

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MID-
WESTERN HEALTH BOARD HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, 31/33
CATHERINE STREET, LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 14TH JUNE,
2002 AT 11.00 A.M.**

Presiding/ Cllr. K. Sheahan, Chairman

Present/

Cllr. J. Bourke	Cllr. P. Bugler
Cllr. J. Casey	Dr. T. Casey
Cllr. B. Chambers	Cllr. N. Coonan
Cllr. P. Daly	Dr. M. Donovan
Cllr. S. Hillery	Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan
Dr. J. Lemasney	Ms. M. O'Donnell
Dep. T. O'Malley	Dep. J. O'Sullivan
Cllr. K. Sheahan	

Apologies/ Dep. J. Cregan Mr. L. MacNamara

In Attendance/

Mr. S. deBurca, 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
Dr. K. Kelleher, Director of Public Health
Mr. P. McDonald, Director of Finance
Mr. S. McNulty, A/Regional Manager
Mr. P. A. Sheehan, A/Regional Manager
Ms. M. Woods, Communications Officer
Ms. D. O'Keeffe, Staff Officer, Secretariat

1(a) Silent Prayer

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

1(c) Minutes Minutes of meeting of the Board held on the 10th May, 2002 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. S. Hillery, seconded by Dr. T. Casey.

Dep. J. O'Sullivan proposed that the Board convey to the Department of Health & Children its serious concern regarding

the severe hardship caused to individuals and families because of lack of funding for incontinence wear for medical card patients in private nursing homes. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Hillery and agreed unanimously.

2. Correspondence

Further to Notice of Motion adopted by the Board at its meeting in April regarding a growing trend of aggression and violence towards nursing and medical staff in hospital and community settings, acknowledgements have been received from Minister Martin and from the office for the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Report. Both Departments have confirmed that this matter is receiving attention. The CEO informed the Members that Mr. J. O'Brien has re-constituted a Group to move forward on this matter.

Three letters have been received from Clare County Council following Resolutions adopted in relation to Stella Maris Nursing Home, Housing Aid for the Elderly Programme in Clare and female staff uniform and protective footwear. The CEO informed the Members that he has requested a meeting with the newly appointed Manager of Clare County Council.

3. CEO's Report

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

Shannondoc – Out-of-Hours Family Doctor Service

This service will commence in Clare on the 25th June, 2002

Election of Professionals to the Mid-Western Health Board 2002

Details of the results of the recent election of professionals to the Board was circulated. The CEO formally

congratulated those returned and paid tribute to the outgoing professional staff representatives and to the outgoing Ministerial nominees. The Chairman, Cllr. K. Sheahan expressed gratitude to the outgoing Members and welcomed those newly nominated and re-elected. The Chairman also congratulated Deputies Jan O'Sullivan, Tim O'Malley and John Cregan on their success in the recent general elections and wished them well.

Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan voiced her disappointment that no General Nurse was nominated to the Board. In response to her query as to what steps could she take to rectify the situation at this stage, the CEO stated that it is now a matter for the Minister. Cllr. K. Sheahan stated that the Board could go no further than encourage Ms. Kenny-Ryan to communicate her concerns to the Minister and request that the vacancy created by her be filled by a General Nurse representative. Cllr. S. Hillery referred to the legislation governing election of professionals to the Board. The CEO confirmed that a letter will be sent to the Minister on behalf of the Members regarding the current arrangements.

Ms. Kenny-Ryan stated that her term of office had been one of the most formative, challenging and rewarding experiences of her life and paid particular tribute to Cllr. J. Bourke, Dep. T. O'Malley and Dr. D. Clinch who epitomised everything to which the medical staff aspired. Ms. Kenny-Ryan also paid tribute to the CEO and the Executive. Dep. T. O'Malley thanked the Board and the Executive, the Chairman and former Chairmen and the good work done by all Health Board staff as was his experience as a Board Member for 20 years.

Dr. J. Lemasney stated that he had worked in the Board for 30 years and was a Board Member for 15 years. Dr. Lemasney thanked the Executive for its unfailing courtesy and to his fellow Board members and to Cllrs. K. Sheahan and J. Bourke.

Enhanced Subvention

A Report on Enhanced Subvention will come before the Board in July, 2002.

Housing Aid for the Elderly

An additional allocation has been received and the Members will be updated at the July Meeting of the Board.

Cré House Roscrea – High Support Facility

Child Care management and the Unit manager have met with local community representatives to establish a process to address the concerns expressed. Two meetings have already taken place. All parties involved in these meetings agreed that issues arising on an ongoing basis will be reviewed and appropriate mechanisms put in place to deal with such matters. There will be an update at the next Child Care Committee meeting. Cllr. N. Coonan requested that the North Tipperary Members be furnished with the report on Cré House. The CEO stated that the Members from North Tipperary will be given an early briefing and requested G. Crowley/J. O'Grady to arrange a meeting.

Private Hospital

Bons Secours/BUPA are awaiting the outcome of the review of the VHI before coming to a final decision to proceed with the development of a Private Hospital at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital campus. It was agreed that this item will be reported on monthly at the Board meetings, irrespective of VHI Report.

Design Team – Ennis General Hospital

Interviews for the appointment of a Design Team at Ennis General Hospital are in progress. It is expected that a full Design Team will be in place by the end of June. The priority task is the completion of a Development Control Plan for the campus. The Members will be kept informed.

Therapies Schools, University of Limerick

The achievement by University of Limerick was formally recognised in securing of undergraduate courses in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy. There are 25 places on each course. The Mid-Western Health Board is working very closely and in collaboration with UL. The Members welcomed these developments, but voiced concern over the immediate needs, especially in speech and language therapy.

Update on Appointment of Consultant Rheumatologist

In reply to Dep. J. O’Sullivan, Mr. J. O’Brien confirmed that this matter is currently with Comhairle na nOspideal. The Board has received approval from the Department of Health & Children and has received financial clearance. It is anticipated that following sanction by Comhairle na nOspideal, the matter will be referred to the Local Appointments Commission.

4. **Report of the CEO's of Financial Results Report No. 44/02** The Executive met with the Department of Health & Children on the 7th June, 2002, to review Service Plans 2002.
5. **Annual Report, 2001 Report No. 45/02** Report No. 45/02 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. B. Chambers, seconded by Dep. T. O’Malley.

The Chairman, Cllr. Sheahan paid tribute to the staff who had compiled the Annual Report.

In response to Cllr. J. Bourke on whether Asylum Seekers are given preferential treatment over other social welfare recipients, the CEO stated that special arrangements are prescribed for specific groups. Dep. J. O'Sullivan stated that the current misperceptions in the public are feeding a great deal of racism. The Members were informed that a report on Asylum Seeker/Refugee Services will come before the Board in July.

- 6. Report on Stella Maris Nursing Home
Report No. 46/02**

Report No. 46/02 was noted.
The CEO advised the Board that this process is not complete and is still with the Department of Health & Children. The CEO referred to the Board's decision making role on prioritisation. He suggested that the Board in the circumstances shall agree to secure the funding indicated for North Clare. The Members will be kept informed.
- 7. Report on the Executive
Summary of the Strategic Review of the Ambulance Service 2001
Report No. 47/02**

Report No. 47/02 was noted.
- 8. Report on Proposed Sexual Assault Unit
Report No. 38/02**

Report No 48/02 was proposed by Cllr. J. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. S. Hillery. Dep. T. O'Malley endorsed the Report and complimented Dr. K. Kelleher and others involved in it. The CEO will follow-up on funding of this Unit with the two Departments involved.

9. **Report on National Steering Committee (January 2002) Review of Immunisation/ Vaccination Programme Report No. 49/02** Report No. 49/02 was noted
10. **Report on HIV and AIDS in Ireland 2001 Report No. 50/02** Report No. 50/02 was noted.
11. **Update Report on Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 (No. 6 of 2002) Report No. 51/02** Report No. 51/02 was noted.
12. **Questions**
- (a) **Question submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler:**
“What is the Board’s position in relation to travel for students of our special needs schools and like arrangements for those people who have finished their schooling and attend work with organisations such as the Brothers of Charity, with particular reference to those people from rural areas travelling to urban centres?”
- A written reply was circulated and is appended hereto as an integral part of the Minute.
13. **Notice of Motion**
- (b) **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Bugler:**
“In light of the fact that service provision by the Mid-Western Health Board is fragmented throughout the town of Ennis, that this Board would engage with other public service agencies in the town with a

view to centralising services in light of cost, ease of access to the users and helping to create a proper identity for the service providers”.

Mr. S. deBúrca stated that the Board has rationalised its accommodation for Community Services in Ennis over recent years in the Sandfield Centre, Bindon Street and Tobartaoscain Centre. Concentrating on these three main centres fragmentation in Ennis has been substantially reduced and reasonable quality accommodation has been provided. The indicative NDP funding will not facilitate major capital development for this purpose and the Executive is reviewing it's long term accommodation needs throughout Co. Clare and has had preliminary discussion with Clare County Council in respect of provision in the Ennis area.

Signed/

Cllr. K. Sheahan, Chairman

S. deBúrca, Chief Executive Officer

Date