

18th April, 2001

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Unit B, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin** on **Tuesday, 24th April, 2001**. Tea is arranged for 4.30 p.m.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRÍOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairpersons Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of Special Board Meeting held on 14th March, 2001 and minutes of proceeding of Monthly Board Meeting held on 22nd March, 2001, (copies herewith)
 - (a) Matters arising
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Report of Finance & Property Committee – Report No F2/2001 – (copy herewith)
6. Comhairle na nOspideal – *Report of the Committee on Immunology Services* Report No 12/2001
7. Department of Health and Children
Men and Domestic Violence: What Research tells us
Report No 13/2001.

8. Department of Finance -*Report by the Minister for Finance to the Oireachtas under Section 15(6) of the Freedom of Information Act, 1999-2000*
Report No 14/2001
9. Service Report on Addiction Services
Report No 15/2001.
10. Progress Report from Standing Committees
 - (a) Community Services & Continuing Care Committee
 - (b) Acute Hospital & Primary Care Committee
11. Notices of Motion
 - 11.1 Ald Ivor Callely, T.D.**
“That the Board agree to review arrangements in place for processing and issuing of Medical Cards and renewals, that we agree to amend requesting financial information where the applicant is automatically eligible such as persons over 70 years.”
 - 11.2 Sen. Dr Dermot Fitzpatrick**
“That Computers be installed in all Health Centres for the use of Nursing and other staff.”
 - 11.3 Cllr Roisin Shortall**
“That the CEO report on the recruitment campaign for foster parents and its outcome; the number of children within the Board area currently awaiting residential care; and her views on the current adequacy of provision.
 - 11.4 Cllr Roisin Shortall**
“That this Board condemns the commercial targeting of children as evidenced by the sale of teeshirts by some Dublin chainstores, some of which contain flavoured condoms, and others which apply sexually graphic messages.
12. Correspondence

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board
held in the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin**

On Thursday 24th April, 2001, at 5.00pm

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Ald. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. L. Creaven
Mr Joe Fallon
Cllr. Dr D. Fitzpatrick
Ms N. Harvey
Cllr. D. Heney
Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr G. McGuire
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. D. Murray
Cllr. E. O'Brien
Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr. R. Shortall
Mr L. Twomey

In the Chair

Cllr A. Devitt

Apologies

Mr M. Cowley
Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Dr J. Reilly

Officers in Attendance

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr M. Walsh, Asst Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr J. Lamont, Asst Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms L. McGuinness, Director of Finance
Ms N. Byrne, Director of Communications
Ms M. Kelly, Director Human Resources
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary

30/2001.

CHAIRPERSONS 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 have been included on the list of condolences which has been circulated to members.

2. Special Board Meeting

I would like to advise members that there will be a special meeting of the Board on Thursday, 10th May, 2001 at 2.30 p.m. in the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords re the Child Care Strategy.

3. National Association of Health Boards

I wish to advise members that the Annual Conference of the Association of Health Boards will now take place on 27th and 28th April, 2001.

4. Schedule of Meetings/Visits

A copy of the schedule of forthcoming meetings and visits has been circulated to all members.

5. Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. – Nominee from NAHB

In the past, the former Eastern Health Board had a representative to attend the Annual Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. (Mr. Gerard Brady). IPBMI has invited our Board to appoint a nominee to attend this years General Meeting, to be held in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, on Thursday, 31st May, 2001.

It was agreed that the Protocol Committee would recommend a nominee to the next monthly meeting of our Board scheduled for Thursday 17th May, 2001 at 5.00pm

31/2001.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14TH March, 2001 AND MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22ND March,2001.

On a proposal by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. O'Brien the minutes of meetings held on 14th March, 2001 and 22nd March, 2001 respectively, were agreed.

32/2001

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Cllr. Michael O'Donovan,

“To ask the Chief Executive to report on what assistance, financial or otherwise can be given to patients residing in the Northern Area Health Board catchment area who need to avail of treatments or therapies in other E.U. countries”.

Reply

In accordance with E.U. Decisions and Regulations Health Boards provide financial assistance towards the cost of medical treatment in another European Union country subject to the following conditions: -

- (a) The application to refer a patient abroad must be assessed and a determination given before that patient goes abroad, or before biological samples is sent abroad.
- (b) Medical evidence must be provided by the referring hospital/institution consultant, giving details of the conditions from which the patient suffers and of the type of treatment/examination envisaged.
- (c) It must be certified by the consultant that: -
 - (i) The treatment/examination concerned is not available in this country
 - (ii) There is an urgent medical necessity for the treatment/examination
 - (iii) There is a reasonable medical prognosis
 - (iv) The treatment/examination is regarded as a proven form of medical treatment/examination
 - (v) The treatment abroad is in a recognised hospital or institution, and is
 - (vi) Under the control of a registered medical practitioner
 - (vii) The hospital/other institution will accept EU/EEA Form E112 (IRL)
- (d) The application or patient must normally reside in the administrative area of the Eastern Regional Health Authority (Dublin City and County, counties Kildare and Wicklow)

Financial assistance, subject to a means test, may also be paid to the applicant towards the cost of travel and accommodation. Assistance may also be given in appropriate circumstances to provide support in the home while the patient/applicant is availing of treatment abroad.

2. CLLR ROISIN SHORTALL

“To ask the Chief Executive will she report on the recent incident where Filipino nurses were housed in sub-standard and squalid accommodation. Will she outline the circumstances surrounding the situation. Will she outline if any who inspected the Elmar Guest House prior to it being contracted. What was the daily/nightly charge for the Hazelbrook Guest House and Elmar Guest House. Will she outline the safeguards or standards now put in place to ensure that such an unfortunate incident does not recur”.

Reply

I have addressed many of the issues raised by Deputy Shortall in my report circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting

The weekly charge for bed & breakfast in the Hazelbrook Guest House was £120 per week. The account has been paid up to 9th March, 2001. No account has yet been received for the period when the nurses were transferred to the Elmar Guest House, and no agreement has yet been entered into to pay for this accommodation.

REPORT TO THE BOARD - ACCOMMODATION PHILIPPINE NURSES

As members will be aware, the three Area Health Boards in the eastern region have expressed deep regret over the inappropriate accommodation into which a small number of nurses from the Philippines were mistakenly moved on a short-term basis last month.

It was agreed, among the three Area Health Boards, that the Chief Executive of the East Coast Area Health Board would prepare a statement reflecting the Area Health Boards' position.

I attach for Members' information copy of statement sent by Mr. Michael Lyons, Chief Executive, East Coast Area Health Board to the Department of Health & Children.

At the time of the incident in question, there were 56 nurses from overseas working in the Northern Area Health Board. These nurses have been recruited at different stages over the last year, 40 of which were accommodated in staff nurse homes and 16 were placed in the Hazelbrook Bed & Breakfast for their first 6-8 weeks. Recently an additional 17 Philippine nurses arrived and are accommodated in the Staff Nurses Home in St. Mary's Hospital.

We are very conscious of the need to look after and facilitate nurses from overseas particularly when they first arrive. With this in mind, the nurses have a facilitator at ward level who supports them during their work placements. Our Directors of Nursing and others are also very active in sourcing accommodation for the overseas nurses for when they have completed their clinical placement. We will continue to facilitate in whatever way possible nurses recruited from overseas and will put arrangements in

place to ensure that in so far as is possible there is no breakdown in terms of the assistance and support we will continue to give them.

Last week representatives of the three Area Health Boards including our Director of Human Resources met with the Philippines Ambassador, Mr. Cesar B. Bautista, the Minister and Consul General, Mr. Mario L de Leon, Jr and the Honorary Consul, Mr. John Ferris. The meeting was very cordial and informative. The Philippine delegation were assured of our commitment to seeing that nurses from the Philippines are assisted in whatever way possible as they are a very important part of our workforce.

Philippine Nurses

Recent media reports highlighted problems with accommodation arrangements for Nurses from the Philippines who had arrived here in Dublin at the end of January 2001. The Nurses were placed in good quality bed and breakfast accommodation in Hazelbrook, Gardiner Street which is close to the location of the hospital where most of the Nurses received their clinical placement pending registration by an Board Altranais. The three Health Boards assigned a Liaison Officer, who is a Chief Nursing Officer, with responsibility for providing an orientation course, the clinical placement and the final working placement in a health board hospital.

These arrangements worked very well up to St. Patrick's weekend, when due to a previous boarding commitment, it was necessary to transfer the Nurses to other accommodation for the bank holiday weekend. It had been anticipated that at this juncture the Nurses would have moved to accommodation, which was sourced at their final work placement, but this in all cases was not yet fully ready. Local accommodation was ready and available in Cherry Orchard Hospital, to which 5 Nurses transferred and at Crooksling, where 6 Nurses, transferred at that weekend.

The remaining unplaced Nurses were transferred for **the weekend only** to two houses i.e. numbers 33 and the Elmor Guest House in Gardiner Street. The accommodation was only arranged as an interim measure for the weekend and accepted by the Liaison Officer only on this basis as an urgent and necessary measure. The Hazelbrook Guest House was again available from the Tuesday 20th March immediately following the bank holiday weekend.

The Nurses however were reluctant to return to the Hazelbrook in the context that the accommodation sourced at their final work placement was almost ready. This fact was confirmed by text message by a representative acting on behalf of the Nurses to the Liaison Officer. Unfortunately, this unsatisfactory placement was continued for longer than anticipated because

- (1) Nurses were reluctant to return to Hazelwood for the reasons outlined above.
- (2) The Liaison Officer became ill and had to take sick leave.

On 27th March '01, one of the Nurses from the Philippines mentioned her unhappiness with the accommodation arrangement to an Irish colleague who had the matter brought to the attention of the Director of Nursing in St. Columcilles Hospital. The Director visited the premises in Gardiner Street and immediately arranged for alternative accommodation to be made available for most of the Nurses that evening. The remainder of the Nurses were transferred on the following day. It was unfortunate that the Nurses had remained in such substandard accommodation and the Boards moved immediately when they became aware of the problem to rectify matters and apologised to the Nurses concerned. In recognition of the fact that the sourcing of Nurses and other Health and Social Services personnel from abroad, will be a necessary feature of the recruitment policy of the Health Boards in the Eastern region, the Boards are immediately providing specialist support for the Liaison Officer as follows:

- a designated person responsible for sourcing and vetting accommodation and a second designated person for dealing with all other matters to facilitate the seamless integration of these valued members of staff.

The Boards regret that this matter caused concern to the Nurses and the public generally and have taken positive steps to prevent a reoccurrence in the future.

33/2001

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Following discussion on matters in the Chief Executive's report, to which Dr Murphy, Cllr Heney, Dep Shortall, Cllr Burke, Cllr Dr Fitzpatrick, and to which the Chief Executive and Human Resources Director responded, the report was noted.

The members expressed support for the Chief Executive and staff, and congratulated the Chairman, in relation to the opening of Carlton House, Lispopple, and the transfer of patients from St. Ita's Hospital.

The Chairperson advised the Board that a request had been received from Lispopple Residents Association to meet with the Board. The Chief Executive outlined to the members the correspondence and meetings entered into with this group to-date.

The Board agreed that their decision to acquire Carlton House, Lispopple, for use as a Community Residence for the former patients of St. Ita's Hospital Mental Health Service was in line with Board and Government Policy, and that it would therefore not now be appropriate to enter into further discussions with the Residents Association. Any further communication should be dealt with by the Law Agents for the respective parties.

SERVICE MATTERS

ORTHODONTICS

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, copies of “An Explanation of the Process of the Orthodontic Waiting List”, prepared by Dr Bernard Murphy, Principal Dental Surgeon, as outlined verbally at the meeting of the Board on Thursday 22nd March, 2001.

I also wish to advise members that the post of Consultant Orthodontist in the Northern Area Health Board was advertised in the National Press on Sunday 15th April, 2001. The NAHB placed this advertisement, as a result of the successful candidate turning down the position offered, following a long period of negotiation and discussion.

FILIPINO NURSES

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, report on the circumstances surrounding the accommodation of nurses recruited from the Phillipines in the Elmore Guest House.

PRESS RELEASES

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, the following :

Upgrading of On-Call Hospital Accommodation

Copy of press release, dated 6th April, 2001, from Mr Micheal Martin, TD., Minister for Health and Children, announcing an upgrading and refurbishment of hospital on-call accommodation including St. Mary;s Hospital, Phoenix Park, The Mater Hospital and Cappagh Orthopaedic Hospital, I have also attached, for members information, a report on the on-call accommodation at St. Brendan’s , St. Ita’s and James Connolly Memorial Hospital

SERVICE MATTERS

Clonmethan, Oldtown.

The transfer of patients from the Learning Disability Services at St. Ita’s Hospital to the new residential facilities at Clonmethan, Oldtown commenced last week-end.

Five patients were transferred on Saturday 21st April and a further six were transferred on Sunday 22nd April, 2001. The transfer of patients and the re-assignment of staff went exceptionally well and no major problems arose.

Two of the five houses at Clonmethan are now occupied. The remaining nineteen places will be filled on a phased basis subject to the assessment of patients and the availability of staff.

A total of forty day care places will be available at Clonmethan. This includes ten places for persons from the community in addition to the thirty residents. Montessori and Physical Education services are currently being provided to the existing residents at Clonmethan on a sessional basis.

Carlton House, Lispopple.

A further two patients were transferred from St. Ita's Hospital to Carlton House, Lispopple today, 24th April, bringing the total number of residents to six.

All placards were removed from the front of the property by 4.00 pm last Thursday, 19th April. All protesting has also ceased. No further problems have been encountered. Both residents and staff have settled in well.

A number of people living in the local community have called to Carlton House to welcome the new residents to the area and others have sent cards of welcome and good wishes.

I would like to express my best wishes to the residents and staff of Carlton House and to all staff involved in bringing this development to fruition.

Ambulance Service – Threatened Industrial Action

I have circulated for members information background on the threatened industrial action at the Ambulance Control Centre, Townsend Street to commence on Wednesday, 25th April, 2001.

34/2001

REPORT OF FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Report No **F2/2001**, from the Finance & Property Committee, Northern Area Health Board, on a proposal by Mr J. Fallon, seconded by Mr McGuire, the report was agreed.

35/2001

COMHAIRLE NA NOSPIDÉAL

Report of the Committee on Immunology Services

Report No 12/2001

It was agreed to refer report No **12/2001** to the Acute Hospital and Primary Care Standing Committee

36/2001

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Men and Domestic Violence: What Research Tells Us

Report No 13/2001.

It was agreed to refer report No **13/2001** to Community Services and Continuing Care Committee.

37/2001

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – Report by the Minister for Finance to the Oireachtas under Section 15(6) of the Freedom of Information act, 1999-2000 Report No 14/2001

It was agreed to refer report no No **14/2001** to Community Services and Continuing Care Committee

38/2001

**SERVICE REPORT ON ADDICTION SERVICES
Report No 15/2001**

It was agreed to refer report No **15/2001** to Community Services Continuing Care Committee

39/2001

Progress Report from Standing Committees

(1) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee

On a proposal by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Devitt, the report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report

1. Members noted the Provider Plan for Intellectual, Physical and Sensory Disabilities.
2. It was agreed that a letter would issue to Fingal County Council to express members' concerns regarding the lack of facilities on Beaverstown Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin, where residential accommodation for young visually impaired adults is being developed by the National Association of the Housing for the Visually Impaired.
3. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining Board property to a high standard

(2) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. Devitt, seconded by Dr Laffoy, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Continuing Care Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report.

N A H B – Summary Provider Plan, 2001

Members noted and expressed concern at the level of allocation for Acute Hospitals and the Primary Care in the Letter of Determination from the Department of Health & Children

The need for greater autonomy with respect to the allocation of funding on a local basis. That monitoring and evaluation would be taking place.

40/2001

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The motion in the name of Deputy Callely, was, in his absence, deferred to the next monthly meeting of the Board.
2. The following motion was proposed by Dr Fitzpatrick and seconded by Deputy Shortall

“That computers be installed in all Health Centres for the use of nursing and other staff”.

Reply

Computer systems are in use in all of our main health centres. While computers are mainly utilised by clerical/administrative staff, access to computers is also available to other staff including medical, nursing and para-medical staff. In recent years, there has been an increasing use of computers by non clerical/administrative staff. The supply of computers to all main health centres for dedicated use by non clerical/administrative staff has also been increasing to meet developing service and staff needs. This policy will continue.

While some staff are computer literate, other staff have varying degrees of computer literacy. As funding becomes available, lap-top computers are being provided to staff who have proficient computer skills, who work between different locations and whose work can be enhanced and assisted by the utilisation of their computer skills. It is also our policy to continue this practice.

In addition, all staff who require access to computer based systems are actively encouraged to avail of our in-house information technology/computer training programmes.

Following discussion to which Dr Fitzgerald, Deputy Shortall, Cllr. Burke, and Dr Laffoy contributed, and to which the Chief Executive responded, it was agreed to prepare a report on Management Information Systems and Information Technology Development in our Board for members information.

3. The following motion, proposed by Deputy Shortall, seconded by Ms Harvey was agreed

“That the Chief Executive Officer report on the recruitment campaign for foster parents and its outcome: the number of children within the board area currently awaiting residential care: her views on the current adequacy of provision.”

Reply

A Fostering Campaign in Community Services Area 7 was held from the 26th March, 2001 to the 6th April, 2001. A freephone number was provided from 10.00am to 4.30pm each weekday and was staffed by two Social Workers daily.

The purpose of the campaign was to target potential families within the catchment area of Community Services Area 7 as the number of children identified in need of foster care was assessed at 60. However, this figure can fluctuate due to the movement of children in and out of the service. The areas targeted were North Inner City, Ballymun, Fairview, Marino, Santry, Drumcondra and Clontarf.

A variety of advertisement mediums were employed to alert the public to the campaign, which was managed in consultation with the Communications Department in Swords.

Advertising included:

The design of 200 new fostering posters and 1,500 information leaflets. These were distributed to identified locations within Community Services in Area 7 i.e. Hospitals, Health Centres, School/Pre-0Schools, Churches, Libraries, Community Centres, Citizen Advice Centres, Doctors Surgeries, and Shops. Advertisement was placed in local papers seeking foster parents

The Recruitment Officer in charge of the campaign held interviews with journalists for subsequent publication in the national and local newspapers.

Interviews were held on a number of T.V. and Radio Stations. Press releases were distributed to the various media outlets through our Communications Department.

An Advertising agency was employed to advertise in bus shelters within the catchment area of Community Services Area 7

Two public information evenings were held during the campaign

As a result of the extensive publicity, 80 enquiries were received. All enquiries will be actively pursued and followed up

Total number of Enquiries 80

Breakdown of Enquiries	Community Services Area 1	1
	Community Services Area 2	3
	Community Services Area 3	0
	Community Services Area 4	4
	Community Services Area 5	1
	Community Services Area 6	3
	Community Services Area 7	26
	Community Services Area 8	21
	Community Services Area 9	0
	Community Services Area 10	1

County

Louth	11
Meath	5
Mayo	1
Monaghan	1
Wexford	1
Donegal	1

Community Care Area 7 has recently undertaken a recruitment campaign for foster parents. It has received very favourable publicity on the media. It is too soon to assess the outcome of the campaign. However the Area Team has made arrangements to immediately commence assessments of those applications which are received.

There are no children on a waiting list for residential care. In some cases admissions are planned and introductions to the carers are arranged over a phased basis. Where children need emergency admission to care, this is arranged and the best immediate placement option for the child is sourced. During the past several months 5 additional residential homes have been opened. However, the majority of children in our care are in family placements, which is the preferred form of care for most children.

Outlined below please find details of Care Arrangements for Children in the NAHB Area

Foster Care

	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	
No of Long-Term	84	58	58	
No of Short-Term	57	54	21	
No with relatives	32	74	35	
No in supported lodgings	32	10	21	
Total	205	196	135	536

No of children from NAHB in residential care 148

SPECIAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Children placed outside NAHB

Community Children's Centre	6	(voluntary arrangement)
Glencarraig	1	(voluntary arrangement)
John St West	1	
** Total	8	

(b) Special Arrangements:

Children placed in houses managed by NAHB

No 1 Orchard View	1
No 2 Orchard View	1
** Total	2

NOTE ** (Nos are included in no of children from NAHB in Residential care – 148 as above)

No of Children placed in B & B in NAHB	2
No of Children placed in out-of-hours service – Eccles St	1

TOTAL NO OF CHILDREN IN CARE IN NAHB 687

WAITING LIST FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

Total no on waiting list 686 (including 189 high priority cases)

HIGH COURT CASES

No of cases coming up in April – 3 (these are all cases for review)

4. The following motion, proposed by Deputy Shortall, seconded by Dr Laffoy, was agreed

“That this Board condemns the commercial targeting of children as evidenced by the sale of teeshirts by some Dublin chainstores, some of which contain flavoured condoms, and others which display sexually graphic messages.”

Following discussion to which Deputy Shortall, Dr Laffoy, Mr Fallon, Cllr. Devitt and the Chief Executive contributed, it was agreed to write to the owners and operators of the stores involved, expressing our Board's concerns, and condemning the exploitation and targeting of children in this manner.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm

CORRECT:

**M. WINDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN

