

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
NORTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD  
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, HEAD OFFICE, KELLS  
ON MONDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2003**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Declan Breathnach Chairman	Dr. Declan Bedford
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
Mr. Gerry Murray	Mr. Hugh Mc Elvaney
Mr. William Mc Kenna	Dr. Alf Nicholson
Mr. Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin T.D.	Mr. Patrick O'Reilly
Mr. Tommy Reilly	Mr. Peter Savage
Mr. Maurice Stokes	S. Grainne Tipping
Mr. Patsy Treanor	

**APOLOGIES**

Ms. Nancy Allen, Dr. Teresa Carey, Mr. Jim Cousins, Mr. Jim Mangan,  
Dr. Paul Mc Carthy and Mr. Brian O'Neill

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. James Mulroy, Mr. Fergus O'Dowd, T.D. and Dr. Patrick O'Neill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mr. Paul Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Tadhg O'Brien, Assistant CEO Acute Hospital Services  
Mr. Aidan Browne, Assistant CEO Community Services  
Ms. Anne Marie Hoey, A/Asst CEO Regional Services  
Mr. Fran Thompson, Director of Information Systems  
Mr. Seoirse O'hAodha, Finance Officer  
Dr. Fenton Howell, Director of Public Health and Planning  
Mr. Jim Curran, Technical Services Officer  
Mr. Eamon O'Brien, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Anne Coyle, A/Asst CEO Governance & Planning  
Mr. Jim Reilly, Senior Administrative Officer, CEO's Office  
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Communications Co-Ordinator  
Ms. Mary Flanagan, CEO's Office

**1. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Mrs. Elsa Walsh, Management Services Department on the death of her father  
Ms. Rosalie Smith Lynch, Freedom of Information Officer, St. Felim's Hospital on the death of her father  
Ms. Martina Maguire, Cottage Hospital, Drogheda on the death of her father

Ms. Monica Clinton, Cottage Hospital, Drogheda on the death of her mother  
Ms. Mary Haughey, Cottage Hospital on the death of her brother  
Ms. Jean Campbell, Boyne View House on the death of her father  
Ms. Sheila Sheils, Louth Community Services on the death of her mother  
Mr. P. Caffrey, Cavan General Hospital on the death of his mother  
Ms. Joan McGee, Cavan General Hospital on the death of her mother  
Ms. Margaret McNally, Monaghan General Hospital on the death of her brother  
Ms. Margie Shalvey, St. Davnet's Hospital on the death of her mother  
Mrs. Eileen Shanaghy, Cavan Services for the Elderly, on the death of her sister

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 opened the Meeting by informing members that the Minister for Health and Children had published the Report of Mr. Kevin Bonner and that a Special Meeting of the Board would take place on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, commencing at 3.00 p.m. to discuss the Report. The Report and a copy of the Minister's Statement had been issued with the Notification of the Special Meeting.

Mr. Breathnach extended congratulations to Paul Maguire, Presenter of Loose Talk on LM/FM Radio, who was moving to the RTE Newsroom, and wished him well in his new adventure. He read a letter from Mr. Maguire thanking the Board for their assistance during his time with LM/FM. Members present joined with the Chairman in extending good wishes to Mr. Maguire.

The Chairman updated members on the meeting with the Minister for Health and Children and the Deputation from the Board. The Chairman stated that pressure should be kept on the Minister for additional funding due to the increased population and consequent demand for services and members agreed with this.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

On the proposal of Mr. Danny Brady, seconded by Mr. Brendan Hughes, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, were unanimously adopted by the Board.

## **4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILD CARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES, 2002 taken in conjunction with ITEM 9 ON THE AGENDA "REPORT OF FOSTER CARE SERVICE"**

The Assistant CEO Community Services presented Reports in relation to the above (copies of both reports appended to the official minute).

Members welcomed the reports and paid tribute to Mr. Browne and all the staff involved in the provision of child care services in the region. Tributes were paid to all providing foster care to children in need. The need for better publicity in reporting child abuse cases was emphasised with a view to informing the public as to what could and could not be reported and what action could be taken. Non-accidental injuries to children was also highlighted.

The Assistant CEO responded to the comments and queries from the members and the Chief Executive Officer paid particular thanks to the members of the Child Care Advisory Committee who provided invaluable advice.

On the proposal of Mr. Michael Lynch, seconded by Mr. Patsy Treanor, the Annual Review of Child Care and Family Support Services, 2002, was adopted by the Board.

**5. 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
- NDP Funding
- New Low Vision Clinic Service
- Special Olympics
- Gynaecology Day Services at Monaghan
- Smoking Prohibition
- Donations

Members welcomed the report, particularly the additional allocations. Members in general welcomed the proposed new smoking legislation but asked that special arrangements be put in place for patients/clients in long stay institutions, particularly psychiatric, who now regarded these institutions as their home. Disappointment was expressed at the small amount allocated under the NDP Funding.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the comments from the members and clarified a number of queries in relation to the additional funding, including the NDP funding. He agreed that special cognisance would have to be taken in relation to the people in long stay institutions, particularly psychiatric, and that this would be examined. In relation to comments on the proposed reform of health services, with particular reference to staff in Head Office, he stated that no further information was available at this stage but that he would be keeping the Board informed on progress.

The Report was noted by the Board.

**6. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There was no business under this Item.

**7. REPORT ON "A SPECTRUM OF RESPONSE FOR A SPECTRUM OF NEED" - SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (INTERIM REPORT)**

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

Members welcomed the Report and commended the key proposals contained therein and looked forward to its implementation.

The Report was noted by the Board.

**8. REPORT OF COMHAIRLE NA NOSPOIDEAL COMMITTEE ON NEUROLOGY AND NEUROPHYSIOLOGY SERVICES**

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

Members welcomed the report but had concerns in relation to the length of time patients had to wait for a neurological appointment. Details on waiting lists for appointments in Beaumont Hospital were requested. The need for dedicated sessions to the North East was

emphasised as was the need to pursue negotiations with the Department of Health and Children and Beaumont Hospital to try and improve the situation.

The report was noted by the Board.

**9. REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOSTER CARE SERVICE**

This Item was taken in conjunction with Item 4 on the Agenda.

**10. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

The Deputy CEO Governance and Planning presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

The report was noted by the Board.

**11. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.**

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

Details of the statistics relevant to the Board were requested together with the number of claims and costs in comparison to 2001. It was agreed that this information would be brought to the next meeting of the Standing Committees.

The report was noted by the Board.

**12. QUESTIONS TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*“To ask the Chief Executive Officer of the North Eastern Health Board in relation to the withdrawn sex education booklet ‘4 boys’ and ‘4 girls’*

*(a) Is it the NEHB’s intention to relaunch these booklets (following inclusion of age of consent) in the same format?*

*(b) What were the total costs involved in producing these booklets?”*

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

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

*“To ask the Chief Executive Officer of the North Eastern Health Board in relation to NEHB outstanding debts to advertising agencies*

*(a) Will these impact negatively on the Board’s ability to place advertisements to recruit staff?*

*(b) What debts in excess of thirty days do the NEHB owe?”*

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

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

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would take place on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2003, at 2.30 p.m. in the Boardroom, Head Office, Kells, Co. Meath.

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

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