

Minute of the meeting of the
Board of the Health Service Executive
Thursday, 11th March 2010

Members present: L. Downey (Chairman), B. Drumm (CEO), N. Brennan, J. Fitzgerald, PJ Fitzpatrick, S. Langford, J. Lavelle, E. McCague, J. Mooney, D. Power and A. Scott

Apologies: P. Farrell

Attendees: D. Purcell (Secretary)

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

Time & Location: HSE Offices, Adelaide Road, Dublin at 8.30 a.m.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman informed the Board that, as part of the report from the CEO, the HSE response to issues arising at the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating National Children’s Hospital (AMNCH) Tallaght would be considered.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
1 Minutes of the previous meeting		
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 th February 2010 as circulated were approved.	
2 Matters arising from minutes		
	The action points from the previous meeting were reviewed and noted.	
3 Report from CEO		
	<p>The CEO spoke to the monthly report to the Board and mentioned the following; Waterford Regional Hospital was the first facility to achieve an overall Green rating in the HSE HealthStat Performance Measurement and Management programme; the national integrated medical imaging system (NIMIs) was launched on 23rd February 2010 and will be installed in 35 hospitals, with an investment of over €40 million over three years. This will enable the secure and rapid movement of patient image data throughout the health services through film-less radiology reports; the request from the Minister of Health and Children to develop a governance structure for the operation of the new children’s hospital of Ireland (CHOI). The Board requested a briefing paper be circulated for information on the governance arrangements for the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board.</p> <p>Following a discussion the Board noted the report and acknowledged the significant achievement by Waterford Regional Hospital to obtain the first overall Green rating in the HealthStat programme. The Chairman will write to the hospital manager acknowledging this achievement.</p> <p>B. White, L. McGuinness and A. Carrigy joined the meeting for the consideration of the HSE response to issues at Tallaght Hospital. The CEO provided an update to the Board on this matter and confirmed that HSE, at a corporate level, first became aware of the issue in relation to the backlog of unreported radiological examinations at Tallaght on the evening of Tuesday, 9th March, 2010. In response, the HSE immediately established a senior</p>	<p>CEO</p> <p>Chairman</p>

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	<p>management group, lead by L. McGuinness including B. White and A. Carrigy, to manage, from a HSE perspective, the issues arising. The CEO also advised that on that day he ordered an investigation by an independent chair to establish the facts relevant to the accumulation of unreported radiological examinations and the processing of outpatient patient referral letters from GPs at the hospital. B. White updated the Board on the progress with the management of the issues at Tallaght Hospital and A. Carrigy confirmed that correspondence had issued to all other hospitals in relation to the issue.</p> <p>L. McGuinness also reported to the Board on the management and publication of case reviews on children who have died while in the care of the health service. She confirmed that, up to now, there has been an absence of guidance on how these reviews should be reported on, particularly where personal information may lead to identification of vulnerable children and their families. The HSE had worked recently with the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA), to develop guidance for the review of serious incidences, including deaths of children in care and this guidance had now been published. The Board noted that these guidelines will bring more consistency to the review process and enable the many different and complex interests to be balanced, particularly the need to maintain confidentiality while providing relevant information to those with a legitimate interest in the case review and maintaining public confidence in the review process.</p>	
4	<p>Reports from Committees and Committee Membership</p>	
	<p>Audit Committee meeting - Friday, 5th March 2010 Prof. N. Brennan, Chairman of the Committee reported that the Audit Committee held a joint meeting with the Department of Health and Children Audit Committee on the 5th March, 2010. The overall purpose of holding joint meetings, which will be held twice a year, is to examine and progress audit issues that are inter-dependant on HSE/DoHC actions and initiatives. She also confirmed that the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements for 2009 was proceeding satisfactorily.</p> <p>Joint meeting of the HSE Audit and Risk Committees – Friday 5th March 2010 Prof. A. Scott reported on the joint meeting of the Audit and Risk Committees held on 5th March, 2010. The Committee had considered the progress on the establishment of the Health Care Audit Unit within the Quality and Clinical Care Directorate. This unit is developing a ‘Level 2’ assurance programme which will provide an independent review process to monitor overall compliance with the controls for managing identified risks and will ensure that findings/learning from each healthcare audit are shared across the organisation. The Committee also received an update on the operation of the HSE Protected Disclosures/Good Faith reporting policy.</p> <p>Risk Committee Meeting – Friday 5th March 2010 Prof. A. Scott, Chairman of the Risk Committee reported on the committee meeting on 5th March, 2010. The Committee had considered a progress report on the development of roles and responsibilities within the Quality and Clinical Care Directorate (QCCD) and had reviewed the priorities in the 2010 National Service Plan for the Directorate. The Committee was updated on the ongoing management review of the corporate risk register to determine risk ratings and develop control actions for the identified risks. The Committee also received a report on the work programme of the Serious Incident Management Team including the ongoing investigations/reviews under management by the team and on the master class on learning from adverse incidents held on 18th February, 2010.</p>	

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	<p>Following a discussion the reports from committees were noted.</p> <p>Committee Membership The Board approved the proposal from the Chairman that the following appointments be made to the Board Committees:</p> <p>Audit Committee Prof. N. Brennan (Chairman) , J. Mooney, P.J. Fitzpatrick and S. Langford</p> <p>Risk Committee Prof. A. Scott (Chairman), J. Mooney, E. McCague, J. Lavelle and D. Power</p> <p>Remuneration and Organisation Committee P.J. Fitzpatrick (Chairman), J. Fitzgerald, L. Downey and P. Farrell</p>	
5 Vote Expenditure Report – February 2010		
	<p>L. Woods, B. Gilroy and J. Carolan joined the meeting for consideration of this item. L. McGuinness and B. White remained in attendance.</p> <p>5.1 Vote expenditure report February 2010 L. Woods spoke to the February 2010 Vote expenditure return which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He confirmed that management was working to reduce the underlining spend rate in the HSE to reflect the financial challenge in 2010 to manage within much tighter resources.</p> <p>The CEO confirmed that, as a result of the ongoing IR action, the monthly performance report for January 2010 was not available and as a result, management’s capacity to track, oversee and account for the implementation of the National Service Plan is seriously constrained.</p> <p>The Board expressed concerns about this situation and noted that, if industrial action continues, this may jeopardise service delivery to the detriment of patients and inhibit the Board in discharging its governance obligations. The impact of this situation will be kept under continuous review by management and monitored closely by the Board. The Chairman will convey the Board’s concerns to the Minister for Health and Children.</p> <p>5.2 The Services Performance Contract 2010 L. McGuinness spoke to the briefing paper on this issue which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. She reported that a new performance contract with the Regional Directors of Operations was in place for each of the four HSE regions, setting out agreed service standards, targets and deliverables under a number of key headings. She confirmed the performance contract is framed in the context of the national Corporate and Service plans, relevant performance indicators and HealthStat’s operational metrics and will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the year.</p> <p>Following a discussion, the Board noted the new management reporting arrangements for the four HSE regions.</p>	Chairman
6 Property Transactions		
	<p>Waste water treatment – Mallow General Hospital, Co. Cork. B. Gilroy remained in attendance for consideration of this item and spoke to the briefing paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He outlined the background to the proposal to surrender the easement to discharge waste water on the lands of a person adjacent to the hospital. He confirmed velocity easement would not disadvantage the HSE as its use was not necessary in light of new waste water treatment and recommended that</p>	

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	<p>the easement be surrendered by the HSE. The surrender of the easement was proposed by D. Power, seconded by J. Fitzgerald and agreed by the Board (<i>HSE Board Decision no.11.03(7).2010</i>).</p> <p>B. Gilroy informed the Board that based on legal advice, the HSE had agreed to requests in relation to Limerick, Cork and Beaumont Co-location projects to extend until 1st July, 2010 the timeframe, as set out in the project agreements, for these projects to ascertain clarity on the bank funding available for the projects. He confirmed that the Department of Health and Children was in agreement with this approach.</p>	
7 Progress Report on Older Persons Services		
	<p>L. McGuinness remained in attendance for the consideration of this item and N. Mulvihill Assistant. National Director for Services for Older Persons joined the meeting.</p> <p>L. McGuinness introduced this item and confirmed that the focus of the report was on three priority key result areas (1) Home care packages/home support; (2) Nursing Home Support Scheme - Fair Deal and (3) Long-term Residential Care Services.</p> <p>N. Mulvihill then spoke to the presentation and report, circulated to the Board, giving an overview of the services for older persons provided by the HSE. He confirmed that services are being developed to support the majority of older persons to continue living in their homes or where this is not possible in high quality residential care. He outlined the range of initiatives ongoing to support improvement of services for older persons in residential care settings including additional capacity and improved standards for regulation and inspection.</p> <p>The Board noted that, while Ireland's population is growing older, the ongoing development of community supports will support a greater proportion of older persons in their homes. In line with the Prospectus report; <i>Implementing the proposals; delivering the recommendations for residential care for older people (2008)</i> it is proposed to reduce the proportion of persons over 65 requiring residential care from almost 5% to closer to 4% by 2016 as a result of more developed community services.</p> <p>He reported on the operation of the new nursing home support scheme – A Fair Deal – and following a discussion, the Board emphasised the need for applications under the Fair Deal to be processed as quickly as possible and for a consistent national approach to implementation.</p>	
8 Commercial and Support Services - Update		
	<p>Due to time constraints consideration of this item was deferred to the April, 2010 Board meeting.</p>	
9 Quality & Clinical Care Directorate - Priorities 2010		
	<p>Due to time constraints consideration of this item was deferred to the Board meeting on 31st March, 2010.</p>	
10 Any Other Business		
	<p>At the request of the Board B. Gilroy provided an update on the progress of the National Finance and Procurement System (NFPS). He confirmed that, in line with the approval in January, 2010 from Department of Finance (CMOD) for the HSE's proposed approach an updated business case and a functional specification for the software procurement will be submitted to</p>	<p>Audit Committee agenda</p>

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	CMOD. CMOD will seek to have the project peer reviewed in line with the current sanction arrangements for large scale ICT projects. A full report on the NFPS will be provided to the Audit Committee.	

The meeting concluded at 1.35pm.

Signed: _____

Liam Downey
Chairman

Date: _____