

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MID-WESTERN HEALTH
BOARD HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, 31/33 CATHERINE STREET, LIMERICK ON
TUESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2001 AT 11.00A.M.**

Presiding: Cllr. K. Sheahan, Chairman

Present:

Cllr. J. Bourke	Cllr. P. Bugler
Cllr. R. Butler	Cllr. J. Casey
Dr. T. Casey	Cllr. B. Chambers
Cllr. N. Coonan	Sen. J. Cregan
Cllr. P. Daly	Dr. M. Donovan
Cllr. J. Egan	Cllr./Dr. J. Hennessy
Cllr. M. Hourigan	Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan
Dr. J. Lemasney	Cllr. S. Marsh
Mr. L. MacNamara	Cllr. T. O'Malley
Cllr. K. Sheahan	

Apologies: Mr. P. Burke Cllr. S. Hillery
Dep. J. O'Sullivan

In Attendance: Mr. S. deBúrca, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. G. Crowley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. Conway, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Mr. T. Hourigan, A/Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Dr. K. Kelleher, Director of Public Health
Mr. P. McDonald, Director of Finance
Ms. M. Woods, Communication Officer
Ms. D. O'Keeffe, Secretariat

1(a) Silent Prayer

1(b) Vote of Sympathy A vote of sympathy was extended to staff who had recent bereavements.

1(c) Minutes The Minutes of Meeting held on the 17th September, 2001, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. B. Chambers, seconded by Cllr. T. O'Malley.

2. Correspondence A letter from the Association of Health Board's encouraged Members of Health Boards to donate blood and thereby lead by example. The Members agreed that the Blood Transfusion Service should be invited to the Boards Headquarters prior to a Board meeting. The Members will be kept informed.

3. CEO's Report

The Chief Executive Officer briefed the Members on the following additional matters:-

ISO Award – Cath-Lab/Cardiology Day Unit

Cllr. K. Sheahan presented staff of the Unit with a certificate to mark their achievement prior to the board meeting. The Members joined the Chairman and the Executive in congratulating all concerned.

Tanaiste's Visit

Cllr. O'Malley welcomed An Tanaiste, Ms. Mary Harney's recent visit to the region and thanked the Chief Executive Officer and senior management for their hospitality. The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Tanaiste's visit was appreciated.

Housing Aid for the Elderly

Cllr. J. Cregan requested a Report for the next meeting of the Board.

Community Health in North Tipperary

Cllr. N. Coonan requested a Report on Community Health in North Tipperary and it was confirmed that this will come before the Board at a future meeting.

Rafferty Report

In response to Cllr. T. O'Malley the Chief Executive Officer confirmed that he will follow-up on this matter with the Department of Health & Children and will revert to the Board.

Taoiseach's Visit to Nenagh General Hospital

In response to Cllr. N. Coonan, regarding the removal of beds from a corridor prior to the Taoiseach's visit, the Chief Executive Officer confirmed that this was a local decision and that a local explanation and clarification would be sought and conveyed.

Mental Health Services in Tipperary

Cllr. Butler requested clarification on the Mid-Western Health Board's funding of mental health services for patients in North Tipperary receiving treatment in the South Eastern Health Board area.

In response, the Chief Executive Officer stated that funding arrangements were formally dealt with between the Board's in the early 70's. The position was reviewed in 1989 and continues to date. He will contact the South Eastern Health Board regarding comments made at Visiting Committee meetings.

Events Protocol

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the Board's Events Protocol will be reviewed regarding participants at events organised by local units of the Board.

Administrative Staffing Levels

Cllr. J. Bourke referred to recent media coverage regarding the number of administrative staff in Health Boards. He sought information on the numbers in the hospital and non-hospital services. In response, the Chief Executive Officer stated that 64% of administrative staff are involved in direct service support. The Chief Executive Officer agreed to provide additional information in due course.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services

In response to Mr. L. McNamara's request for progress on Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services. Mr. T. Hourigan confirmed that a synopsis of the First Report of the National Working Group appointed by the Minister will come before the Board at its meeting in November.

GP Out-of-Hours Services

Mr. T. Hourigan confirmed that a report will come before the Board in November.

National Spatial Strategy

It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. K. Sheahan and a delegation of Board Members (Cllr. S. Hillery, Cllr. J. Casey and Cllr. J. Bourke) will seek a meeting with the authors of the National Spatial Strategy and report back to the Board.

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| 4. Overview of Financial Results
Report No. 67/01 | Report No. 67/01 was noted. |
| 5. Report of the Sub-Committee on Standing Orders
Report No. 68/01 | <p>Report No. 68/01 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. T. O'Malley, seconded by Cllr. J. Bourke.</p> <p>Cllr. O'Malley requested that the monthly meetings of the Board take place as scheduled unless very exceptional circumstances prevent this. The Members were in agreement.</p> |
| 6. Report of Service Plans, 2001
Report No. 69/01 | Report No. 69/01 was noted. |

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| <p>7. Report on Capital Projects
Report No. 70/01</p> | <p>Report No. 70/01 was noted.</p> |
| <p>8. Report OPD Waiting Lists
Report No. 71/01</p> | <p>Report No. 71/01 was discussed.</p> <p>The Members voiced concern regarding the rise in the number of patients on the out-patient waiting lists and found this unacceptable. The reduction in the waiting time for those on the Orthodontic waiting list is significant and was welcomed by Cllr. M. Hourigan. Cllr. Bugler commended the success of the Orthopaedic waiting list and suggested that the system of managing this waiting list be transferred to other specialities. In response, Mr. J. O'Brien stated that with regard to Orthodontics, approval had been received for a contractual arrangement with the private sector and that this will have an effect on the Orthodontic waiting list.</p> <p>It may be possible to transfer patients from Clare and North Tipperary who are on out-patient waiting lists in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital back to their own areas and this will be given consideration in an effort to reduce the numbers of those on out-patient waiting lists.</p> |
| <p>9. Report on Arts Strategy
Report No. 72/01</p> | <p>Report No. 72/01 was adopted on the proposal of Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. J. Bourke.</p> |
| <p>10. Summary of Recent Reports on Health in Ireland
Report No. 73/01</p> | <p>Report No. 73/01 was noted.</p> <p>The Members were informed that copies of full reports are available on request.</p> |
| <p>11. Joint Committee on Health and Children. Second Interim Report of the Sub-Committee on Health and Smoking
Report No. 74/01</p> | <p>Report No. 74/01 was noted.</p> |
| <p>12. Report on National Standards for Children's Residential Centres
Report No. 75/01</p> | <p>Report. No. 75/01 was noted.</p> |

13. **Child Care
Advisory
Committee –
filling of vacancy
Report No. 76/01** Report No. 76/01 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Casey.

14. **Report on
Children's Act,
2001
Report No. 77/01** Report No. 77/01 was noted.
Mr. G. Crowley was requested to circulate the implications of the Act to the Members.

15. **Questions**

(a) Question submitted by Cllr. T. O'Malley

"What progress has been made on the very detailed proposal made by the Irish Wheelchair Association re the Limerick project for the Millennium and the IWA's anniversary year?"

A written reply was circulated and is appended hereto as an integral part of the Minute.

(b) Question submitted by Cllr. K. Sheahan

"To ask the Board for a progress report on proposed development of a Young Adult C.F. Unit at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital"

A written reply was circulated and is appended hereto as an integral part of the Minute.

(c) Questions submitted by Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan

"To ask the CEO:

- (i) What are the present medical examination and care arrangements for victims of serious sexual assault;*
- (ii) How and why did these arrangements arise;*
- (iii) How do these arrangements differ from prior arrangements*
- (iv) What is the average cost per case*
- (v) What are the identified emerging issues in regard to the present arrangements*
- (vi) What other models are being considered and are there any plans for the establishment of a serious sexual assault unit in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, and, if yes, what are the financial and personnel resource requirements for such?"*

A written reply was circulated and is appended hereto as an integral part of the Minute.

(d) *Question submitted by Cllr. Paul Bugler*

*“In relation to transport of Mid-Western Health Board patients and service users:
How many people are eligible for transport assistance from the Mid-Western Health Board in the East Clare region:
What are the centralised facilities that they use?”*

Cllr. Bugler agreed to put forward a Notice of Motion regarding rural transport at the next meeting of the Meeting.

Signed/

Cllr. K. Sheehan, Chairman

S. deBurca

S. deBurca, Chief Executive Officer

Date