

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
NORTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, HEAD OFFICE, KELLS
ON TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2003**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Declan Breathnach Chairman	Mr. James Mangan, Vice Chairman
Ms. Nancy Allen	Dr. Declan Bedford
Mr. Danny Brady	Mr. Paddy Conaty
Mr. James Mulroy	Mr. Jim Cousins
Mr. John Farrelly	Mr. Eddie Feeley
Mr. Brian Fitzgerald	Mr. Brendan Hughes
Mr. Michael Lynch	Mr. Gerry Murray
Mr. Patsy Treanor	Mr. Hugh Mc Elvaney
Mr. William Mc Kenna	Mr. Brian O'Neill
Mr. Patrick O'Reilly	Mr. Thomas Reilly
Mr. Peter Savage	

APOLOGIES

Mr. Paudge Connolly, T.D., Dr. Paul Mc Carthy, Mr. Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D.,
Mr. Maurice Stokes, Ms. Grainne Tipping

NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Teresa Carey, Dr. Alf Nicholson and Dr. Patrick O'Neill

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Paul Robinson, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Ambrose Mc Loughlin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Tadhg O'Brien, 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
Ms. Margaret Martin, Finance Department
Dr. Fenton Howell, Director of Public Health and Planning
Mr. Jim Curran, Technical Services Officer
Ms. Caitriona Heslin, Organisation and Development Unit
Mr. Jim Reilly, Senior Administrative Officer, CEO's Office
Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Communications Director
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. Madge Martin, St. Brigid's Hospital, Ardee, (and former Board Member), on the death of her mother

Ms. Charlotte Reilly, Meath Community Services, on the death of her father

Ms. Elaine Payne Mc Guinness, Meath Community Services, on the death of her father

Ms. Anne McMahon, Head Office, Kells, on the death of her father

Ms. Nora Mc Carthy, Mosney Health Centre, on the death of her mother and father

Ms. Mary Hawcroft, St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim, on the death of her mother

Ms. Bridie O'Donnell, St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim, on the death of her sister

Sr. M. Goretti Flynn, St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim, on the death of her sister

Ms. Mary Bannon, St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim, on the death of her brother

Ms. Geraldine Fanning, Monaghan General Hospital, on the death of her mother

Mr. Tommy Hagan, Monaghan General Hospital, on the death of his wife

Mr. Martin Lynch, St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney, on the death of his 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

▪ **Mr. Fergus O'Dowd – Resignation**

The Chairman informed the members that Mr. Fergus O'Dowd, T.D., had notified Louth County Council of his intention to resign his membership with effect from Tuesday 30th September, 2003 and stated that it would be a matter for Louth County Council to nominate a replacement to the Board. He thanked Mr. O'Dowd for his service to the Board and wished him well in the future.

▪ **Congratulations**

The Chairman congratulated athletes from the Summerhill Active Retirement Group on winning gold and bronze medals at the World Senior Games in Utah. He also congratulated Mr. Paul Brady, son of Mr. Danny Brady, on winning the All Ireland Handball Championships and Mr. Paul Dunne on winning the All Ireland Poc Fada Competition.

▪ **Letter from Dr. Paul Mc Carthy**

The Chairman informed members that he had received a request from Dr. Paul McCarthy to defer Item No. 9 - Annual Report of the GMS Payments Board. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Board on the proposal of the Chairman which was seconded by Mr. Michael Lynch.

▪ **Special Joint Committee Meeting**

The Chairman informed members that a Special Joint Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday 13th November, 2003 at 5:00pm in Kells to discuss the Hanly Report.

▪ **Finance Committee Meeting**

The Chairman informed members that the next meeting of the Finance Committee would take place on Tuesday, 4th November, at 3.30 p.m. in the Boardroom, Head Office and that the agenda would issue during the week.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On the proposal of Mr. Brendan Hughes, seconded by Mr. Danny Brady, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday, 22nd September, 2003, were adopted by the Board.

4. ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

The Finance Officer presented reports in relation to Lease of Premises (copies appended to the official minute) and which were adopted as follows:

(a) *Lease of Premises at Kildalkey Road, Athboy*

- adopted on proposal of Mr. Michael Lynch, seconded by Mr. James Mangan.

(b) *Lease of Premises at Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth*

- adopted on proposal of Mr. Jim Cousins, seconded by Mr. James Mulroy.

**5. BOARD'S DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2002
(IN COMMITTEE)**

The Finance Officer presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) together with the Draft Annual Financial Statements (in committee) in relation to the above. On the proposal of Mr. Danny Brady, seconded by Mr. Michael Lynch, the Board's Draft Annual Financial Statements 2002 were adopted 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
- Capital Funding:
- Housing Aid for the Elderly – funding for 2003
- Appointments
- Health Promotion
- Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
- Monaghan Hospital
- Carlingford Health Centre
- Health Service Reform Programme
- Donations

A lengthy discussion took place on the report which was welcomed by the members. The additional allocations were welcomed as was the allocation for capital funding. A number of issues were raised in relation to the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme. Members requested that a report be circulated to the members regarding the Scheme prior to the next meeting. Members congratulated the Gardai on recent drug seizures in the area. Members also raised concerns in relation to the liability of the Board regarding cases against Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. Concerns in relation to the implementation of the action plan for Monaghan Hospital and the costs were also raised.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the comments and queries raised.

The Chief Executive Officer's Report was noted by the Board.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

There was no business under this item.

8 (i) REPORT ON REVIEW OF SERVICE PLAN TO 30TH JUNE, 2003

The Chief Executive Officer presented a Report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the above.

Some members raised issues in relation to the cost of the ambulance service, the number of asylum seekers in the North East and the costs of providing health services to same.

It was agreed, on the proposal of the Chairman, to consider the Service Plan further at the November Meeting when the Report to the 30th September would be available following the Finance Committee Meeting.

(ii) REPORT ON RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Members welcomed the Report as circulated with the documentation (copy appended to the official minute).

Some members expressed serious concerns in relation to funding for the North East region and Meath in particular. Members stated that the growth in population in the region was not taken into account in the allocation of funding for the North East.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the concerns of the members.

The Report was noted by the Board.

9. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD

It was agreed to defer this item to the November meeting of the Board.

10. 2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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

Members welcomed the report and suggested that health education and promotion should be pursued and encouraged in mental health services.

The Report was noted by the Board.

11. REPORT ON A STRATEGY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH EAST

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

Most members welcomed the report and noted the contribution of the members.

The Chairman paid tribute to Ms. Caitriona Heslin and Ms. Ann Ryan for their work in compiling the report.

The Report was noted by the Board with Mr. Mc Elvaney indicating his opposition to the Strategy.

12. COMHAIRLE REPORT ON MATERNITY SERVICES

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

Members expressed strong objections to the report in relation to consultant staffing and midwifery led services in the region. Members did not support the Committee's

statement that there was 'insufficient evidence to support the establishment of Midwifery Led Units in Monaghan in Dundalk'.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the queries and concerns of the members and indicated that he had requested the Kinder Task Force to examine the Report.

The Report was noted by the Board.

13. REPORT ON MEDICAL MANPOWER AND STAFFING (HANLY REPORT)

It was agreed to discuss this report at the Special Joint Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 13th November, 2003 at 5:00pm in Kells.

14. REPORT FROM NAMING OF BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Assistant CEO Community Services presented a report (copy appended to the official minute) in relation to the naming of the following facilities which were adopted as set out below:

Health Care Facility at Virginia

It was agreed that this facility would be named 'Virginia Community Health Centre' on the proposal of Mr. Patrick O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Hugh McElvaney.

Facility for Services for Older People – Commons Road, Navan

It was agreed that this facility would be named 'An Tealach' on the proposal of Mr. James Mangan, seconded by Mr. Michael Lynch.

15. REPORT ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY ON PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Board.

16. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer of the North Eastern Health Board if it is his intention to replace the consultant surgeon who has departed from Monaghan General Hospital recently, thereby maintaining three consultant surgeon positions at Monaghan General Hospital."

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

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

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would take place on **Monday, 24th November, 2003, at 2.30 p.m.** in the Boardroom, Head Office, Kells, Co. Meath.

SIGNED: _____
CHAIRMAN

DATE: _____