Centre to accommodate additional staff recently recruited to meet expanding needs in the catchment area – temporary accommodation made available in June 2000 is now fully occupied and operational

Extension and improvement of facilities at St James's Child and Family Centre – construction work to be completed by December 2000.

Premises recently acquired at Liffey Vale, Lucan to provide respite services for children in the Autistic Spectrum are expected to be staffed and fully operational within a number of months.

A team recently recruited to provide outreach services for autistic children in the West Dublin/Kildare area will be fully operational in October 2000. This team will enhance the services being provided by the Northside and Southside Outreach Teams which were established in the Dublin area in the past two years.

Planning brief for an adolescent day hospital has been prepared and it is proposed to build this facility on the site of St Lomans.

In the time available it was only possible to compile a comprehensive response from the South Western Area Board. It is likely that the information from the East Coast and the Northern Area Boards will be very much in line with the information received from the South Western Area Board.

Q2

“Will the CEO report on the delays in the recruitment of staff for the Children and Families services and will he outline his views on the advisability of delegating recruitment in this field to the three Area Boards in order to expedite the early filling of the many current vacant posts and in order to avoid delay in the filling of the recently advertised new posts and will he made a statement on the matter”?

The recruitment of all staff including Child Care staff is a matter for the three Area Health Boards. The process is carried out on behalf of the Area Boards by the Eastern Health Shared Services.

The three Area Health Boards recently embarked on an intensive recruitment campaign for Child Care staff. The response to date has been most encouraging and the three Area Health Boards held an information day, today 7th September to which all applicants were invited.

The processing of their applications is been given top priority by the recruitment section of the EHSS. The Area Health Boards plan to fill existing vacancies and to develop additional services from their recruitment process as quickly as possible. The first appointments will take up office before the end of this month

Q3

“To ask the CEO to report on the number of children awaiting assessment by the Social Work services on foot of reports of suspicion/allegation of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect, will he provide a breakdown of these figures for each community care area; and will he outline proposals for tackling these waiting list”?

An initial assessment is carried out on all referrals to the social work service. Following assessment cases are prioritised and urgent cases are immediately assigned. All services at community level are provided on a multi-disciplinary basis. A key worker system operates with professionals as appropriate in support. In this context clients referred to social work services may be in receipt of services appropriate to the needs at that particular time.

Following presentation of the questions, Cllr. Shortall asked for further clarification on Question 2. The Chief Executive advised that further details would be forwarded to Cllr. Shortall from the three Area Boards.

00/09/49 Chief Executive's Report
Agenda Item No. 9

The Chief Executive was circulated (*copy appended to the Official Minute*).

The report dealt with the following items:-

National Health Promotion Strategy 2000 – 2005

- Orthodontic Services
- Review of Adult A&E Services in Acute Hospitals
- Youth Homelessness & Child Care
- Revised Determination Schedule

A short discussion took place to which Cllr. Shortall, Mr. G. Maguire, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Alderman I. Callely TD, Dr. B. Murphy and Cllr. C. Burke contributed.

Orthodontics - Following presentation of the report Dr. Murphy said that he had asked to have monthly reports on orthodontics presented to the Board and was disappointed with the lack of detail in this report. He did acknowledge that progress is being made and is aware that it is a multidimensional problem but did express his concern with the 700 cases still waiting for treatment.

The Chief Executive answered that the Authority have no responsibility for employing staff in this service but that they are directly employed by the Area Boards. Queries in relation to staffing should be conveyed directly to the Area Boards. However he informed Dr. Murphy and the Board that the Department of Health & Children had given approval for 39 posts to be employed by the three Area Boards and these would be working together to resolve the current difficulties.

Youth Homelessness & Child Care - The Chief Executive updated the members on the current recruitment initiative being organised by the three Area Boards. Cllr Shortall asked the Chief Executive for a statement on the Kim O'Donovan case. The Chief Executive said that he regretted the death of Ms. O'Donovan and the circumstances surrounding this but that the child was not in the care of the ERHA. A statement had been issued by the Chief Executive of the South Western Area Board on the case. He would ensure a copy of the statement be issued to Cllr. Shortall and Cllr. Tipping, who requested same. The Chief Executive informed the members that the Minister for Health & Children had asked to be informed of the efforts made by staff to search for the child when she left the care of the Unit. The Department of Health & Children had been given the information requested.

Cllr. Eric Byrne raised the question of the Corporate image of the Authority. The Chairman recommended that this be discussed at the next Protocol Committee Meeting.
This was agreed.

The Chief Executive's Report as circulated was agreed.


00/09/51 *Date & Time of Next Meeting*
Agenda Item No 11

The date and time of the October monthly meeting was agreed for Thursday 5th October 2000 at 18.00 hrs in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

CORRECT:

DONAL O SHEA
Chief Executive


ALDERMAN IVOR CALLEY TD
Chairman

Date: _____