
Minute of the meeting of the
Board of the Health Service Executive
on
Thursday, 11th June 2009

Members present: L. Downey (Chairman), B. Drumm (CEO), N. Brennan, D. de Buitléir, P. Farrell, PJ Fitzpatrick, M. Gaffney, E. McCague, J. Mooney, W. O'Reilly, D. Power and A. Scott.

Apologies: None

Attendees: D. Purcell, Secretary.

Joined the meeting: S. McGrath, L. McGuinness, A. Doherty, J. Carolan, L. Woods, B. Gilroy and L. Stronge.

Time & Location: HSE-EA, Adelaide Road, Dublin, at 8.00 a.m.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
1	Minutes of the previous meeting	
	The minutes of the Board meeting held on the 14 th May, 2009 were agreed.	
2	Matters arising from minutes	
	The action points from the previous meeting were reviewed and noted. No matters were arising.	
3	Report from CEO	
	<p>The CEO spoke to the monthly report to the Board. He reported in particular on the following, the integrated services programme, including the appointment of a National Director of Quality and Clinical Care; the establishment of the National Directorate for Integrated Services; the arrangements to fill positions at Regional Operations Directors and National Care Group levels; the emerging industrial relations issues, including the High Court settlement in relation to the NCHD contract issues; the social partnership talks which commenced on 26th May 2009; the non compliance of the Trade Unions with the Government moratorium on recruitment and promotion in the public services; the suspension of the incentivised schemes for career breaks, shorter working year and early retirement due to the non co-operation of the health service unions with re-deployment and re-assignment proposals; and the effects of the strike action by nurses in Sligo General Hospital.</p> <p>The CEO also provided an update to the Board on the work of the national crisis management team to manage the threat of a national pandemic posed by the Influenza A(H1N1) - Swine Flu.</p> <p>The Chairman and CEO reported to the Board on the issues discussed at the Cabinet Committee meeting on the 27th May 2009 and the launch on the 28th May 2009 of the HSE Annual Report 2008.</p>	

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4	Report of Committees of the Board	
	<p>Risk Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 9th June 2009 Prof A. Scott, Chairman of the Risk Committee, reported on the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 9th June 2009. The Committee had considered progress reports on the work plans of the Serious Incident Management Team and the Office of Quality and Risk; the audit of the corporate risk register; the composition and terms of reference for the Steering Group set up to implement the recommendations from the Report in the Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance. Prof. Scott reported, in particular, on the work being undertaken through the Population Health, NHO and PCCC Directorates to conclude service level arrangements with voluntary service providers in relation to funding provided under sections 38 and 39 of the Health Act, 2004. A further report on this issue would be provided by the CEO at the July 2009 Board meeting.</p> <p>Joint Audit/Risk Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 9th June 2009 Prof. N. Brennan reported on the joint meeting of the Audit and Risk committees held on Tuesday, 9th June 2009. The Committee had considered an update from both Internal Audit and Quality and Risk on the audit of the action plans to mitigate the risks on the corporate risk register. The joint meeting had also received a report from management on the transfer from the Department of Health & Children to the HSE of funding arrangements to meet the costs of claims under the Clinical Indemnity Scheme.</p> <p>Audit Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 9th June 2009 Prof. N. Brennan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on Tuesday, 9th June 2009. The Committee had considered a report on the development of a national HSE property assets register; improvements in income collection arrangements; actions to address Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) audit findings on salary over-payments; management updates in relation to the implementation of the report by Michael Torpey on the review of the HSE financial controls; completion of Phase 2 of the national financial regulations project; progress on implementation of the recommendations in the National Treasury Management Agency report; the amalgamation of subsidiary companies into the HSE; the Ministerial Expert Group (Ruane) on resource allocation and financing of the health sector; and the action plan to implement the recommendations in the report on the review of the internal financial controls within the HSE. The committee had also considered the draft Patient Private Property Accounts 2008 which will be reported at agenda item 7.</p> <p>Following a discussion the reports from the Committees were noted.</p>	CEO
5	Performance Report – April 2009	
	<p>L. McGuinness, A. Doherty, L. Woods, S. McGrath and J. Carolan joined the meeting for consideration of this item.</p> <p>Performance Report April 2009 and Vote Return May 2009 L. Woods reported to the Board on the activity and employment levels and financial position at the end of April 2009 as set out in the Performance Report and in the Vote Expenditure Report at the end of May 2009 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>He confirmed the HSE is achieving the activity levels set in the Service Plan and, in some areas, exceeding them. However he reported that, current expenditure levels must be reduced if a balanced vote outturn is to be achieved by year end. He tabled at the meeting a list of issues which were presenting new financial risks to the HSE since publication of the revised</p>	

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	<p>estimates volume. These include increased superannuation claims and a shortfall/delay in delivery of savings identified in the National Service Plan on non-core basic pay elements.</p> <p>A. Doherty and L. McGuinness reported on the plans in place to manage staffing, finances and service activity in line with levels agreed in the National Service Plan 2009 and confirmed that, while significant progress has been made to maintain budgets and activity levels in line with service plan targets, the financial and IR challenges to the HSE's delivery of the service plan levels continue to be very substantial.</p> <p>The Board noted that management will maintain an ongoing review of the situation as further information emerges on the extent to which the financial and staffing targets are being achieved and will continue to liaise closely with the Department of Health and Children on this matter. The emerging position will be reported at the July 2009 Board meeting.</p>	L. Woods
6	Medium-term planning 2010 and beyond	
	<p>J. Carolan spoke to the briefing paper on this item which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Board considered the range of measures at a high level which would be required to continue to deliver existing levels of services based on the Department of Finance budgetary projections to 2013. Following discussion and inputs from Board members it was noted that management will continue discussion with the DOHC on policy and operational changes which might influence the National Service Plan 2010. An update on these discussions will be provided for the July 2009 meeting.</p>	J. Carolan
7	Patient Private Property Accounts 2008	
	<p>L. Woods spoke to the briefing paper on the preparation and contents of the draft Patient Private Property Accounts 2008 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He reported that the accounts had been considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 9th June, 2009.</p> <p>Following a discussion approval of the accounts was proposed by J. Mooney and seconded by W. O'Reilly and agreed (HSE Board Decision No. (11.06 (14)/2009).</p> <p>The Board noted that the draft Patient Private Property Accounts 2008 would now be sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit as required under section 18 of the Health (Repayment Scheme) Act 2006.</p>	L. Woods
8	Report on External Consultancy Costs	
	<p>L. Stronge joined the meeting for consideration of this item and spoke to the up-dated schedule of external consultancies currently engaged by the HSE and reported on the management process in place to control the engagement of external consultancies. Following consideration of the schedule the Board noted that many of the consultancy costs relate to health promotion and protection and other clinical training projects. In addition, while the Board noted that, the engagement of management consultancy services is required and necessary in certain instances, it welcomed the management focus to control expenditure in this area in line with the target to reduce expenditure on advertising, public relations and consultancy by at least 50% in 2009 as against 2007 expenditure levels.</p>	
9	Property Transactions	
	<p>B. Gilroy joined the meeting for consideration of this item and spoke to the briefing papers on the two property transactions as circulated prior to the</p>	

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	<p>meeting.</p> <p>1. Disposal/Acquisition of Lands at Wexford General Hospital The property transaction in relation to the Wexford General Hospital was proposed by P.J. Fitzpatrick, seconded by P. Farrell and agreed by the Board (<i>HSE Board Decision No. (11.06 (15)/2009</i>).</p> <p>2. Lease of Property for Primary Care Centres The lease arrangements for primary care properties as set out in the paper circulated to the Board was proposed by PJ Fitzpatrick and seconded by A. Scott and agreed by the Board (<i>HSE Board Decision No. (11.06 (16)/2009</i>).</p> <p>Capital B. Gilroy advised the Board that, following publication of the revised estimates volume, all capital commitments have been reviewed and only projects for which the HSE are contractually committed will continue. It is currently estimated that this will give rise to an overrun on the 2009 Capital Budget by approximately €30 million. Management is engaging with the Department on options to deliver a balanced capital vote. B. Gilroy was requested to circulate a paper to clarify the capital funding situation.</p>	B. Gilroy
10	AOB	
	The Secretary was requested to circulate details of a health service education programme being offered through the Mater Hospital which may be of interest to some Board members.	Secretary

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 Liam Downey
 Chairman