

## **EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting  
held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8  
on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2001 at 6.00 p.m.**

### ***Present***

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. M. Corrigan
Cllr. L. Creaven	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. A. Devitt	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. P. Doran	Ald. Sen. J. Doyle
Cllr. A. Doyle	Mr. J. Fallon
Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick	Cllr. T. Fox
Dr. M. Gueret	Ms. N. Harvey
Dr. R. Hawkins	Cllr. D. Heney
Dr. M. Laffoy	Mr. P. Ledwidge
Cllr. C. McGrath	Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. M. Miley	Dr. M. Molloy
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Mr. M. Murphy	Cllr. D. Murray
Cllr. E. O'Brien	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Cllr. C. O'Connor	Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Sen. S. O'Fearghail	Ms. C. Quinn
Cllr. J. Reilly	Sen. T. Ridge
Cllr. R. Shorthall T.D.	Mr. L. Tuomey

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

Alderman Ivor Callely TD

### ***Apologies***

Mr. J. Dolan	Ms. A. Harris
Mr. M. Hoban	Cllr. O. Mitchell T.D.

### ***In Attendance***

Mr. Donal O Shea	Mr. Liam Woods	Dr. Brian O'Herlihy
Ms. Maureen Browne	Ms Carol Ivory	Ms Fionnuala Duffy
Ms. Angela Kerrigan	Ms. Orlagh Devine	

**01/07/61 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

*Agenda Item No. 1*

The Chairman extended the Board's sympathy to Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne and her family on the recent loss of her mother and to Mr Pat Donnelly, Chief Executive of the South Western Area Board and his family on the recent loss of his father.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Eric Byrne on his election as Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin.

The next meeting of the Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 18.00hrs, the venue is to be confirmed. The Continuing Care and Social Services Committee will meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2001, the venue to be confirmed.

**01/07/62 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001**

*Agenda Item No. 2*

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001 (copy appended to the official minute), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr J. Dillon Byrne and seconded by Mr G. McGuire, and agreed.

**01/07/63 Questions to Chief Executive**

*Agenda Item No.3*

Questions agreed to be put by the Board to the Chief Executive on proposal of the Chairman and seconded by Cllr E. Byrne.

**3.1 Cllr. C. Burke**

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to make a statement stating what complications there are, and if there have been any negotiations with the IMO and GPs re the introduction of medical cards to the over 70s?

**Reply**

Following progress in discussions between the Department of Health and Children, the doctors and the pharmacists, the Scheme is being implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001.

**3.2 Cllr. R. Shortall**

Will the CEO outline the response of the ERHA to the application by Beaumont Hospital for funding to open 35 short-term beds to deal with the pressures on Emergency services and the consequential cancellation of elective admissions; To Outline the precise amount of funding that has been applied for; the action, which

the authority have taken on foot of this request; the response of the Department and to indicate when a decision is due.

### **Reply**

The Authority first received a proposal from Beaumont hospital to open 35 short-term beds on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. This development proposal has a capital cost of £3,072,000 and a revenue cost of £2,750,000. The Authority reviewed this proposal and forwarded it to the Department on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2001 recommending the approval and funding of these additional 35 beds. It is also included in the overall proposal for short and medium term bed capacity increase submitted to the Department, the details of which were given to the Board at its June meeting.

We are actively liaising with the Department in order to establish when funding will become available for additional beds within the region and will keep the Board updated of progress in this area.

### **01/07/64      Matters for mention**

*Agenda Item No.4*

It was agreed that where the Board has decided that a report be issued, that such report will issue as soon as possible after the meeting.

### **01/07/65      Review of Service Plan 2001 (Report No. 19/01)**

*Agenda Item No.5*

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 19/01 – Review of the Service Plan 2001 (copy appended to the official minute). Following the presentation of the Report there was a debate to which the following members contributed: Cllr Eric Byrne, Mr Paul Ledwidge, Dr Michael Molloy, Cllr Therese Ridge.

During the debate the following issues were raised:

- Funding of the general practice development fund.
- Overspending under certain heads
- Appointment of Consultants to the A&E services

In responding to the debate the Chief Executive stated that:-

- He would report to one of the Standing Committees of the Board on the funding of primary care/ GP practices.
- The overspending is largely in the area of demand-led Schemes and these are funded by way of supplementary funding by the Department of Health and Children towards year end.
- The approval was received for temporary A&E Consultant posts but that it was difficult to find the candidates to take the jobs on a temporary basis.

On the proposal of Cllr Larry Butler, seconded by Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne, Report No 19/01 was adopted by the Board.

**01/07/66      Proposed Radiotherapy Developments in the Eastern Region  
(Presentation)**

*Agenda Item No.6*

At the May meeting of the Board the Chief Executive informed the members that the Minister for Health had appointed an expert group to review the development of radiotherapy services across the country. He advised the Board that he intended to make an initial submission from management to the group and that it would be brought to the Board's Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee in May where Members would have the opportunity to make additions or amendments. Following the presentation by Dr. Laffoy to the Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Committee it was agreed that the presentation be repeated at the Board Meeting for information purposes.

The presentation was followed by a debate to which the following members contributed: Dr Maurice Gueret, Dr Michael Molloy, Cllr Christy Burke, Cllr Maria Corrigan, Cllr Therese Ridge, Dr Kieran Harkin, Mr Joe Fallon, Cllr Ann Devitt, Cllr Larry Butler and Cllr Eric Byrne. In the course of the debate the members congratulated Dr Laffoy on an informative and useful presentation and the following issues were raised.

- The provision of units outside the Eastern Region to accommodate the North West/North East and the Midlands.
- The role of St Luke's Hospital in the new proposals
- The effect of an ageing population on the rate of cancer incidence.
- The provision of accommodation in association with cancer treatment units as an alternative to inpatient accommodation.

In responding to the debate Dr Laffoy confirmed that St Luke's is the national facility at the moment and will play an integral role in training and development for any new units in the region. Dr Laffoy confirmed that it was hoped to produce the figures in relation to the cancer incidence by DED as well as by county. She stated that accommodation was a basic issue in respect of the provision of these services as it was important that patients availing of the services were as comfortable as possible. She also outlined the minimum population necessary to sustain a high quality viable radiotherapy facility.

Mr O Shea explained that the Minister for Health and Children had appointed an expert group under the Chairmanship of Dr Hollywood to review the development of radiotherapy services across the country and that Dr Marie Laffoy was a member of that group. He said that the national provision of services is a matter for the Minister and the Department. He confirmed that a submission had been made to Dr Hollywood's committee along the lines of the presentation made by Dr Laffoy in respect of the Eastern Region.

The Chairman thanked Dr Marie Laffoy for her Report and on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Alderman Senator Joe Doyle the presentation was noted.

**01/07/67      Proposed purchase of St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny (Report No. 20/01)**

*Agenda Item No.7*

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Christy Burke, it was agreed by the Board to complete the proposed purchase of St Joseph's Hospital, Raheny on the terms and conditions outlined in Report No 20/01 (copy appended to the official minute).

It was agreed that a formal event around the signing of the contract would be held.

**01/07/68      Annual Report**

*Agenda Item No.8*

The Chief Executive presented the Annual Report (copy appended to the official minute) for the consideration of the Board. The Chairman acknowledged the work that the Director of Communications and her staff had done in the production of the Report. On the proposal of Cllr Larry Butler, seconded by Mr Gerry McGuire, the Annual Report was adopted by the Board.

**01/07/69      Notices of Motion**

*Agenda Item No.9*

**9.1      Cllr Christy Burke**

*That this Authority agrees to request members on a voluntary basis to donate blood to the City Blood Bank.*

On the proposal of Cllr Christy Burke, seconded by Cllr Larry Butler the motion was adopted and agreed by the Board.

**9.2      Cllr Roisin Shortall**

*That the CEO report on the progress to date in the processing of the Development Plan proposals from Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital*

**9.3      Cllr. Roisin Shortall**

*In view of much confusion among the public over the qualifying criteria for and procedures in accessing a public nursing home bed, and recognising the recent decision of the Ombudsman that all medical card holders are entitled to free nursing home care, that a clear and concise information booklet/brochure be drawn up outlining the exact qualifying criteria for 1. A public nursing home bed 2. A contract bed and 3. Subvention payments, outlining in particular the impact and assessment of pensions, family income, savings, the precise role of geriatricians, social workers etc., and any other matter deemed appropriate; and further, pending publication of the above, that the CEO arrange for such information to be furnished to members of the board as soon as possible.*

On the proposal of Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne, seconded by Cllr Eric Byrne, motions 9.2 and 9.3 in the name of Cllr Shorthall were moved for report.

## **01/07/70 Chief Executive's Report**

*Agenda Item No.10*

The Chief Executive's Report (copy appended to the official minute) was circulated. The Report dealt with the following items.

- Medical cards for the over 70s.
- The Information Commissioner's Annual Report
- Stricter drink driving laws
- New child legislation
- The resignation of the Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital
- Continuity of care for persons with life threatening illnesses
- New developments at St Vincent's University Hospital
- The Irish epilepsy pregnancy register
- The opening of a new day centre for older persons by An Taoiseach at Clareville Court, Glasnevin
- The visit by Ms Mary Hanafin, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children to Loughlinstown Hospital
- Launch of a new video on autism

There was a debate on the Chief Executive's Report to which the following members contributed: Cllr Eric Byrne, Cllr Ann Devitt, Cllr Christy Burke, Mr Gerry McGuire, Cllr Deirdre Heney, Cllr Joe Doyle, Dr Michael Molloy, Dr Kieran Harkin and the Chairman. In the course of the debate, congratulations and good wishes were expressed to Mr Pat Lyons on his new appointment and the following issues were raised.

- The purpose of the Chief Executive's Report.
- The operation of the scheme for medical cards for the over 70s
- Position in relation to the treatment of those with life treating illnesses

In responding the Chief Executive congratulated Alderman Ivor Callely on his re-election as Chairman and Alderman Senator Joe Doyle on his election as Vice Chairman. He explained that the CEO's Report was solely for the purpose of giving information to members on relevant current issues. It was agreed that this function should continue.

He confirmed that the introduction of the scheme for medical cards for the over 70s had been implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> July and that the Department of Health and Children had concluded discussions with the IMO and the Pharmaceutical Union. He confirmed that in the case of the over 70s, the contractual arrangements with General Practitioners for those persons who received the medical card on the basis of their attaining the age of 70 years would differ from those for persons who would already have had their medical card prior to that age.

Mr O Shea stated that the Eastern Regional Health Authority had been working with the Mater Hospital to ensure that a service was available for Ms. Janette Byrne before there was any indication that she was taking court proceedings. On the broader issue of the deferral or postponement of admission of patients to acute hospitals, Mr O Shea said that unfortunately this arose from time to time because of pressure on beds arising from emergency admission from the Accident and Emergency Department. Consultants prioritised patients for admission at all times on the basis of their clinical need.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his Report. On the proposal of Cllr Joe Doyle, seconded by Cllr Jim Reilly, the Chief Executive's Report as circulated was noted.


**01/07/71      Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*Agenda Item No.11*

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2001 at 6.00pm in the Board Room, Dr Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

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

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

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**DATE**