

Minute of the meeting of the

**Board of the Health Service Executive  
on  
Thursday, 9th April, 2009.**

**Members present:** L. Downey (Chairman), B. Drumm (CEO), D. de Buitleur, P. Farrell  
M. Gaffney, J. Mooney, A. Scott and W. O'Reilly.

**Apologies:** N. Brennan, P.J. Fitzpatrick and E. McCague.

**Attendees:** D. Purcell (Secretary to the Board).

**Joined the meeting:** S. McGrath, L. McGuinness, A. Doherty, J. Carolan, L. Woods,  
P. Connors, M. Rogan and I. Daly.

**Time & Location:** HSE Offices, Adelaide Road, Dublin at 8.00 a.m.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
<b>1 Minutes of the previous meetings</b>		
	The minutes of the meetings held on 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 and 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 were agreed.	
<b>2 Matters arising from minutes &amp; Review of Action Points</b>		
	The action points from the previous meeting were reviewed and noted. No matters were arising.	
<b>3 Report from CEO</b>		
	<p>The CEO spoke to his monthly report to the Board.</p> <p>He reported in particular on the ongoing implementation of the Consultant Contracts 2008 and the recent changes in the reconfiguration of hospital services in the Mid-West, particularly at Ennis and Nenagh General Hospitals.</p> <p>The CEO and Chairman then provided a verbal report to the Board on the issues discussed at the meeting in March 2009 with the Secretary-General and Minister for Health and Children and at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Health and Children which they had attended.</p>	
<b>4 Reports from Committees</b>		
	<p><b>Report of the Remuneration and Organisation Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009:</b></p> <p>D. de Buitleur, Chairman of the Committee reported to the Board on the meeting of the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The Committee had met with the CEO/management to determine how to proceed with the implementation of the organisational changes following the decision at the Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 not to proceed to fill the three National Director posts and had considered proposals from management in relation to interim arrangements. These proposals included the appointment through secondment of a Clinical Director, and the assignment of persons as Regional Directors to manage all health and personal social services with four regional operating units and changes to the roles and responsibilities at National Director level in the National Hospitals Office and the Primary Community and Continuing Care Directorate.</p> <p>Following a discussion the Board endorsed the general approach outlined and noted that the Remuneration &amp; Organisation Committee would continue to engage with CEO/management and the Department of Health and</p>	

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	Children to progress and finalise these interim organisational changes.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Performance Report</b>	
	<p>L. Woods, A. Doherty, L. McGuinness and S. McGrath joined the meeting for consideration of this item.</p> <p>L. Woods reported to the Board on the activity and employment levels and financial position at the end of February 2009 as set out in the Performance report and in the Vote Expenditure return at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.</p> <p>He reported that based on the current expenditure levels, in particular on the demand led medical schemes, the HSE is facing a very difficult challenge in delivering its Service Plan commitment within its approved allocation and that achieving additional efficiency without impacting on national service plan activity levels is proving more difficult in the context of the changed IR environment.</p> <p>Following a discussion on the emerging financial position, the Board noted that, as part of the supplementary budget on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ additional funding of €160 million had been provided to offset the projected reduction in the yield from the health levy;</li> <li>➤ it had been agreed the Minister may seek a supplementary estimate later in the year, if needed, to fund shortfalls in funding provision for medical cards;</li> <li>➤ the Minister had undertaken to consider further measures to address the residual funding issues in the context of the decision on the proposed amendments to the HSE Service Plan submitted by the Board following its meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.</li> </ul> <p>The Board emphasised the need to maintain the existing close cooperation on financial and IR matters between the Department and the HSE, to ensure there is an ongoing review of the situation as information emerges. They also noted that the response from the Minister on the proposed amendments to the Service Plan will be for consideration at the May, 2009 Board meeting.</p> <p>The Board also requested that, in the context of the Exchequer funding profiled to 2013, the issue of medium/long-term planning for the health services would be put on the agenda at the June 2009 Board meeting.</p> <p>A. Doherty then briefed the Board on the HIQA Report of the investigation into the quality and safety of services and supporting arrangements provided at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital Ennis which was published on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009.</p>	<p>L. Woods</p> <p>L. Woods</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Annual Report 2008</b>	
	<p>L. Woods briefed the Board on the content of the draft Annual Report 2008 as circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>During consideration of the draft report, Board members provided inputs/feedback on its content which will be incorporated into a revised draft of the report. It was agreed that any further comments from individual Board members could be provided to the Secretary prior to the formal adoption of the Annual Report at the scheduled Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.</p>	Secretary
<b>6</b>	<b>Mental Health Policy – A Vision for Change – HSE Implementation Plan 2009-2013</b>	
	M. Rogan and I. Daly joined the meeting for further consideration of this item.	

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
	<p>L. McGuinness introduced this item. She reported that the HSE Implementation Plan 2009-2013 as circulated prior to the meeting had been developed to bring into operation those recommendations contained in "A Vision for Change" that fall to the HSE to implement. She outlined the investment and key developments that have taken place in the mental health services since the launch of the Mental Health policy – A Vision for Change in 2006 and in particular highlighted the developments that took place during 2008 to progress the implementation of the policy.</p> <p>M. Rogan then presented to the Board the details of the implementation plan, particularly plans to provide the totality of mental health services through expanded multidisciplinary community mental health teams, which will provide services to defined populations across all age groups, operating from community-based mental health centres. He outlined the proposed financing of the plan in the altered economic environment within which this plan has been developed and provided a summary of the infrastructural requirements to implement the plan.</p> <p>Following a questions and answer session on the details of the plan, the Board endorsed the strategic approach outlined in the plan and noted that discussions are ongoing with the Department of Health and Children to finalise arrangements for its implementation.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Progress report on implementation of Shared Services</b>	
	<p>L. Woods spoke to the briefing paper circulated prior to the meeting and the summary report on the implementation of the Shared Services programme tabled at the meeting. He highlighted from the report the main areas of the Shared Service programmes within Finance, Procurement, HR and ICT where progress had been made since the last briefing to the Board.</p> <p>Following a discussion the Board noted the progress being made and that delivery of the full benefits relating to shared services are dependent on a single National Finance and Procurement system, the business case for which has been submitted to the Department of Health and Children. This matter will be considered further as part of the ICT projects updated at the next Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.</p>	Secretary
<b>9</b>	<b>Progress report on implementation of Communications Strategy</b>	
	<p>P Connors joined the meeting for consideration of this item and spoke to the progress report on the implementation of the objectives in the communications strategy which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>He outlined from the communications strategy the areas that will be given a priority focus for implementation in the short-term. He highlighted in particular the work under way to develop the communication structure, culture and working practices within the HSE and to improve communications internally throughout the organisation and externally to ensure commentators on the HSE are better informed about the organisation and its strategy.</p> <p>Following a discussion the Board noted the progress report.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	No matters were raised under this heading.	

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Liam Downey  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_