

## **EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

*Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. 1 James's Street. Dublin on Thursday. 2nd December. 1971 at 7 p.m.*

*Present:*

Deputy P. J. Burke	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Councillor M. Carroll	Miss Kay Kinsella
Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B.	Dr. A. Meade
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. James McCormick
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Deputy Joe Dowling	Dr. J. St. L. O'Dea
Mr. D. Gallivan, B.D.S.	Dr. B. O'Donnell
Commissioner J. Garvin	Mr. Dermot O'Flynn
Councillor Patrick Hickey	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Miss Eileen Horgan	Mr. Hugh Corrigan

Dr. J. McCormick, Chairman, presided.

*Apologies for absence:*

Senator Dr. R. Belton and Deputy F. Cluskey.

*Officers in attendance:*

Mr. E. O Caoimh, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. F. Donohoe
Professor Ivor Browne, <i>Programme Manager. Special Hospital Care</i>	Mr. F. J. McCullough
Dr. M. Crowe, <i>Chief Medical Officer</i>	Mr. P. J. Swords
Dr. B. M. Dunleavy, <i>Assistant Chief Medical Officer</i>	Mr. C. D. McElree
Mr. J. F. Reynolds, <i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. T. Fagan
Mr. F. Elliott <i>Planning &amp; Evaluation Officer</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
	Mr. F. Williams
	Mr. P. Sheehan
	Mr. J. Duggan
	Miss K. Dolan

**134/71 ILLNESS OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman said he had learned with regret that Dr. Belton, Vice-Chairman of the Board, was in hospital and asked that the Board's wishes for his early recovery be conveyed to him.

**135/71 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was agreed, on the Chairman's suggestion, that the order of business would be as follows:—

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 4th November, 1971.
2. Consideration of the Estimate of Expenses 1972/73.
3. Notices of Motion.
4. Consideration of such other business on the Agenda for the monthly meeting as time would permit.

**136/71 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board held on 4th November, 1971, having been circulated, were confirmed—on a proposal by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Mr. O'Flynn.

Arising from the Minutes, Dr. Meade was informed that the advertising of the post of Programme Manager Community Care by the Local Appointments Commission awaited the declaration by the Minister for Health of the qualifications for the position.

**137/71 ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES 1972/73**

It was proposed by Councillor Hickey and seconded by Councillor Dockrell:—

'That we, the Eastern Health Board, having met as a Committee of the Whole House, on the 2nd day of December, 1971, have considered the Draft Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending on 31st March, 1973 and do hereby recommend that the Draft Estimate of Expenses, as amended, be adopted by the Board'.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, on the following voting:—

## FOR—(19)

Deputy P. J. Burke, Councillor M. Carroll, Mr. J. Corcoran. M.B., Dr. J. Cullen, Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Deputy Joe Dowling, Mr. D. Gallivan, Commissioner J. Garvin, Councillor P. Hickey. Miss Eileen Morgan. Dr. P. C. Jennings, Miss Kay Kinsella, Dr. A. Meade, Dr. James McCormick, Dr. J. St. L O'Dea. Dr. B. O'Donnell, Mr. D. O'Flynn. Dr. B. O'Herlihy. Mr. H. Corrigan.

## AGAINST

Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell.

The Draft Estimate of Expenses as amended (which is annexed as an Appendix to these Minutes) was considered in conjunction with Report No. 68/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor Hickey, seconded by Councillor Dockrell and unanimously resolved:—

'That we, the Eastern Health Board, having met on this 2nd day of December, 1971, to consider the Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending on 31st March, 1973 do hereby

- (1) adopt the Estimate as amended and
- (2) approve of the incurring of additional expenditure of £736,230 in the current year which is not covered by the adopted Estimate of Expenses for 1971/72 and the specific authorisations of the Board during the year".

138/71

## NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion standing in the names of Councillors Dowling, Cunningham, Mahon, Hickey, Carroll. Temple, Clinton, Burke, Senator Dr. Belton, Dr. O'Herlihy, and Miss Horgan, was again deferred as the necessary number of members were not present:

"That Article 2 of the Standing Orders, fixing the time of monthly meetings of the Board be amended by the substitution of '5 p.m.' for '3 p.m.' and '8 p.m.' for '6 p.m.' "

The following motion was proposed by Dr. Meade and seconded by Miss Horgan:—

"That this Board directs its officers

- (1) to adhere strictly to the terms of the agreement between the Department of Health and the medical profession when appointing doctors to participate in the Choice of Doctor Scheme and when assigning patients to them;
- (2) to set up a tribunal consisting of Board officials, the secretaries of the Irish Medical Association and the Medical Union (or their deputies) to consider cases where doubt or dispute arises".

Opening the discussion. Dr. Meade said that the document circulated by the Department of Health was not clear on a number of points concerning the qualification of doctors for entry into the Scheme and that this had given rise to difficulties of interpretation. The Chief Executive Officer said there were two main problems—(1) doctors who felt that they were qualified for inclusion but who had been excluded (2) doctors who it was suggested were not eligible, but who had been included.

The following opinion on the motion from the Law Agent was read:—

"We do not consider paragraph 2 in the Motion to be in order. It is a little imprecise in its language so that its ultimate intended effect is in doubt. But it seems to us it may be intended to involve the secretaries of the other bodies referred to in decision making in matters which are the statutory responsibility of the Board or yourself as its Chief Executive Officer. Statutory responsibility cannot be shared unless expressly authorised by statute".

Dr. Meade asked leave to withdraw the motion, which was agreed to, and he thereupon proposed the following motion:—

"That this Board recommends that pending appropriate representation for action by the Minister to clarify the position, a Committee should be set up to advise the Chief Executive Officer regarding individual cases of doubt or in dispute, the Committee to consist of nominated Board officials including, where necessary, the Law Agent and representatives of the medical profession".

The motion, which was seconded by Deputy Burke, was agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the Minister be requested to set up machinery by regulation which would enable cases related to

the Scheme and which are in doubt or dispute to be considered and adjudicated upon.

**139/71 VISITING COMMITTEES: APPOINTMENT  
OF COMMITTEE TO VISIT CENTRAL MENTAL HOSPITAL,  
DUNDRUM AND REARRANGEMENT OF WICKLOW  
HOSPITALS**

The following Report No. 63/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was adopted:—

"At its meeting on 4th November, 1971, the Board deferred consideration of the appointment of a Visiting Committee to the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum. Also, it was requested that visiting arrangements be reviewed in order that Co. Wicklow members would be included on the Committee visiting Wicklow Hospitals.

I propose that, with effect from 1st January next, the following changes be made:—

- (1) Baltinglass District Hospital be transferred from No. 2 to No. 1 Committee, thus giving to No. 1 Committee (on which the three Co. Wicklow members are represented) all four Wicklow institutions;
- (2) Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum be allocated to No. 2 Committee.

If the Board adopts these changes the constitution of the Visiting Committees will be as follows:—

<i>Hospitals</i>	<i>Members</i>
<i>No. 1 Committee:</i>	
Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital	Deputy Clinton (Chairman)
St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum	Or. <b>Cullen</b>
District Hospital, Wicklow	Deputy Dowling
St. Patrick's <b>Home, Dublin</b>	Miss Horgan
Vergemount Hospital, Clonskea, Dublin	Dr. Jennings
Baltinglass District Hospital	Dr. McCormick
	Councillor Sweeney
	Councillor Temple
	Deputy G. Timmins

(9)

*Hospitals**Members***No. 2 Committee:**

St. Brendan's Psychiatric Hospital  
 Cherry Orchard Fever Hospital  
 St. Brigid's Home. Crooksling  
 Bru Chaoimhin, Cork Street. Dublin  
 Old Coombe Day Centre  
 Industrial Therapy. Hanbury Lane  
 St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown  
 Central Mental Hospital. Dundrum

CMr. Dr. Belton (Chairman)  
 Deputy Burke (Vice-Chairman)  
 Deputy Cluskey  
 Mr. Corrigan  
 Miss Kinsella  
 Dr. Meade  
 Dr. O'Dea  
 Mr. Riordan  
 Deputy Ryan

(9)

**No. 3 Committee:**

St. Ita's Psychiatric Hospital. Portrane  
 County Hospital, Naas  
 St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy  
 Griffith Barracks (Casuals)  
 St. Gabriel's Day Centre. Clontarf

Mr. Corcoran  
 Councillor Cunningham  
 Councillor James Dowling  
 Councillor Hickey (Chairman)  
 Councillor Mahon  
 Deputy Dr. O'Connell  
 (Vice-Chairman)  
 Mr. O'Flynn  
 Dr. O'Herlihy  
 Deputy E. Timmons

(9)

**No. 4 Committee:**

St. Mary's Hospital. Phoenix Park  
 St. Loman's Psychiatric Hospital. Ballyowen & Aux. Day Centre. Crumlin  
 St. Clare's Home. Glasnevin  
 Legion Hostel, North Brunswick Street  
 Mount Pleasant. Ranelagh (Psychiatric Day Centre and Hostel)  
 Daneswood. Glasnevin (Psychiatric Hostel)

Deputy P. Belton  
 Councillor Carroll  
 Dr. de Burgh Whyte  
 Deputy Dockrell  
 Mr. Gallivan  
 Commissioner Garvin  
 Dr. O'Donnell (Chairman)  
 Mr. O'Reilly-Hyland

(8)".

Dr. Jennings' request that he transfer from No. 1 to No 4 Visiting Committee from 1st January next was agreed.

**140/71 OFFER OF PREMISES AT 18 LOWER GRAND  
CANAL STREET**

The following Report No. 64/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was adopted:—

"At its meeting on 5th August last, the Board decided it would accept the gift of the above premises from the Bank of Ireland, subject to confirmation that it would not constitute a liability. The offer of the premises is subject to the tenancies therein.

The premises is a two-storey house over basement, comprising eleven rooms and is in good condition. All of the accommodation, except one large room on the ground floor and two small rooms in the basement, is occupied by life tenants. All of the tenants except one elderly lady are in the early to middle age group. The rent payable by the tenants amounts to £1-98 per week or £103 per annum. Outgoings on rates in the current year amount to £172-80, thus exceeding income by £69-80, and this gap is likely to widen in future years.

As acceptance of the premises would constitute a liability it is recommended that the Board decline the offer".

**141/71 CREATION OF ADDITIONAL OFFICES**

The following Report No. 65/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

**" 1. Staffing of Child Psychiatric Service**

The Chief Psychiatrist has examined the staff requirements for the Child Psychiatric Service and has reported that the following additional staff will be required for the efficient administration of this service.

- 2 Senior Psychiatrists
- 3 Psychiatrists
- 3 Psychologists
- 2 Junior Medical Staff
- 2 Psychiatric Social Workers
- 3 Nurses
- 1 Recreational Therapist
- 3 Clerk Typists
- 3 Domestic

The cost of providing these additional posts in a year amounts to £44,000 for which no provision has been made in the estimates. I am satisfied that the above mentioned additional staff are required and I propose with the consent of the Board to apply to the Minister for Health for the creation of these extra posts.

**2. Additional Receptionist, Mount Pleasant**

With the opening of a further unit at Mount Pleasant I am satisfied that there is need for the employment of an additional Receptionist in the area and I propose with the consent of the Board to seek the sanction of the Minister for Health to the creation of this additional employment.

The additional cost for which no provision has been made is £1,000.

The consent of the Board is requested to

- (a) The creation of the additional posts and employment as proposed.
- (b) The submission of the proposals for the sanction of the Minister for Health.
- (c) The incurring of over-expenditure in the sum of £45,000 in the current year".

It was proposed by Mr. O'Flynn. seconded by Dr. O'Dea and unanimously resolved:

'That the Eastern Health Board consents to the proposals contained in Report No. 65/1971 and authorises expenditure of £45,000 in the current financial year in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for the year 1971/72 under the following headings:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
HEALTH	Psychiatric Services. . . . .	£45,000".

**142/71      LEGION OF MARY HOSTELS. NORTH  
BRUNSWICK STREET**

The following Report No. 66/1971 from the Chief Executive Officer was adopted:—

"Reference has been made in Reports No 19/1971 and 33/1971. which were subroitted to the June and July meetings of the Board respectively, to the new Hostel being

provided at North Brunswick Street at an estimated cost of £250,000. Work on this project is now nearing completion.

The records available indicate that the buildings at North Brunswick Street, which were formerly part of the Workhouses of the North Dublin Union, have been occupied since March, 1927, by the Legion of Mary for the purposes of their Regina Coeli and Morning Star Hostels. Occupation of these premises by the Legion was permitted by the Commissioners administering the affairs of the former Dublin Board of Guardians, in consultation with the Department of Local Government and Public Health. No formal agreement was entered into at the time and assistance in sundry forms continued to be given to the Legion by the Commissioners and their successors. Statutory authority for such assistance was incorporated in the Public Assistance Acts 1937 and 1939 and subsequently in Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953, which is the present statutory basis for assistance to the Legion.

The lands and buildings comprising the Morning Star and Regina Coeli Hostels were State property; the State Lands (Workhouses) Act, 1930, obliged the Public Body to maintain the premises, but subsequently the State Lands (Workhouses) Act, 1962, vested the lands and the premises in the Dublin Health Authority. Large sections of the older buildings at the Regina Coeli Hostel, which had fallen into decay, have been demolished to make way for the construction of the new Hostel accommodation. However, some of the old buildings there still remain, and also the large building housing the Morning Star Hostel. It is envisaged that most of the remaining older buildings on the Regina Coeli site as well as the Morning Star building will continue to be used for some time for the accommodation of necessitous persons and also as living accommodation for the voluntary staff of the Legion. Very strong representations have been made by the Legion Authorities to have these buildings brought into a more reasonable state of repair to permit their continued use.

In Report No. 23/1971 (meeting 1st July) the Board was informed that the accommodation available for homeless men at North Brunswick Street (Morning Star Hostel) is deteriorating and that proposals have been submitted to the Department, following an assessment of the position by the Architect, it was estimated that a renovation of the

existing Hostel to bring it up to acceptable standards would cost approximately £215,000. As an alternative a new two-storey Hostel would cost approximately £250,000. These proposals were discussed with officers of the Department of Health in August and it was suggested by the Department that, having regard to financial and other considerations, the Board should examine the possibility of carrying out a programme of repair work to maintain the buildings in a reasonably good condition for a period of about ten years. This further survey, as suggested by the Department, has been carried out by the Architect who has submitted proposals covering a programme of repairs to buildings, services etc., at a cost of approximately £21,000.- The Architect has reported that, in his opinion, these repairs are essential if the buildings are to be retained for a limited period and not allowed to deteriorate to a stage where they could no longer be occupied by the 100 or more men at present accommodated there together with the Legion's staff.

The Architect has also carried out a survey of the older buildings still remaining at the Regina Coeli Hostel and a scheme covering minimal repairs to roofs, floors and other areas of some of these buildings. To maintain them in a habitable condition for a limited period is estimated to cost £9,000. Accommodation at the moment is being provided in the Regina Coeli Hostel for approximately 150 women and children.

The Architect's proposals for both Hostels were considered at a recent meeting with the Legion Authorities, who have offered to contribute £10,000 towards the cost of the works. On the 3rd November the proposals were submitted to the Department of Health who were asked to make a grant available towards the balance of the expenditure involved to enable these works to be put in hands without delay. A reply is awaited from the Department.

With regard to the continuing occupation by the Legion of the premises, the Law Agent has recommended that this be put on a formal basis. It is proposed, subject to the consent of the Board and the sanction of the Minister for Health, to enter into an agreement with the Legion covering their occupation and use of the premises. A further report will be submitted to the Board under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, as soon as final agreement has been reached with the Legion Authorities on this matter".

143/71 REPORT OF THE DUBLIN CHIEF MEDICAL  
OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1970

The Report, which had been circulated, was noted.

144/71 CORRESPONDENCE

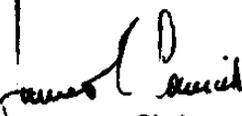
Members were informed that a Seminar on the Role of the Health Boards would be held for members on 7th January, 1972 and that details would be circulated.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT.

**EOGHAN O CAOIMH,**

*Chief Executive Officer.*



*Chairman.*

