

EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 7th June 2001 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	Mr M. Cowley
Cllr T. Cullen	Cllr A. Devitt
Cllr J. Dillon Byrne	Cllr P. Doran
Ald Sen. J. Doyle	Cllr A. Doyle
Mr J. Fallon	Cllr T. Fox
Ms A. Harris	Ms N. Harvey
Ms M. Hoban	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
Dr P. O'Connell	Cllr M. O'Donovan
Mrs C. Quinn	Sen T. Ridge
Cllr R. Shorthall	Cllr D. Tipping
Mr L. Tuomey	Cllr J. Wall

In the Chair

Alderman Ivor Callely TD

Apologies

Cllr M. Corrigan Cllr Dr D. Fitzpatrick

Dr K. Harkin

In Attendance

Mr. Donal O Shea
Mr. Pat McLoughlin
Ms Carol Ivory
Ms. Louise McMahon

Dr. Brian O'Herlihy
Ms Helen Stokes

Ms. Maureen Browne
Ms. Patricia Smith

The Chairman read the Opening Prayer

01/06/46 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS
Agenda Item No. 1

The Chairman advised the Board that apologies for non attendance were received from Cllr. D. Fitzpatrick, Dr. K. Harkin and Cllr. M. Corrigan. He also notified the Board of the dates and times of the next meetings of the Standing Committees.

01/06/47 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on Thursday 5th April 2001
Agenda Item No. 2

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2001 (copy appended to the official minute), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Mr. L. Butler and seconded by Cllr.A. Devitt, and agreed.

01/06/48 Questions to Chief Executive
Agenda Item No.3

Questions agreed to be put by the Board to the Chief Executive on proposal of Cllr. J. Reilly and seconded by Cllr C. Burke.

3.1 Dr. Siobhan Barry

"Could the CEO comment on the progress being made in implementing the recommendations of the bed capacity report on the psychiatric services in the eastern region i.e., the "We have no Beds" Report, commissioned by the Department of Health in 1997 from the Health Research Board, and published/launched in March 1999?"

Reply

Context

The census of acute beds established that there were 558 acute beds in the region. 236 patients were inappropriately occupying acute beds (45%) at the time of the census, i.e. 45% of patients in hospital were judged not to require an acute bed. The high level of inappropriate occupancy was judged largely to be due to lack of some services and the inadequate provision of others such as high support and other community residential accommodation. Homelessness accounts for one third of persons inappropriately occupying acute beds. Length of stay was also considerable, with one fifth of patients (22%) staying for more than one year. It was felt from the study that pressure on acute beds is due in large measure to inappropriate occupancy of beds, rather than inappropriate admission.

Hostels

Since the publication of the report additional capital and revenue has been provided to purchase and refurbish facilities. Community accommodation provided for over the past 2 years includes:

<i>Hostel</i>	Area Health Board	No. of Places	Date of Commissioning
Ard na Greine	NAHB	10	2000
Avondale, Cloghran	NAHB	10	2001
Lindsay House, Glasnevin	NAHB	8	2001
Dunluce Road	NAHB	8	2001
Inch, Balrothery	NAHB	12	2001
Lispopple, Oldtown	NAHB	10	2001
Bramble Lodge (inc 2 respite beds)	SWAHB	14	2000
Beaufort House	SWAHB	14	2000
Ashdale	SWAHB	10	2000
Teach Ban	SWAHB	10	2001

Other Care Services:

In addition to residential accommodation, the support of day hospital and day centres are vital. In 2000, day hospital services were extended to cover evenings and weekend cover. In 2001 an allocation was made to Area 6 to develop a new day hospital service in Blanchardstown and Finglas.

The pathway of care or the spectrum of care as it is called in this report also refers to rehabilitation services. To date, much of the de-institutionalisation process has focussed on resettling people from large hospitals and organising its rehabilitation services around that care group.

The Authority is committed to providing for specific rehabilitation services in each catchment area so that people with mental illness can be afforded some training/retraining opportunities in a dedicated environment for new skill acquisition and enhanced confidence building. This process began in 1999/2000 with the allocation of resources in the South Western Area Health Board for a specific team.

Regional Services:

The report identifies two regional services based at St. Brendan's Hospital, the Special Care Units (SCU) and the No Fixed Abode (NFA) or Homeless Programme. Both services having their capability to respond as an acute services

diminished by inappropriate occupancy (defined by the study as no longer requiring this specific type of service).

The Department of Health & Children (Mental Health Division) have agreed following submissions that each Health Board should have their own Intensive Care facility (psychiatric) and consequently the plans are for each Board to develop this service to support the acute care.

Similarly the plans for the development of the St. Brendan's Hospital campus identified a purpose built 25 acute bed unit for homeless mentally ill. This service already supported by a 7 day week Outreach day centre at Usher's Island (125 people registered) is further enhanced by the allocation of resources for a second consultant posts, 2000/01. Three hostels are attached to the homeless services offering more than 30 places.

The following new development monies have been allocated to mental health services over the past three years:

Year	Monies
1999	£1.212m
2000	£2.269m
2001	£3.210m

The Authority will continue to work with the service providers and other statutory agencies to ensure that the range of accommodation measures are introduced to enable the implementation of the recommendations of the report We Have No Beds.

3.2 Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.

"To ask the CEO to outline the latest plans for providing an orthodontic service; and to outline the board's policy in relation to assistance to parents in financing private work".

Reply

The plans for the orthodontic service are those outlined in the Service Plan 2001 as adopted by the Board at its meeting on 15th January 2001.

Detailed arrangements to give effect to these Board decisions are in place with the three Area Boards.

Outline proposals were received late last year from the Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board for the operation of a pilot scheme to assist those people who wish to make their own private arrangements. I understand from the Chief Executive of the Northern Area Health Board that questions have been

raised regarding the legality of the scheme. As a result we are seeking legal advice on the matter. I have every intention of fully facilitating and supporting the Northern Area Health Board in this proposal and of getting the scheme in place as quickly as possible.

01/06/49 Matters for mention
Agenda Item No.4

Cllr. A. Devitt sought clarification regarding the submission of questions to the Board of the Authority. The Chairman advised the Members that the matter was considered at a recent Protocol Committee meeting and that it was agreed that clarification in this regard be circulated to all members.

Cllr Brady asked about the positioning of the Chief Executive's Report at the end of the Agenda. The Chairman advised Cllr. Brady that the order of business had been set out in the Board's Standing Orders which were reviewed and adopted by the Protocol Committee and the Board and as a result the CEO's Report was placed at the end of the Agenda.

01/06/50 Acute Hospital Elective Bed Usage in the Eastern Region – Report No. 15/01
Agenda Item No.5

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 15/01 – Acute Hospital Bed Usage in the Eastern Region. Following the presentation of the report, there was a debate to which the following members contributed:- Alderman Ivor Callely T.D., Cllr. T. Ridge, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Fallon, Cllr. J. Doyle, Cllr. C. Burke, Cllr. T. Cullen, Cllr. Butler, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. R. Shortall, Mr. M. Cowley, Ms. C. Quill, Mr. G. Brady, Cllr. A. Devitt, Cllr. A. Doyle.

During the debate on the Report the following issues were raised:-

- The extent of patient referral from outside the east.
- The necessity of ensuring that the information in the Report is brought to the attention of the health boards nationally
- The importance of feeding the information into the planning process and that regard is had to the patient flows in determining funding for the East.

In responding to the debate, the Chief Executive undertook to formally submit Report No. 15/01 to the Minister for Health and Children, to the Department of Health and Children, to the Association of Health Boards and the Chief Executives of the Health Boards. He also drew the members' attention to Report No. 16/01 – Adult Acute Hospital Bed Capacity Proposals which outlined the short term measures proposed to address the bed capacity situation. On the proposal of Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. A. Devitt, Report 15/01 was adopted by the Board.

01/06/51 Adult Acute Hospital Bed Capacity Proposals – Report No. 16/01
Agenda Item No.6

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 16/01 – Adult Acute Hospital Bed Capacity Proposals. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Devitt, seconded by Cllr. J. Doyle, Report 16/01 was adopted by the Board without debate.

01/06/52 Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Regional Strategy – Report No. 17/01
Agenda Item No.7

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 17/01 – Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Regional Strategy. On the proposal of Cllr. J. Doyle, seconded by Mr. G. McGuire, Report 17/01 was adopted by the Board without debate.

01/06/53 Human Resource Regional Strategy – Report No. 18/01
Agenda Item No 8

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 18/01 – Human Resource Regional Strategy. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Devitt, seconded by Cllr. J. Doyle, Report 18/01 was adopted by the Board without debate.

01/06/54 Report from the Committees of the Board
Agenda Item No 9

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. G. McGuire, the Report from the Committees of the Board was noted.

01/06/55 Notice of Motion
Agenda Item No.10

10.1 Cllr Don Tipping & Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne

“The ERHA hereby resolves to fully support the granting of a medical card to all persons over 70 years of age and sees this as a stepping stone to providing a health service that treats all persons equally and looks forward to a fully funded health service which does not require payment by the individual at point of seeking to avail of the service”.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Tipping, seconded by Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, the motion was moved for debate. Following a lengthy debate to which the following members contributed:- Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. S. Barry, Dr. M. Molloy, Dr. M. Laffoy, Cllr. A. Devitt, Ms. Noeleen Harvey, Cllr. Dermot Murray, the Chairman, Cllr. T. Fox, the motion was put to a roll call vote. The outcome of the vote

was 13 members in favour of the vote, 10 members against the motion with one abstention. Accordingly the motion was agreed. The members present voted as follows:-

For the Motion	Against the Motion	Abstain
Cllr C.Burke	Dr. S Barry	Cllr. A. Devitt
Cllr L.Butler	Cllr. C. Byrne	
Cllr E.Byrne	Ald. Sen. J. Doyle	
Alderman Ivor Callely TD	Ms. A Harris	
Mr M.Cowley	Ms. M. Hoban	
Cllr J.Dillon Byrne	Dr. M Laffoy	
Cllr T Fox	Mr. P Ledwidge	
Ms. Noeleen Harvey	Dr M Molloy	
Mr G. McGuire	Dr. B. Murphy	
Mr. M Murphy	Cllr. D. Murray	
Mrs. C. Quinn		
Cllr D Tipping		
Mr L. Tuomey		

10.2 Cllr Roisin Shortall, T.D.

"That the CEO outline the typical cost of providing a) bath seat b) stair banister and c) bath rails to pensioners with medical cards; and in view of the shortage of 28 occupational therapists in the ERHA area resulting in many cases in over 12 month waiting periods for assessments and recognising the importance of other work which occupational therapists must engage in, that he consider granting requests for such equipment as of right to say over 66s as the current delays are completely unacceptable".

On the proposal of Mr. L Tuomey, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, it was agreed that a report would be sent to Cllr. Shortall.

01/06/56 Chief Executive's Report
Agenda Item No. 11

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

The Report dealt with the following items:-

- New Laboratory Facilities
- Breastcheck Screening
- Lung Cancer Screening Programme in Beaumont
- Tallaght Hospital Stroke Service
- Improvements/Upgrading of on-call Accommodation
- Major Development at St Vincent's University Hospital
- Pilot Training Initiative
- Drogheda Memorial Hospital
- Booklet on key contacts

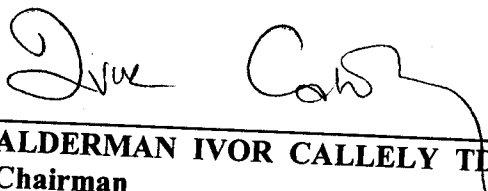
It was proposed by Cllr Joe Doyle and seconded by Cllr Jim Reilly that the CEO's report, as circulated, be noted.

01/06/57 Date & Time of Next Meeting
Agenda Item No. 12

The date and time of the Annual General Meeting of the Authority was agreed for Thursday 5th July 2001 at 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital to be followed by the ordinary meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 p.m.

CORRECT
Donal O Shea
Chief Executive



ALDERMAN IVOR CALLEY TD
Chairman

DATE