

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

*Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting of Eastern Health Board
held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman,
on 3rd May, 1973, at 6 p.m.*

Present:

Mr. Michael Birmingham	Miss Mary Lacey
Cllr. P. J. Burke	Dr. James McCormick
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. A. Mahon
Dr. Robert Carroll	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Cllr. J. Guinan	Dr. A. Meade
Mr. Hugh Corrigan	Mr. Dermot O'Flynn
Dr. J. Cullen	Mr. Martin Ruane
Cllr. Michael Cunningham	Cllr. John Sweeney
Dr. J. Stephen Doyle	Cllr. John Temple
Mr. K. Harrington	Deputy G. Timmins
Cllr. Patrick Hickey	Deputy E. Timmons
Miss Kay Kinsella	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Senator Dr. R. Belton and Mr. J. Corcoran.
Councillor P. Hickey. Vice-Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. F. J. Elliott, <i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i>
Prof. I. Browne, <i>Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care</i>	Dr. C. F. Warde <i>C.M.O. Wicklow</i>
Mr. F. J. Donohoe, <i>Programme Manager, Community Care</i>	Mr. F. J. McCullough
Mr. J. F. Reynolds. <i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. P. J. Swords
	Mr. J. Doyle
	Mr. H. Dunne
	Mr. A. O'Brien
	Mr. K. Quinn
	Miss K. Dolan

49/73

CONGRATULATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor P. J. Burke on his return to the Board and the members greeted this with applause.

50/73 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the 5th April, 1973, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. D. O'Flynn, seconded by Dr. Meade.

Arising from the minutes Or. Meade enquired as to the position of the office accommodation and he was advised that the Sub-Committee had met and reviewed the position. The Law Agent was now negotiating the renting of the Thomas Street offices on the terms agreed by the sub-Committee.

51/73 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of the Proceedings of the following Committees having been circulated were adopted as follows:

- (a) *"Report of Meeting of No. 2 Visiting Committee held at Bru Chaoimhin on Thursday, 5th April, 1973, at 2.30 p.m.*

Present:

Mr. Hugh Corrigan, Dr. J. Mahon, Mr. M. Ruane.
Mr. H. Corrigan presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Miss M. Gallagher, Matron; Mr. N. Keogh, Engineering Officer; Mr. E. Sheehan, Assistant Section Officer; Mr. P. J. Swords, Senior Administrative Officer.

Dr. O'Dea, Medical Administrator, was unavoidably absent.

BUSINESS

The report of the previous meeting held on the 5th October, 1972, was reviewed.

Sick Bay:

Work had commenced on the adaptation of the ground floor of Unit 4 to make this area suitable for the accommodation of approximately 18 sick patients.

Fire Alarm System:

Mr. Swords stated that although no provision for the installation of the new fire alarm system emergency lighting and telephone installation had been made in the present limited allocation of monies, it was intended that the Department would be asked to approve of the scheme, in this way work could commence on the project as soon as an allocation of money was made.

Lift Installation Unit 1:

Mr. Swords also stated that the Department of Health had indicated their approval to the Board's scheme for the provision of a bed passenger lift in this Unit. The lift had been placed on order and work had already commenced on the provision of the lift shaft. It was expected that this work would be completed in about six months' time.

Boiler Installation:

The Committee noted that as part of the programme of work in connection with the lift installation, it was proposed to transfer the boilers from the basement area in Units 1 and 4 and this work had also been put in hands and would be completed during the present off heating season.

Nursing Staff:

Miss Gallagher stated that recruitment of nursing staff was reasonably satisfactory. She stated that Bru Chaoimhin was conveniently located, particularly for the recruitment of married nurses and generally she had little difficulty in maintaining the staff numbers at the required level.

Bed Occupancy:

At the date of the meeting there were 158 patients in the Home as follows:

- 37 Ambulant females;
- 94. Ambulant males;
- 27 Patients in the Sick Bay.

These numbers include 12 patients recently transferred from St. Brigid's, Crooksling, and a number of male patients who had been transferred from St. Colman's, Rathdrum.

Irish Red Cross Society:

Miss Gallagher informed the Members that the Irish Red Cross Society and the local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continued to visit the Home regularly and their work on behalf of the patients was very much appreciated by the patients and staff

INSPECTIONS

A general inspection of the Home was made, including Units 1 and 3, Main Kitchens, Sitting Rooms and Sick Bay. The Members wish to record their appreciation of the satisfactory progress being made in the work of improvements which they had noted since their last meeting. They noted in particular that the prefabricated buildings were now comfortably furnished and that they were being used as sitting rooms. They were advised by the Engineering Officer that it is proposed to undertake a programme of repainting, renewal of floor covering etc., in Unit 1 in conjunction with the scheme for the installation of the lift and the alterations to the boiler house. Matron reported that delivery of the easy chairs on order had been delayed but she expected delivery of at least three dozen in the next few days.

General:

The Members noted that the patients were contented and a number of them expressed their thanks for the care which the staff were giving them.

The Members again complimented the Matron and her staff on the high standards of personal attention which the patients received and on the general air of well-being and contentment which they noted during their visit.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was fixed for Thursday, 3rd May, 1973. at 3.30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Home, Navan Road.

The meeting finished at 3.20 p.m."

(b) *Report of Meeting of No. 2 Visiting Committee held at the Old Coombe Centre, on Thursday, 5th April, 1973 at 3.30 p.m.*

Present:

Mr. H. Corrigan, Dr. J. Mahon, Mr. M. Ruane.
Mr. H. Corrigan presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. L. B. Godfrey, Medical Superintendent; Dr. S. Jeawon, Assistant Medical Superintendent; Miss B. Shanahan, Nursing Supervisor; Miss M. Meagher, Social Worker, St Mary's

Hospital; Mr. R. Rampersaud, Industrial Therapist; Miss M. Muldowney, Irish Red Cross; Mrs. Bruce, Irish Red Cross; Mr. N. Keogh, Engineering Officer; Mr. T. Healy, Section Officer.

BUSINESS

Visit by the Minister for Health:

The Committee noted that the former Minister for Health had been invited to visit the Centre but due to pressure of business he had regretfully found himself unable to make the proposed visit in November last. The Members expressed the hope that the new Minister for Health and Social Welfare might be able to visit the Centre in the near future.

Proposed new demountable building for Industrial Therapy:

Dr. Godfrey advised the Committee that there was still a pressing need to provide space for Industrial Therapy activities in the Centre. At a recent meeting of the Patients Shop Committee in St. Mary's Hospital (Dr. Godfrey is Chairman of this Committee) it appeared that there was about £2,000 immediately available which the Shop Committee were anxious to contribute towards the cost of an Industrial Therapy Building. When the report on the current audit is received a final decision will be taken on the amount that can be advanced towards the project. The Members were also advised that discussions were taking place with the Health Board's Architect as to the most suitable type of building available. It was hoped that there would be progress in this matter before the next meeting of the Committee.

Patients:

Dr. Godfrey informed the Members that there were twenty-one persons in residence in the Home on the 5th April, 1973, and that a further three persons were at present in St. Mary's Hospital who had been transferred there from the Residence for medical attention. It was expected that at least two of these would be well enough to return to the Residence soon. Arrangements had been made with St. James's Hospital to admit persons from that Hospital who were in need of accommodation on the understanding, of course, that should any person admitted from St. James's Hospital require in-patient hospital service St. James's would re-admit their former patient. Dr. Godfrey mentioned that those in residence in the Old Coombe were persons who were fit for discharge from hospital but had no home to return to. The Committee noted

the comparative costs of maintaining a person in the Old Coombe Home and in hospital were in the ratio of approximately 2 to 5. The Committee also noted that when the new Industrial Therapy building was ready for use accommodation for an additional four persons would be available in the Residence bringing the bed complement to 28.

Medical Care in the Centre:

Dr. Godfrey outlined the general policy of medical attention provided for the Residents and for members of the Day Club. In regard to the Day Club members he said that the medical staff of St. Mary's Hospital worked in close harmony with the person's own doctor under the Choice of Doctor Scheme and he had found the general practitioner appreciated the service being given to their patients through the Day Club. Dr. Godfrey mentioned that it was his view that Welfare Homes should always be run in conjunction with Day Clubs. The Day Clubs would cater for old people in the vicinity who were active and who needed some place in which they could associate freely with persons of their own age. He mentioned that they had found at the Coombe it was possible to oversee generally the medical conditions of the Day Club members *and* advise them on precautions they should take to ensure their continued good health. It was his belief that this type of preventative medical care had been shown in the St. Laurence OToole Centre to be of great value. The Members expressed great interest in the Centre and complimented highly the services being given by the voluntary workers attached to the Centre and also by the Board's own staff.

Staff Meetings:

The Members noted that staff meetings at which the Voluntary Staff attended were now being held at approximately six weekly intervals. These were found very useful in keeping staff familiar with the problems of the Centre and in solving these.

Decoration of Premises:

The Members recommended that very early attention should be given to carrying out some necessary painting work.

Inspection:

The Members inspected the Clubroom and the Residence and spoke to some of the persons there

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee was fixed for Thursday, 3rd May, 1973. at 3.30 p.m at St. Patrick's Home

The meeting concluded at 4.35 p.m."

- (c) *"Meeting of the No. 3 Visiting Committee held at St. Gabriel's Day Centre. Clontarf. Dublin 3, on Thursday, 12th April, 1973, at 3.00 p.m.*

Members Present:

Councillor M. Cunningham, Chairman, Mr. J. Corcoran. M.Ch.. F.R.C.S.I.. Mr. M. Birmingham. Mr. D. O'Flynn.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. B. McCaffrey, Clinical Director; Dr. D. McDonnell. Psychiatrist; Miss M. Gaffney. Psychologist; Mr. M. Murrhy. Psychiatric Nurse; Mr. E. Butler. Senior Executive Officer; Mr. M. Cummins, Section Officer.

The committee expressed sympathy with the relatives of the late Councillor James Dowling who died recently. They requested that this be conveyed to Councillor Dowling's family.

Dr. McCaffrey gave a summary of the programme being implemented by the staff at St. Gabriel's and the committee expressed their interest and satisfaction at the success being achieved.

The Chairman complimented Dr. McCaffrey and the staff of St. Gabriel's on the work which they have put into the establishment of this Centre. He also thanked the committee of St. Gabriel's and Rev. J. Newth. P.P., for their co-operation and it was agreed that Fr. Newth and a representative of the Committee be invited to attend at the next meeting of the Visiting Committee which could be arranged at a date suitable to all parties.

Dr. McDonnell reported on the progress of the hostel at Raheny. The members expressed satisfaction at the progress of the hostel and agreed to visit it at a future date.

The meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m."

52/73 DEVELOPMENT OF THE GERIATRIC SERVICES

Professor Browne's Report and the following Report No. 27/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer were submitted:

'The proposals for the development of Geriatric Services in the Report from Professor Ivor Browne being considered at this meeting may conveniently be grouped under three main headings viz:

- (1) provision of improved means of assessment and short-term treatment;
- (2) replacement in another form of existing accommodation for long-stay patients;
- (3) development of community services with a view to earlier identification and more appropriate care of persons who may be expected to experience the problems associated with advancing years and to acquire assistance in meeting them.

If the report is adopted *in principle* by the Board detailed examination of the individual proposals will be required. Mr. Donohue in particular, as Programme Manager, Community Care, will need to consider carefully the extent to which institutional care can be avoided for the future by the extension of existing community services and by the provision of non-institutional type accommodation in a local setting. The financial implications will, of course, also require thorough examination in regard both to capital and to revenue expenditure. On completion of these studies it would be necessary for the Board to consider further the proposals made in Professor Browne's report".

Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, outlined the position which would arise and the report was wholeheartedly welcomed by all the members. Dr. McCormick, Dr. Meade, Dr. Walker, Councillor P. J. Burke, Dr. Mahon and Dr. Doyle all congratulated Professor Browne and Mr. J. Clarke on the report.

After Professor Browne replied to the various points made by the members the following resolution, proposed by Dr. McCormick and seconded by Dr. J. Walker, was unanimously adopted:

'That we, the Eastern Health Board, recommend the Report be approved in principle and adopted for urgent implementation in due course, subject to further intensive examination of the factors involved particularly the revenue and capital

costs, the need for integration with the other programme of the Board and for co-operation with Local and other authorities where applicable. We further recommend that to the maximum extent possible, the administrative and operational area sub-divisions of the Community Care, Psychiatric, Geriatric and allied services programmes should co-incide".

**53/73 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT EATON ROAD/
TERENURE ROAD NORTH**

The following Report No. 25/1373 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At meeting held on 25th March, 1971, the Board approved of:

- (a) The disposal of portion (25 perches 18 square yards) of the plot at Eaton Road/Terenure Road North to the Old Folks Committee of the Irish Red Cross Society for the provision of an Old Folks Club. A pedestrian right-of-way to the Club was provided through the adjoining dispensary grounds.
- (b) The leasing to Dublin Corporation, for car parking, of the balance (frontage) of the plot. The lease was to be for a period of three years.

The Corporation has indicated since then that they do not require the full area of land made available by the Board and that they do not consider a three year lease a logical way of disposal of the land to them. They have requested that the land be sold to them and they have submitted Map R. 1234 (dated 6th November, 1972) showing the area (1-5 roods) they now wish to acquire.

This area of land is zoned for car parking under the Dublin Development Plan 1971.

The Acting Chief Valuer in his letter of 21st December, 1972, has stated that the value of the portion of the plot which the Corporation wishes to purchase is £35,000.

I propose that:

- (1) That the area (1 -5 roods) of land shown on Map R. 1234 be sold to Dublin Corporation for £35,000 subject to the approval of the Board and the Minister for Health.
- (2) A vehicular right-of-way to the Old Folks Club be provided through the land between the dispensary and the proposed car park boundary instead of the original pedestrian right-of-way

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of this property as proposed shall not be carried out or that it shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution. If the Board resolve that the disposal shall not be carried out it shall not be carried out.

On the other hand, if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal should be carried out the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above".

On a proposal by Dr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the Eastern Health Board consents to the sale of lands at Eaton Road/Terenure Road North to Dublin Corporation in accordance with the terms of Report No. 25/1973".

54/73 ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 1971/72

The following Report No. 26/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted and noted:

"Section 29 of the Health Act, 1970, provides that the Abstract of Accounts of a health board shall be certified by the Auditor appointed under Section 28 and shall be published by the board and copies sent by the Auditor to the Minister and to the local authorities which appoint members to the Board.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1972, having been completed, were certified as to their correctness by the Finance Officer on 31st January, 1973.

The Accounts will be audited in due course. The Auditor's report will be presented to the Board when received.

In the meantime a copy of the Abstract of Accounts is supplied with this Report".

In view of the fact that the members had insufficient time to study the document the Deputy Chief Executive Officer undertook to answer any questions which the members might wish to raise at the next meeting.

55/73 EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

The following Report No. 28/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"For some time past strong representations have been made by various trade unions in regard to the question of the employment of union labour. I have had the representations examined and am satisfied that in the interests of good staff relationships and from the point of view of orderly industrial relations it is desirable that on recruitment a prospective employee should be required to be a member of a recognised trade union. Subject to the concurrence of the Board I propose advising Matrons, Engineering Officers and other Senior Officers involved in the recruitment of employees to ensure that on appointment all employees are in membership of a recognised trade union".

On a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Mr. M. Ruane it was unanimously resolved as follows:

That Report No. 28/1973 be adopted".

56/73 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion in the name of Councillor J. Guinan was seconded by Dr. J. McCormick:

"That a discussion take place to ascertain what conditions are adhered or applied in relation to the appointment of:

- (a) Consultant Engineer;
- (b) Consultant Architects.

If these positions are or have been advertised to allow of others to be considered for appointment".

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer explained the position and Councillor Guinan thanked him.

57/73 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised the members that Mr. O Caoimh having consulted with the Vice-Chairman had delegated certain functions to Mr. F. J. Donohue, Programme Manager. Mr. R. N. Lamb, Personnel Officer and the remaining to himself. The Minister for Health had been advised by letter dated 19th April, 1973

- (b) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer also advised the meeting of the receipt of a letter of the 30th April from the Department of Health in which considerable reductions in the Board's Estimates were made. He required time to study the full effects and the members would be advised at the next meeting of the decision.
- (c) Letter of 3rd May from the Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee recommending Mr. J. Durning and St. Rosa-leen Darling for appointment to Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee to fill vacancies was read and on a proposal by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Dr. J. Walker the Board agreed to their appointment.
- (d) The following letter dated 21st February, 1973, from the Department of Health was read:

"We are at present considering the position of staff of the Hospitals Commission arising from the decision, which has been taken, to abolish that body with effect from 1st April, 1973. Sub-section 2 (d) of Section 42 of the Health Act, 1970, provides for the transfer of the holder of any office under the Commission to a similar office under a body established under that Act.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your co-operation in dealing with the staff of the *Dublin Hospitals Bed Bureau*. The Bureau is a self-contained unit operated by the Commission and there are 9 operators on the staff, 3 permanent and 6 temporary. It is felt that the Bureau could best be operated by the Health Board and we should be glad of an opportunity of discussing this question with you.

Perhaps you would be good enough to get in touch with me or, if I am not available, Mr. Condon, with a view to arranging for a discussion".

After a general discussion the following resolution proposed by Dr. McCormick, seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn was unanimously adopted:

'That the Bed Bureau should be operated by the Regional Hospital Board".

- (e) The Vice-Chairman advised the members that a request had been received from Dr. O'Connell of the Irish Medical Times for permission to visit St. Ita's Hospital with a view to doing a report thereon, for its readers, and after

a discussion to which Councillor P. J. Burke, Dr. McCormick, Councillor J. Guinan, Cllr. M. Cunningham and Mr. D. O'Flynn contributed, the following motion proposed by Councillor P. J. Burke and seconded by Councillor J. Sweeney was unanimously adopted:

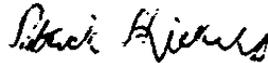
'That it is not the policy of the Board to permit individual press inspections of its Hospitals, Homes and other Institutions'.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

J. J. NOLAN,

Deputy Chief Executive Officer.



Chairman.