



NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Bord Sláinte an Limistéir Thuaidh

17th July 2000

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in the **Great Southern Hotel, (Botanic Suite) Dublin Airport** on **Monday 17th July, 2000** at **5.00p.m.** Tea is arranged for 4.30pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

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1. Chairpersons Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting held on 15th June 2000 [copy herewith]
 - (a) Matters arising from minutes
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Report of the Joint Committee on Vascular Surgery Services-- Report No. 28/2000 [copy herewith]
6. Second Annual Report of the Information Commissioner -- Report No. 29/2000 [to be circulated]
7. Report of Finance & Property Committee -- Report No. F1/2000 [copy herewith]

8. Progress Report from Standing Committees
 - (a) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee
 - (b) Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee

9. Notices of Motion

9.1 Cllr. Roisin Shortall

"That the Northern Area Health Board engage in discussions with meal providers in senior citizen complexes to ensure that there is cover on all year round basis, and that the health board provide adequate support and resourcing to make this feasible."

9.2 Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien

"That a local facility be put in place whereby parents who suspect that their children may be involved in taking illegal substances can have a urine sample tested. The present arrangement where the parent's must fork out a doctor's fee for an 'introductory note' to a hospital and to then have to transport the specimen to have said test carried out must cease."

9.3 Cllr. Christy Burke

"That the Northern Area Health Board agrees to arrange visits to drug treatment centres at City Clinic, Amiens Street and Trinity Court, Pearse Street."

9.4 Cllr. Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive to request that all of the staff and departments to respond to Board members when they phone or write to Health Board departments."

10. Correspondence

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of 6th Board Meeting of the Northern Area Health Board

held in The Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport.

On Monday 17th July 2000 at 5.00p.m.

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Ald. I. Callely, T.D.
Mr. M. Cowley
Cllr. L. Creaven
Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick
Ms. N. Harvey
Cllr. D. Heney
Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. G. McGuire
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. E. O'Brien
Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Mrs. C. Quinn
Dr. J. Reilly
Mr. L. Tuomey

In the Chair

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Cllr. A. Devitt
Mr. J. Fallon
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.

Officers in Attendance

Ms. M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr. J. Cahill, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. M. Kelly, Director Human Resources
Ms. N. Byrne, Communications Manager
Dr. B. Sweeney, Consultant Psychiatrist
Ms. O. Treacy, Board Secretary
Ms. M. Halpin, Secretariat

47/2000

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report.

1. Condolences

I am sure members will join with me in expressing sincere sympathy with those whose names that have been included on the list of condolences, which has been circulated to members.

2. Next Board meeting

I would like remind members that the next monthly meeting of our Board will take place on Thursday 21st September 2000.

3. Workshop

Following on from our recent information meeting with members, perhaps members could agree a date for a follow up meeting

4. Child Care Advisory Committee

Members will recall nominations being made to the Child Care Advisory Committee at our last monthly meeting. Perhaps members can indicate if they wish to hold a meeting prior to September 2000.

Following discussion on items 3 & 4 members decided to hold these meetings in September 2000 – dates to be arranged later.

48/2000

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2000

On a proposal by Cllr. M. O'Donovan, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, the minutes of the proceedings of monthly meeting held on 15th June 2000 were agreed.

49/2000

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. C. Burke, seconded by Ald. I. Callely, T.D., it was agreed to answer the questions that had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a present update in relation to the waiting list and services for drug abusers at city clinic Amiens Street and how long is it for a person to be allocated a bed when a person is on a waiting list"

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Reply

The information requested in relation to services provided at City Clinic, Amiens Street, is as follows:-

(a) Numbers in Treatment / Waiting:-

	In Treatment	Waiting
Maintenance Programme	204	10*
Young Persons Programme	81	5
Scripting Clinic	24	-
Mobile Bus (Empress Place)	27	-

*4 of the 10 waiting have appointments for the Mobile Bus service on, 17th July 2000.

(b) Services Provided:-

- Nurse assessments/ service
- Counsellor assessments / service
- GP assessments / service
- GP Scripting Clinic
- CWO service
- Pharmacy / Dispensing service
- Outreach Base for Outreach Workers in the Area
- Psychiatric Sessions on appointment for clients attending clinic
- HIV testing service
- Hepatitis B and C testing service
- Detoxification Programme
- Crèche facilities

(c) Residential Detoxification Services:-

There is a 12 week waiting time for residential detoxification services in Cuan Dara, Cherry Orchard Hospital. However, emergency cases are given priority. The waiting time for residential detoxification services will be reduced considerably in the near future following the full commissioning of services at the Stabilisation Unit on the Cherry Orchard Hospital campus and at the Downstream Unit on the St. Mary's Hospital campus.

In this regard it should be noted that there are difficulties in recruiting generic specialist staff to these services. All possible options are being considered and explored in order to overcome the staffing difficulties as soon as possible.

2. Cllr. Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive to give this Board an update on the recent heroin deaths in Dublin City and as to what has been the cause of deaths to the people who used this drug."

Reply

Since the first cases of unidentified severe illness among heroin users were confirmed in Dublin almost eight weeks ago, the Department of Public Health (E.R.H.A.) has written to GP's, drug treatment clinics, hospital Accident & Emergency Departments and acute medical and surgical teams, informing them of the outbreak and asking them to be alert for symptoms in drug misusers presenting for treatment.

Consequently, GP's and hospitals have been extra vigilant for anyone presenting with symptoms indicative of this particular illness. These symptoms include an abscess or other significant inflammation at the injection site. There may be a severe inflammation process around the injection site or the person may have a severe systematic inflammatory reaction with evidence of multi-organ failure and a high white cell count. As a result of this, a further three probable cases have now been identified. All three are recovering and one has been discharged from hospital. In each case the symptoms began in early June and the patients only recently presented to hospital. These cases are similar to an outbreak of heroin related deaths in Glasgow and a small number in the North of England.

The ERHA Outbreak Investigation Team is continuing its information gathering to determine the precise date of the onset of symptoms in these three cases. This brings the total number of cases in the ERHA region to 22 of whom eight have died. The cause of the deaths appears to be due to a toxic reaction which is probably related to an infection. The organism which appears to be producing this toxin has not yet been identified. Samples have been sent to the Research Centre in Guys and St. Thomas Medical Toxicology Unit in London and to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, U.S.A., where they are still undergoing tests.

3. Cllr. Christy Burke

"To ask the Chief Executive to make a statement on the future of the homeless unit at Charles Street, Dublin 7."

Reply

Since 1985 the provision of welfare services to homeless people in the Eastern Regional Health Authority region has been operated from a central location in Charles Street West. This service is operated by Community Welfare Officers, who provide a placement service for homeless people on an agency basis for the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs. This service is funded jointly by the local authorities and the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs.

Since the establishment of the unit, homeless people are usually referred here for a service regardless of where they first present themselves as homeless. This has placed huge demands on the unit. The staff in the unit deal with both emergency needs of homeless people as well as the ongoing welfare needs of the homeless people who have been placed in emergency accommodation.

Dublin Corporation is anxious to develop the Charles Street district of the city. This includes the unit currently providing a service to the homeless. Our objective is to have a number of satellite services for adult homeless in suburban areas and to improve and develop a range of services based and managed locally. We are working very closely with Dublin Corporation to identify these and city centre alternative locations.

4. Cllr. Roisin Shortall

"To ask the Chief Executive what action the health board is taking to address the serious delays in the approval of applications to the Eastern Community Works; if she will provide details of the average or typical wait for an applicant and the reasons for such waiting times; if she accepts that these delays are completely unacceptable in view of the immediacy of many of the problems facing applicants; if the Department have been informed of these problems; if she will examine if there are any means of fast-tracking certain types of works or of allowing applicants to engage contractors other than those used by the health board to offset delays, particularly in the case of smaller works; and if there are any other proposals to deal with the current waiting times."

Reply

The Special Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme in the Eastern Regional Health Authority area is funded by the Department of Environment and Local Government and delivered by Eastern Community Works Ltd, a subsidiary company of the Area Health Boards. The funding provided this year is £1.2m. Funding in 1999 was £0.99m.

The scheme provides for the carrying out of urgent, essential minor repairs and improvements to the homes of eligible elderly persons living alone or with no able bodied relatives available to carry out the work. It does not apply to local authority tenants.

Client needs are prioritised through health visitor reports and following inspection of living conditions by the works supervisor. The most urgent cases, which account for less than 10% of applications, are listed for immediate attention. This work is normally carried out immediately or at most within a four-month period. There is a waiting period of up to twelve months for less urgent work, with up to a two-year wait for low priority works.

In line with one of the initial objectives of the scheme, every effort is made to have works carried out by teams of FAS trainees. However due to the current buoyant economy and job opportunities it has become increasingly difficult for FAS to source and provide trainees. As a consequence of this difficulty, Eastern Community Works have engaged private contractors in accordance with approved tendering and tax clearance procedures. However due to the continuing consumer demands within the construction industry, Eastern Community Works has experienced increasing difficulties in engaging contractors. In many cases where work is put to tender and there is no response from private contractors. Those factors have contributed significantly to the current waiting lists.

To fast track this work the Board of Eastern Community Works Ltd has agreed to devolve the operation of the Special Housing Scheme to the local Community Care Areas. In this regard, a multi-disciplinary group has been set up to examine and report on all aspects of the Scheme. The devolution of the scheme to local community care areas will allow closer contact and improved communication with the applicants. In addition, Eastern Community Works are now paying grants to approved applicants in respect of the installation of central heating systems and we are evaluating the extension of similar arrangements to the main housing aid scheme.

5. Cllr. Roisin Shortall

"To ask the Chief Executive why the Nursing Officer and Deputy Nursing Officer posts in St. Ita's Hospital, as recently advertised, were confined to nurses who were registered in the Psychiatric nursing division of the Register held by An Bord Altranais, thus excluding registered Mental Handicap nurses for applying for the post; her response to criticisms from NAMHI that this policy is detrimental to the overall service as it proves a disincentive to this category of nurse in a service where a mix of nursing qualifications is vital; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Reply

Following protracted negotiations with unions regarding nursing staff at St. Ita's Hospital, agreement was reached recently on the permanent filling of a number of Clinical Nurse Manager posts which had been filled on a long-term acting basis. This is a preliminary step in addressing a comprehensive list of issues with staff representatives regarding the Learning Disability Services and Mental Health Services provided at St. Ita's Hospital. The main objective of these discussions and negotiations is to establish formal agreement on the recognition of separate and distinct services based on client need.

In accordance with the agreement recently reached with the unions concerned, a current competition for the permanent filling of the Clinical Nurse Manager posts is confined to the existing nursing staff at the hospital who have a registered psychiatric nurse qualification. This competition is unique and 'once off'. It is intention of management that in future the permanent filling of such posts will be by way of open competition and nurses registered as Mental Handicap nurses will be eligible.

Our Board works in close co-operation and consultation with the National Association for Mentally Handicapped in Ireland in relation to the provision and development of services for persons with a learning disability. The Association is aware of the arrangements outlined above and the complexities of the issues involved. The agreement reached with the unions concerned will not have any detrimental effect on the quality and delivery of services provided at St. Ita's Hospital including services provided to persons with a learning disability.

6. Cllr. Roisin Shortall

"In relation to the provision of nursing homes places; to ask the Chief Executive:

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- a. the number of public, contract and private beds currently in the nursing home system in the Northern Area Health Board,
 - b. the number of people in the health board area who are presently awaiting a nursing home place,
 - c. to outline the health board's strategy in relation to the availability of nursing home places,
 - d. to outline all steps that are being taken to increase nursing home supply; if homes in the North Eastern Health Board area have been approached for these purposes in view of the fact that many northside residents can only be offered contract beds in Bray, and the outcome of such approaches
 - e. to outline the steps she would advocate at Department level to assist in meeting the escalating demand; if she considers subvention payments to be appropriate, and if the resources at her disposal are sufficient to provide an adequate service,
 - f. to indicate if there has been any assessment undertaken of spare capacity among public and private providers and if so the outcome of such assessments,
 - g. to indicate the average or typical waiting time between recognition of need and final placement in the Northern Area Health Board area,

and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Reply

- (a) The number of public and contract beds for older persons in the Northern Area Health Board and the total number of registered private nursing home beds actually located in the Northern Area Health Board is as follows:-

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD		
<i>Public Beds</i>	<i>Contract Beds</i>	<i>Registered Private Nursing Home Beds</i>
743	308	1003

- (b) The number of older people in the Northern Area Health Board waiting long stay care in a public bed is approximately sixty.
- (c) & (d) The principles underpinning the provision of services to older people are the provision of support and strengthening of primary health services to allow older people remain in their homes for as long as is practical with dignity, independence and a good quality of life. This is the objective and goal of all the community services.

The transfer of an older person from their home to residential care must only be considered when the older person has been medically assessed as in need of that level of care and when all other care options to support the older person at home have been exhausted.

Additional revenue funding of £1.014m was made available to the former Eastern Health Board this year to meet the demands for increased numbers of nursing home subventions.

Forty additional contract nursing home places were recently brought on stream and allocated to the Departments of Medicine for Older Persons at the Mater, Beaumont and James Connolly Memorial Hospital. Thirty of these additional places are located in private nursing homes in the North Eastern Health Board area. This brings to a total of 56 the number of private beds which our Board has contracted in the North Eastern Health Board area. Placements within the North Eastern Health Board Area are only made with the agreement of the patients family. Obviously every effort is made to ensure that the location of the nursing home is within a reasonable distance of the patients next of kin.

Other service developments planned this year in accordance with our Service Plan 2000 include;

- A Day Centre and four bed Convalescent / Respite / Infirmary facility at Baldoyle. This service is due to commence on 1st October 2000.
- A Day Care Centre in Skerries. This service is due to commence on 1st September 2000.
- An increase in the level of home helps.
- Additional funding to support Carers and to improve community support structures.

Other developments identified as part of the 'Ten Year Action Plan for Services for Older Persons 1999 – 2008' included the provision of additional fifty beds in the following locations:-

- St. Clare's (First Unit) 1999 / 2000
- Lusk 1999 / 2000
- Raheny 1999 / 2000
- Beaumont 2000 / 2001
- St. Clare's (Second Unit) 2000 / 2001

These developments are subject to planning permission (with the exception of both units at St. Clare's) and funding (with the exception of the first unit at St. Clare's). Funding for the first unit at St. Clare's was provided in 1999 and 2000. The other facilities are included as part of the National Development Plan.

- (e) Additional funding, as outlined above, has been made available by the Department of Health and Children this year to meet increasing demands for nursing home subvention. There are now approximately 380 (number fluctuates on a daily basis) persons for the Northern Area Health Board in receipt of nursing home subvention. Subvention is only paid to persons who have been medically assessed as being in need of nursing home care and who are unable to pay any or part of the cost of such care. The amount of subvention paid is determined by reference to the dependency level of the patient and their individual financial means. It can be assumed, therefore, that if subvention towards the cost of private nursing home care was not available, those in receipt of such payment would require care in a public health care facility. The current

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cost of private nursing home subventions in respect of our Boards area is approximately £3.483m.

The increasing demands for private nursing home subventions will continue to be monitored by our Board with a view to identifying future needs.

- (f) All available places within our Boards area are being utilised. While we have 56 contract beds in the North Eastern Health Board area, it is considered that the placement of older persons outside of the Eastern Regional Health Authority / North Eastern Health Board areas is not the most desirable arrangement having regard to the concerns and needs of the patient, relatives and friends.
- (g) The client is dealt with on the basis of need. Those with greatest need received priority treatment. Waiting time will vary depending on a range of factors including the level of dependency, community & family support and suitability and location of available places.

50/2000

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Following discussion on item fourteen to which Cllr. C. Burke, Ald. I. Callely, T.D., Cllr. E. O'Brien, Mr. L. Tuomey, Mr. G. McGuire and Dr. J. Reilly contributed and to which the Chief Executive, Dr. Sweeney and Ms. Kelly replied, the report from the Chief Executive was noted:

1. *Waiting Lists*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press releases dated 23rd May 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin reveals that the numbers on public hospital waiting lists have fallen by 2,485 over the first quarter of this year. The Minister also announces details of a major targeted initiative on public hospital waiting lists that will see an additional 7,600 waiting list procedures being performed by hospitals by the end of the year.

2. *Foster Care Allowance*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 16th June 2000 in which Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children announced that foster care allowances are being increased.

3. *Allied Health Professionals*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 21st June 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announces a significant package of measures aimed at increasing the numbers of allied health professionals and improving their working conditions.

4. *Report of the National AIDS Strategy Committee*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 22nd June 2000 which announces the launch by Dr. Tom Moffatt, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children of the report of the National AIDS Strategy Committee, entitled "AIDS Strategy 2000".

5. *Measles/MMR Vaccine Awareness Campaign*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 23rd June 2000 advising that the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin T.D., launched a Measles/MMR Vaccine Awareness Campaign.

6. *Amendment to the Medical Practitioners Act*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 27th June 2000 which advises that Mr Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Health and Children brought the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2000 before the cabinet.

7. *New Anti-Smoking Legislation*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 29th June 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin T.D., welcomes the agreement by European Ministers to enact strict new laws on tobacco products.

8. *Health Insurance Bill*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 30th June 2000 which announces the publication of the Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2000 by Mr Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Health and Children.

9. *North/South MRSA Study*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 4 July 2000 in which Mr Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Health and Children announces the publication of the North/South Study of MRSA in Ireland, 1999.

10. *Public Health Nurses*

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 4 July 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin T.D. announced a £1 million package for Public Health Nurses.

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11. Homeless Initiative

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 7th July 2000 in which the Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D., announced a major new initiative to prevent youth homelessness among children leaving care.

12. Hospital Bed Replacement Programme

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announces a major hospital bed replacement initiative while at the launch of Healthcare Materials Management Board policy document 'Health Service Procurement Policy'.

13. James Connolly Memorial Hospital Update

I wish to advise members that since the last meeting of our Board a number of meetings have taken place between the Northern Area Health Board, ERHA and the Department of Health and Children. A proposal to deal with the issues encountered by the project team and JCMH has been prepared and forwarded to the Eastern Regional Health Authority and Department of Health and Children. It is anticipated that we will receive a positive response to this proposal this week.

14. Youth Homelessness

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting copies of press release dated 14th July 2000 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin announces that he has agreed with the Eastern Regional Health Authority that a comprehensive package of child care service developments to tackle youth homelessness will be put in place immediately.

I have also attached details of an action plan in response to the Minister's press release of the 14th July 2000. I have also enclosed a copy of a press statement, dated 16th July 2000, from Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, in response to an article in the *Sunday Business Post*.

15. Update on Action for dealing with nursing Shortage

Ms. M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources is co-ordinating a project group for the eastern region representative of all agencies i.e. the area health boards, the voluntary hospitals and voluntary agencies. The role of this group will be to look at nursing staff shortages and shortages in other disciplines.

An initial research of the availability of nursing staff in Australia and the Philippines by a recruitment agency has indicated that there are a large number of qualified nurses who should be suitable for care of the aged and the mental health service. Work is in progress preparing for a small team of nurse managers and administrative support to travel to the Philippines and Australia in the next few weeks. The voluntary hospitals and agencies in the region will be invited to participate.

With regard to the motion passed at the Eastern Health Board meeting in February to request the Minister to re-introduce the original system of training for nurses, understand that while no formal response has yet been received the Department would not be in favour of this suggestion in the context of the introduction of the Diploma in 1996/97 and the move towards a degree programme in 2001 as recommended by the Commission on Nursing. I will follow up for formal response.

16. Drugs Courts System

The *Working Group on a Courts Commission* issued a report in February 1998. A Group has now been set up to consider the development of a Drugs court pilot which will operate within the Northern Area Health Board. I am a member of the Drug court Steering Group which has been set up under the chairmanship of Judge Haughton.

51/2000

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON VASCULAR SURGERY SERVICES

It was agreed to refer Report No. 28/2000 (copy filed with official minute) to the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee.

52/2000

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Report No 29/2000 (copy filed with official minute) was noted.

53/2000

REPORT OF FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

On a proposal of Cllr. E. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. D. Heney, Report No. F1/2000 (copy filed with official minute) was agreed.

54/2000

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee

On a proposal by Mr. L. Tuomey, seconded by Cllr. D. Heney, it was agreed to add the report of the AGM and monthly meeting.

The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Screening and medical services for asylum seekers - while discussing this report members expressed concern regarding the disparity between the number of asylum seekers offered medical screening and the number who avail of the service; it was agreed that the Department of Health and Children be asked to give this matter serious attention

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- Report on Irish Psychiatric Services Activities 1998 – members requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Health Research Board to request that future reports include additional statistical information in relation to homeless mentally ill; community psychiatric services and hospital deaths
- Dual Diagnosis Service in the Eastern Regional Health Authority

(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee

Following discussion on the report of the AGM to which Mr. G. McGuire, Mr. L. Tuomey, Dr. J. Reilly, Dr. B. Murphy and Cllr. E. O'Brien contributed, Mr. McGuire proposed that Section 22 of the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999 did not apply to Standing Committees. This proposal was seconded by Mr. L. Tuomey and agreed unanimously.

On a proposal by Cllr. E. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. C. Burke, it was agreed to adopt the report of the monthly meeting. The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- Membership of the committee
- Report of the Working Group – Violence and Aggression in A & E Departments of Six Major Hospitals
- Development of Ophthalmic Services for Children in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow

55/2000

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. At the request of Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D., the motion in her name was moved for report by Cllr. E. O'Brien and noted.
2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. C. Burke.

"That a local facility be put in place whereby parents who suspect that their children may be involved in taking illegal substances can have a urine sample tested. The present arrangement where the parent's must fork out a doctor's fee for an 'introductory note' to a hospital and to then have to transport the specimen to have said test carried out must cease."

Following discussion on this motion to which Cllr. O'Brien and Dr. J. Reilly contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Dr. Sweeney replied, it was agreed with Cllr. O'Brien approval to bring a detailed report on the issues surrounding this matter to the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee.

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Burke.

"That the Northern Area Health Board agrees to arrange visits to drug treatment centres at City Clinic, Amiens Street and Trinity Court, Pearse Street."

It was noted that these visits are arranged to take place on 6th October 2000.

4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Burke and seconded by Dr. J. Reilly.

"To ask the Chief Executive to request that all of the staff and departments to respond to Board members when they phone or write to Health Board departments."

Following related discussion to which Cllr. Burke, Dr. Reilly, Cllr. E. O'Brien, Mr. L. Tuomey and Dr. Fitzpatrick contributed and to which the Chief Executive replied the motion was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 7.00p.m.

CORRECT:

**M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN