



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
NORTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD  
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, HEAD OFFICE, KELLS  
ON MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2004**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Declan Breathnach Chairman	Mr. James Mangan, Vice Chairman
Ms. Nancy Allen	Mr. Danny Brady
Mr. Patrick Conaty	Mr. Paudge Connolly, T.D.
Mr. John Farrelly	Mr. Eddie Feeley
Mr. Brian Fitzgerald	Mr. Brendan Hughes
Mr. Michael Lynch	Dr. Paul Mc Carthy
Mr. Gerry Murray	Mr. Hugh Mc Elvaney
Mr. Finnan Mc Coy	Mr. Brian O'Neill
Mr. Brian Mc Kenna	Mr. Peter Savage
Mr. Patrick O'Reilly	Mr. William Mc Kenna
Mr. Patsy Treanor	

**APOLOGIES**

Dr. Declan Bedford, Mr. Jim Cousins and Mr. James Mulroy

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Alf Nicholson, Dr. Patrick O'Neill, Mr. Thomas Reilly,  
Mr. Maurice Stokes and Ms. Grainne Tipping

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mr. Paul Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Ambrose Mc Loughlin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Geoff Day, Assistant CEO Regional and Community Services  
Mr. David Gaskin, Acting ACEO Acute Hospital Services  
Mr. Fran Thompson, Director of Information Systems  
Mr. Seoirse O'hAodha, Head of Finance  
Dr. Fenton Howell, Director of Public Health and Planning  
Mr. Jim Curran, Technical Services Officer  
Mr. Eamon O'Brien, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Jim Reilly, General Manager, CEO's Office  
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Communications Director  
Ms. Mary Flanagan, Board Secretary  
Ms. Margaret Martin, Finance Department, attended the meeting for Item 5 (Annual Financial Statements for 2003)

## 1. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Mr. Tom Oxley, Meath Community Services on the death of his mother

Ms. Marie McMahon, Senior Staff Nurse, St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan on the death of her mother

Ms. Margaret Connolly-Hughes, Psychiatric Nurse, St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan on the death of her mother

Mr. Seamus Connolly, Clinical Nurse, St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan on the death of his mother

Ms. Berniece McCrystal, Ambulance Nurse, Monaghan Ambulance Station on the death of her husband

Mr. Oliver O'Connor, Clinical Nurse Manager, Acute Psychiatry Unit, Cavan General Hospital on the death of his father

Mr. Edward Boyle, Patient Transport Services Driver, Dundalk Ambulance Station on the death of his sister

Ms. Briege Lynn, Staff Nurse, Drogheda Services for the Older Person on the death of her mother

Mr. Edward Ferris, EMT, Navan Ambulance Station on the death of his father

Husband and family of the late Mrs. Breda Sheridan, R.I.P., former Assistant Director of Nursing, Our Lady's Hospital, Navan

The family of the late Ms. Elaine Dunphy, R.I.P., formerly of Meath Community Services, Navan

Mr. Alex Connolly, Communications Director with the East Coast Area Health Board, on the death of his father Mr. Andrew Connolly, Navan.

On behalf of the Board's staff, and that of his own, the Chief Executive Officer associated himself with the votes of sympathy which were passed, all present standing.

## 2. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- The Chairman reminded all present to switch off all mobile phones during the meeting and asked members to try to do any media interviews after the meeting rather than during the meeting.
- He reminded members who wish to attend the LAMA Conference to submit their names to the CEO's Office as soon as possible

## 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On the proposal of Mr. Brendan Hughes, seconded by Mr. Michael Lynch, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, to discuss the report on the deficiencies of the Board, were unanimously adopted by the Board. On the proposal of Mr. Danny Brady, seconded by Mr. Patrick Conaty, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2004, were unanimously adopted by the Board.

## 4. ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

### *Disposal*

- *Disposal of Lands at Cross Lanes*
- *Land Letting at Townparks, Ardee and Land Letting at Moneymore, Drogheda*

The Head of Finance presented reports (copies appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Mr. John Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Danny Brady, the Reports were adopted by the Board.

***Acquisitions - Leases***

- *Accommodation in the Enterprise Centre, Navan*
- *Accommodation in the Enterprise Centre, Trim*
- *Accommodation in Carrickmacross Workhouse*
- *Warehouse accommodation at East Coast Business Park, Drogheda*

The Head of Finance presented reports (copies appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Mr. Brendan Hughes, seconded by Mr. Finnan Mc Coy, the Reports were adopted by the Board.

A general discussion took place on the money spent by the Board on renting premises rather than purchasing. Members requested that the Department of Health and Children be requested to approve the Board borrowing money or taking out mortgages to purchase property rather than continuing to rent over long periods.

**5. 2003 DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (IN COMMITTEE)**

The Head of Finance presented the 2003 Draft Annual Financial Statements in committee, which were unanimously adopted by the Board on the proposal of Mr. William Mc Kenna and seconded by Mr. Michael Lynch.

**6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive Officer presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) which had been circulated and which dealt with:

- Additional Allocations
- Disposal of Property
- Health Reform
- Breffni Care Centre - ISO Q Mark
- Meath Mental Health Service
- Cavan General Hospital
  - *Incident Reporting/Review*
  - *Death of Frances Sheridan*
- Gynaecology Services
- Midwifery Care
- Public Health (Tobacco) Acts, 2002 and 2004
- Health Promotion
- Retirement of Mr. Pat Black
- Donations

Members welcomed the report. A lengthy discussion took place to which many members contributed. Members extended their congratulations and good wishes to Mr. Aidan Browne and Mr. Tadhg O'Brien, Assistant CEOs, on their secondment to the Interim Health Services Executive. While members felt that their loss to the Board would be substantial, they also felt that their huge wealth of knowledge and experience would be invaluable to the new Executive. Members also wished Mr. Pat Black well in his retirement and acknowledged his huge contribution to the development of mental health services over the years.

The Chief Executive Officer replied to the many comments from members and clarified a number of issues. He referred to the current status of the Health Service Reforms and the impact of the European Whole Time Directive (EWTD) which would affect the numbers of non-consultant hospital doctors.

The Chairman also referred to the health reforms and informed members that he had been trying to get some information from the Minister's office on the future of the Board and political representation after their abolition.

The report was noted by the Board.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There was no business under this Item.

**8. REPORT ON REVIEW OF OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES**

The Assistant CEO presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Members welcomed the report and agreed that the implementation committee be established as quickly as possible to facilitate the recommendations contained in the report. Members referred to the situation whereby elderly people had to travel to Dublin for appointments, etc. which necessitated early starts in the mornings and late home in the evenings, and to the lengthy waiting lists for children.

The report was noted by the Board.

**9. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DERMATOLOGY SERVICES (COMHAIRLE NA N-OSPIDEAL)**

The Assistant CEO presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Members welcomed the report but expressed their disappointment that the candidate recommended for the post in Monaghan decided not to accept the offer. They hoped that the recent negative publicity surrounding Monaghan and Cavan would not affect future appointments to either of the hospitals.

The report was noted by the Board.

**10. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL PARASUICIDE REGISTRY IRELAND**

It was agreed to defer this Item to the April Meeting of the Board.

**11. REPORT ON DEFICIENCIES AND NEEDS IN THE CURRENT SERVICES WITHIN THE NEHB AREA.**

It was agreed that members would consider the report as circulated and submit further views/additions, etc. to the Chief Executive Officer's Office as soon as possible with a view to discussing the final report at the April meeting of the Board.

**12. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*"To ask the Chief Executive Officer how many babies were born in transit to hospital nationally and in the North Eastern Health Board."*

- submitted by Mr. Brendan Hughes

The response as circulated by the Chief Executive Officer (copy appended to the official minute) was noted by the Board.

*"To ask the Chief Executive Officer of the NEHB in relation to the Bonner Report,*

- (a) Whether a Joint Medical Committee, as recommended, has been established, and whether they have met once a month, alternating between Cavan and Monaghan,*
- (b) Since July 2002, how many joint Management and Medical Board meetings between Cavan General Hospital and Monaghan General Hospital have taken place,*
- (c) Has an Interim Management Team, as recommended been appointed?*
- (d) What steps have been taken to appoint an Assistant General Manager on the Monaghan site?*
- (e) What steps in relation to Dermatological services have been taken to appoint a Dermatologist on the Monaghan site?*
- (f) What steps are being taken to provide adequate mortuary services at Monaghan General Hospital, and has funding been requested for same?*
- (g) What steps have been taken to develop the use of tele-links across the region for specialist diagnosis and to facilitate out-of-hours services?*
- (h) How much of the estimated €14.035 million cost of implementing the Bonner Report in respect of Monaghan General Hospital has been spent, and also how much has been requested from the Department for further developments?"*

*- submitted by Deputy Paudge Connolly*

The response as circulated by the Chief Executive Officer (copy appended to the official minute) was noted by the Board. Deputy Connolly indicated that he was not satisfied with the response.

*"To ask the Chief Executive officer what steps he is taking to ensure that major surgical operations - recently discontinued at Cavan General Hospital - will return to Cavan General Hospital and how soon this is likely to occur?"*

*- submitted by Deputy Paudge Connolly*

The response as circulated by the Chief Executive Officer (copy appended to the official minute) was noted by the Board. Deputy Connolly indicated that he was not satisfied with the response.

### **13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would take place on **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2004, at 2.30 p.m.** in the Boardroom, Head Office, Kells, Co. Meath.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_