



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
NORTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD  
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, HEAD OFFICE, KELLS  
ON MONDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2003**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Mr. Jim Cousins, Mr. Brian O'Neill, Dr. Patrick O'Neill and Ms. Grainne Tipping

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Hugh Mc Elvaney, Dr. Alf Nicholson

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mr. Paul Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Ambrose Mc Loughlin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. David Gaskin, Acting Assistant CEO Acute Hospital Services  
Mr. Geoff Day, Assistant CEO Regional Services  
Mr. Aidan Browne, Assistant CEO Community 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, Senior Administrative Officer, CEO's Office  
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Communications Co-Ordinator  
Ms. Laura Monaghan, Press Officer  
Ms. Mary Flanagan, Board Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Kellett, CEO's Office

**1. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Ms. Patricia O'Donnell, Finance Department, Kells Business Park on the death of her sister

Ms. Martina Campbell, Boyne View House on the death of her mother

Ms. Lorraine Brady, Cavan Community Services and Ms. Marie McKiernan, Internal Audit, Head Office, on the death of their father

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 welcomed Mr. Brian Mc Kenna to his first meeting of the Board. Mr. Mc Kenna had been appointed by Monaghan County Council to fill the vacancy on the Board arising from the resignation of Mr. Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D., from the Council. Members present associated themselves with the Chairman's welcome. Mr. Mc Kenna thanked the Chairman and members for their welcome

The Chairman informed members of the arrangements for Service Plan Meetings - Board Meeting in committee on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2004, at 3.00 p.m. to discuss the First Draft of the Board's 2004 Service Plan, with Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2004, at 2.30 p.m. as the date for the Board Meeting to adopt the Service Plan.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

On the proposal of Mr. Danny Brady, seconded by Mr. Jimmy Mulroy, the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2003, were unanimously adopted by the Board.

**4. ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

- *Purchase of Lands at Louth County Hospital, Dundalk, Co. Louth*

The Director of Finance presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Members welcomed the report and paid tribute to all involved.

The Chief Executive Officer informed members that the purchase of this land would help secure the future of Louth County Hospital with a wide range of related services being provided on the campus.

On the proposal of Dr. Paul Mc Carthy, seconded by Deputy Paudge Connolly, the Report was adopted by the Board.

**5. REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2002 OF THE NORTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

The Director of Finance presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

The Report was noted by the Board.

**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
- Drugs Payment Scheme
- Public Hospital Charges
- Risk Analysis of Water Supplies in Hospitals and Long-Stay Institutions
- North East Doctor on Call (NEDOC) Arrangements over Christmas and New Year
- Care and Safety at Christmas
- Visit by Minister Ivor Callely, T.D.
- Donations

Members welcomed the report, particularly the additional allocations.

Members raised a number of issues, including nursing home subvention, water analysis, increased hospital charges, drugs scheme increases, capital funding and the purchase of property at Kells.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to and clarified issues raised by the members and agreed to contact CIE in relation to the provision of Bus Stops at the Virginia Health Care Unit.

The report was noted by the Board.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There was no business under this Item.

**8. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MENTAL HOSPITALS (Deferred from November Meeting)**

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

The Assistant CEO responded to the issues raised by members.

The Report was noted by the Board.

**9. REPORT ON SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NEHB, 2002 (Deferred from November Meeting)**

The Director of Public Health presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Members welcomed the report and expressed their concerns at the increase in binge-drinking and the fact that young people still continue to smoke in large numbers despite all the advertising to discourage smoking.

The Director of Public Health responded to the issues raised by the members.

The report was noted by the Board.

**10. REPORT ON SMOKING CESSATION IN THE NORTH EAST  
(Deferred from November Meeting)**

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

Members welcomed the Report which was noted by the Board.

**11. REPORT ON CANCER IN IRELAND 1994 - 2002 - INCIDENCE, MORTALITY, TREATMENT AND SURVIVAL**

The Director of Public Health presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Members welcomed the report which was noted by the Board.

**12. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2004**

The report detailing the Schedule of Meetings for 2004 (copy appended to the official minute) was noted by the Board. It was agreed that the dates for the October and December meetings would be referred to the Board's Protocol Committee for recommendation.

**13. QUESTIONS TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*"To ask the Chief Executive Officer of the North Eastern Health Board, in relation to Health Board employees returning to work following a period of sick leave,*

*(a) how many staff are currently being referred to the North Eastern Health Board's Occupational Health doctor,*

*(b) the length of time required to make an appointment with the Occupational Health Doctor,*

*(c) the number of people currently awaiting an appointment with the doctor,*

*(d) why the Health Board will not accept a letter of Fitness to Return to Work from an employee's own GP or Consultant*

*(e) if the Waiting List time for an appointment with the Occupational Health Doctor will be classified as ordinary sick leave, and*

*(f) whether employees will be entitled to the normal premium pay that would accrue to them whilst awaiting their particular appointments."*

*- submitted by Mr. Paudge Connolly, T.D.*

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

**14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would be the **Annual General Meeting on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2004, at 2.30 p.m. followed by the Ordinary Monthly Meeting** in the Boardroom, Head Office, Kells, Co. Meath.

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

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