



## **EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting  
held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8  
on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2001 at 6.00 p.m.**

### ***Present***

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr. C. Byrne	Cllr. E. Byrne
Alderman I. Callely TD	Cllr. M. Corrigan
Mr. M. Cowley	Cllr. L. Creaven
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Mr. J. Dolan	Cllr. P. Doran
Ald. Sen. J. Doyle	Cllr. A. Doyle
Mr. J. Fallon	Sen. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick
Cllr. T. Fox	Dr. M. Gueret
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. A. Harris
Dr. R. Hawkins	Cllr. D. Heney
Ms. M. Hoban	Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. P. Ledwidge	Cllr. C. McGrath
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy	Mr. M. Murphy
Cllr. D. Murray	Cllr. E. O'Brien
Cllr Dr W. O'Connell	Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr C. O'Connor	Cllr. J. Reilly
Dr. J. Reilly	Cllr. D. Tipping
Mr. L. Tuomey	

### ***In the Chair***

Alderman Cllr Ivor Callely TD

### ***Apologies***

Ms. N. Harvey

Senator S O'Fearghail

### ***In Attendance***

Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive

Mr. Pat McLoughlin

Dr. Brian O'Herlihy

Mr. Liam Woods

Ms. Maureen Browne

Ms. Angela Fitzgerald

Ms. Helen Stokes

## **The Chairman read the Opening Prayer**

### **01/02/03 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

#### *Agenda Item No. 1*

- Apologies for non attendance were received from Ms. N. Harvey and Senator S O'Fearghail.
- The Steering Committee for Acute Hospital and Primary Care will meet at 6.00 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2001 in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- The Steering Committee for Continuing Care and Social Services will meet at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.
- The Protocol Committee will meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2001 in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

### **01/02/04 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and Special Board Meetings held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001.**

#### *Agenda Item No. 2*

- The draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2001, having being circulated were proposed for adoption by Cllr J. Dillon Byrne and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins and agreed.
- The draft Minutes of the special meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2000, having being circulated were proposed for adoption by Cllr T. Fox and seconded by Cllr. C. O'Connor and agreed.
- The draft Minutes of the special meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001, having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr Dr B O'Connell and seconded by Mr P Ledwidge and agreed.

### **01/02/05 Questions to the Chief Executive**

#### *Agenda Item No. 3*

#### **Q 3.1**

**Sen. Cllr. Dr. Dermot Fitzpatrick**

"Can the Chief Executive Officer tell me how much money has been spent with the Sunday Independent advertising Posts & Positions that become vacant in the Eastern Regional Health Authority Area and if the Chief Executive Officer can annualise that figure."

#### **Reply:**

The cost of advertising posts and positions with Independent Newspapers (Sunday Independent & Irish Independent) for ERHA Corporate for the period March to

December 2000 was £81,859. Last year was an exceptional year in the Authority as virtually every post in the ERHA Corporate had to be filled by open competition and public advertisement. As a result advertising costs were exceptionally high.

The recruitment of staff and the advertising of posts in the 39 providing agencies is the responsibility of each of these agencies. This Authority is not involved in the process. However steps are being taken to encourage co-ordination between agencies with a view to achieving a more effective process.

**Q 3.2**

**Dr. Siobhan Barry**

"Is there a plan to reconstitute The Co-ordinating Committee for Child Psychiatry, which had been in operation in the EHB, comprising representatives of the Child Psychiatric Services in the three area boards, and a brief to discuss present and future plans for Child Psychiatry in the ERHA?"

*Reply:*

There is a need for a strategic plan to be formulated for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services in the Eastern region. To advance this process responsibilities of the providers of Child and Adolescent Services in the region, both voluntary and statutory, will be invited to participate in a group to advise the Authority and to assist in the formulation of policy.

Consequently, the Co-ordinating Committee, as was previously constituted, will not be re-convened. The management team of the Eastern Regional Health Authority would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by this group in the past. In February 2001, providers will be asked to nominate a representative to the Advisory Group on Child and Adult Psychiatry. Thereafter, a work schedule will be agreed.

**Q 3.3**

**Dr. Siobhan Barry**

Is it the policy of the ERHA to support the placing of disturbed children in an unregistered child care facility?

*Reply*

No, it is not the policy of the ERHA to support the placing of disturbed children in an unregistered child care facility.

**Q 3.4**

**Cllr. Christy Burke**

To ask the Chief Executive that this authority receive a report on press statements that the Meath Hospital will open for Youth Homelessness.

**Reply**

The provision of services in the Meath Hospital is the responsibility of the South Western Area Health Board.

The South Western Area Health Board issued no press releases in relation to the proposed use of the Unit in the Meath Hospital. However the South Western Area Health Board have had ongoing communication with their members in relation to this Unit and in fact a site visit took place yesterday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001, in the Meath Hospital. Members were given a tour of the unit and a presentation on the future use of the Unit. Members also received an Information Pack which outlines the facilities/services of the new Unit. Copies of the pack are available from either Mr. Hugh Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, South Western Area Health Board Tel: 045 875 772 or Ms. Helen Stokes, Administrator, Chief Executive's Office, ERHA, Tel: 01 406 5621

**Q 3.5**

**Cllr. Eric Byrne**

To ask the Chief Executive if he will confirm that the Authority has agreed to make the lands alongside the Clinic, available to the Mother McAuley's Centre in Drimnagh, who plan to build a Community Crèche, and will he make a statement on the matter?

**Reply**

Discussions have taken place with the Mother McAuley's Centre and the Alzheimers Society with the Eastern Health Board prior to March 2000. These discussions are continuing with the Estate Management Office in relation to the optimum use of the site at Drimnagh. When discussions are concluded a report will be brought to the Finance & Property Committee and details forwarded to you.

**Q 3.6**

**Cllr. Deirdre Heney**

To ask the CEO to clarify the situation of staff recruitment by the Authority and hospitals and agencies funded by the Authority in relation to annual cost, method, size, nature and detail of advertisements and media outlets used etc. and if he would make a statement on all aspects of the procedure.

**Reply**

The responsibility for the employment of staff and the placing of advertisements for various posts in the ERHA Corporate offices is my responsibility. Since the January 2001 the Eastern Health Shared Services has been commissioned to manage all aspects of the recruitment process for posts in the ERHA Corporate.

The recruitment of staff and the advertising of posts in the 39 providing agencies is the responsibility of each of these agencies. This Authority is not involved in the process.

However steps are being taken to encourage co-ordination between agencies with a view to achieving a more effective process.

The Authority and the 39 providers have various methods of advertising including advertising in the Irish and British newspapers, and as appropriate in the professional journals. Use is also made of various Internet websites including the use of the ERHA website.

**01/02/05      Matters for Mention**  
*Agenda Item No. 4*

No matters for mention

✓ **01/02/06      Bed Capacity Review (Report No. 01/01)**  
*Agenda Item No. 5*

Mr. McLoughlin presented report 01/01, Bed Capacity Review to the Board (*copy appended to the Official Minute*).

Following Mr. McLoughlin's presentation of the report a lengthy debate took place to which the following members contributed:-

Cllr J. Dillon Byrne; Cllr D. Tipping; Cllr E Byrne; Senator Dr D Fitzpatrick; Cllr T Cullen; Cllr. M Gueret, Senator J.Doyle and Dr. P. O'Connell

Among the issues raised in the debate were the following:-

- The public/private patient mix and its effect on capacity
- The timescale for dealing with the issue
- Appropriate care for the young chronic sick
- Human resource requirements and planning
- The flow of patients into the region for non-tertiary procedures

In his response to the debate Mr. McLoughlin stated:-

- That the overall percentage of beds dedicated for private patients was approximately 20% and that monitoring of the public/private mix would be carried out in 2001.
- In relation to the timescale for implementing the report he indicated that an application was being forwarded to the Department of Health and Children for an immediate increase in capacity and that the balance would need to be provided over a 10 year period.
- In relation to the young chronic sick he indicated that an internal planning group was addressing the needs of the young chronic sick in 2001.
- In relation to the human resource requirement on planning he indicated that the planning exercise would encompass projections on the human resource requirements.
- In relation to non-eastern region patients he indicated that a study was underway with the full co-operation of the other health boards in the country to examine the extent of referrals and the procedures for which patients were being referred.

On the proposal of Mr. Martin Cowley, seconded by Cllr E. Byrne, Report 01/01 Bed Capacity Review was noted and agreed.

01/02/07 Accident & Emergency Services in the Eastern Region (Report 02/01)  
*Agenda Item No. 6*

Ms. Angela Fitzgerald, Director Monitoring & Evaluation presented Report 02/01 on Accident & Emergency Services in the Eastern Region to the Board (*copy appended to the Official Minute*).

Following the presentation a debate took place to which the following members contributed:-

Dr K Harkin; Dr S Barry; Cllr E Byrne; Mr P Ledwidge; Cllr C Burke; Dr M Gueret; and Cllr D Heney.

A number of issues were raised as follows:-

1. Access to "next day" emergency out-patient and diagnostic services for GPs
2. Need for improved communication process between GPs and A&E Departments
3. Scope for treating more patients that present in A&E Departments at primary care level.
4. Physical Environment of A&E Departments
5. Clarification was sought in relation to the role of the Discharge lounge.
6. The need for improved dental trauma services.

**Response:**

In her response the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation stated:-

- The patient profiling exercise which is currently being carried out will give more detailed information regarding the acuity of patients presenting to our A&E Departments.
- A review of GP out-of-hours services is being done this year.
- The appointment of A&E GP Liaison Nurses to some of our A&E Departments has contributed significantly to improved communication between A&E Departments and GPs.
- The establishment of the A&E Co-ordination Group is providing a forum to review issues such as "next day" emergency services, the role of on-call teams in supporting A&E Departments.
- The Review identified initiatives which could be undertaken immediately within the available capital resources and within the existing space constraints to improve the functioning of A&E Departments.
- Major capital developments are planned for St Vincent's Hospital, Mater, James Connolly Memorial, Naas and to include provision for new A&E Departments.
- For future developments, the challenge will be to ensure that the design of new A&E Departments reflects best practice in relation to management of patients and takes account of both volume and case-mix of patients.

- The purpose of discharge lounge is to facilitate patients who are clinically ready for discharge but whose discharge has been delayed due to issues such as transportation or delays in issuing prescriptions or discharge letters.
- The patient profiling exercise should provide some quantification of the level of demand for Dental trauma services in terms of future planning requirements. The Dublin Dental Hospital (DDH) provides an out-of-hours service and the Authority is in discussion with DDH re improvements to this service.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Fitzgerald and her staff for compiling such a comprehensive report on the A&E Services.

**On the proposal of Senator J Doyle, seconded by Mr. G McGuire, Report 02/01 A&E Services in the eastern region was noted and agreed.**

**01/02/08 Notices of Motions**  
*Agenda Item No. 8*

8.1. Sen. Therese Ridge (*deferred from December 2000 meeting*)  
 "That this Board discuss the matter of children who, due to their health condition such as severe epilepsy or autism are excluded from the mainstream education system"

As Senator Ridge was absent from the meeting the Chairman ruled that in her absence the motion falls.

8.2 Cllr. Christy Burke  
 "This authority agrees to appoint a junior doctor and public representatives to the working group of the acute hospital committee".

Cllr Burke gave a background to this motion and said that it had been brought to his attention as Chair of the Acute Hospitals & Primary Committee that a Working Group had been set up to look at A&E Services but no junior doctor was nominated.

The Chief Executive acknowledged Cllr Burkes comments and informed him that the Committee he referred to was not a sub-committee of the Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Committee but an expert Committee which he, the Chief Executive, had set up himself. The report of that Committee had now been presented to the Board.

**The motion was noted.**

8.3 *Dr. Marie Laffoy*

"That the ERHA recommends to the Minister for Health & Children that the current legislation in relation to the supply of Paracetamol be amended to take account of the Irish Medicines Board's Guidelines (1997) on the supply of paracetamol without prescription".

Dr Laffoy in moving the motion gave a background on the sale of paracetamol and the

need for legal controls to prevent the number of overdoses and the increase in liver damage.

Cllr. Eric Byrne & Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne expressed their concerns and reservations with removing paracetamol off supermarket shelves and into pharmacies. Dr. Laffoy explained that the effect of the motion was to limit the pack-size in supermarkets and shops but not to stop its sale in these outlets.

**On the proposal of Dr. M. Laffoy, seconded by Dr. K. Harkin, the motion was agreed. Dr. Laffoy requested that her report 'Paracetamol Availability and Overdose in Ireland' be forwarded to the Department of Health and Children.**

**8.4 Dr. Kieran Harkin**

"That the ERHA shall urge the relevant authorities to review the process whereby representatives of the medical profession are elected to the ERHA".

Mr. Gerry McGuire asked that the motion be amended to include the election of all representatives to the ERHA.

**On the proposal of Dr. K. Harkin, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, the motion was agreed subject to the amendment by Mr G. McGuire.**

The Chief Executive said that the system of election of professional members is the same for all Health Boards. He suggested that it may be useful to forward the motion to the Association of Health Boards. This was agreed.

**/ 01/02/09 Chief Executive's Report**  
*Agenda Item No. 9*

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

The Report dealt with the following items:-

Development of Accident & Emergency Facilities at St. James's Hospital

New Mary Mercer Health Centre in Jobstown

Negotiations regarding purchase of St. Joseph's Private Hospital, Raheny

Luas Line Stations for Dr. Steevens' & St. James's Hospitals

New MRI Unit for St. James's hospital

Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit, James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown

Additional Nurses – Filipino nurses to fill vacancies in the three Area Health Boards

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his comprehensive and informative report. He also acknowledged his appreciation on progress towards the purchase of St. Joseph's hospital in Raheny.

**The Chief Executive's Report, as circulated, was noted.**




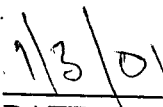
**01/02/10      Date & Time of Next Meeting**  
*Agenda Item No. 10*

The date and time of the next meeting of the Authority was agreed for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 at 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

**CORRECT**  
**Donal O Shea**  
**Chief Executive**

  
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**ALDERMAN IVOR CALLEY TD**  
**Chairman**

  
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**DATE**