

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital. Grange-gorman. on 5th July. 1973 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Commissioner J. Berry	Miss Mary Kinsella
Mr. M. E. Birmingham	Miss Mary Lacey
Cllr. P. J. Burke	Commissioner T. Leonard
Cllr. M. Brady	Dr. J. McCormick
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. A. Mahon
Dr. Robert Carroll	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Mr. J. Corcoran. M.B.	Dr. A. Meade
Mr. H. Corrigan	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. Michael Cunningham	Commissioner J. O'Keeffe
Dr. J. Stephen Doyle	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Guinan	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Mr. Kevin Harrington	Cllr. J. Temple
Commissioner L. Hayes	Deputy G. Timmins
Cllr. Patrick Hickey, P.C.	Deputy E. Timmons
Dr. P. C. Jennings	

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Dr. R. Belton, Dr. J. Cullen. Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Commissioner Denis Larkin and Dr. John Walker.

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. F. Elliott, <i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i>
Prof. Ivor Browne <i>Programme Manager. Special Hospital Care</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Dr. B. O'Donnell, <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. M. Murray-Hayden
Mr. F. J. Donohue <i>Programme Manager. Community Care</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
	Mr. B. Garvey
	Mr. K. Quinn
	Miss K. Dolan

76/73 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the 7th June having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. O. O'Flynn, seconded by Councillor J. Sweeney. Arising from the Minutes Mr. O'Flynn referred to the current position where credit for pensionable service in England was not reckonable here and on a proposal by him seconded by Councillor P. J. Burke the following motion was unanimously adopted:

'That the Board examine the question of granting credit for pensionable service in England or abroad for its staff'.

77/73 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

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

- (a) *"Meeting of Visiting Committee No. 2 at St. Brendan's Hospital on 7th June, 1973, at 3 p.m."*

Members in Attendance:

Councillor P. J. Burke, Chairman, Mr. H. Corrigan, Miss Kay Kinsella, Dr. J. R. Mahon.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. G. Gorman, Clinical Director; Mr. E. Butler, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. J. Ball, Section Officer; Miss Glennon, Matron; Mr. E. Nangle, Deputy Head Male Nurse.

At the request of the Chairman, Councillor Burke. Dr. Gorman outlined the breakdown of the Board's functional area into catchment areas and explained the manner in which facilities were provided in the individual catchment area by its associated team of doctors, nurses, therapists and social workers. He further emphasised that the programme for psychiatric services had, as its ultimate aim, the breaking down of the large psychiatric hospitals such as now exist into short-stay and long-stay hostels accommodating thirty to forty patients and located in the community. Councillor Burke referred to a similar programme which was operating in France. However, for this to succeed, it would be necessary to evaluate the reaction of the community to hostels located in their areas and by a programme of education to bring about an attitude of acceptance.

Dr. Mahon sought information about the provision of medical and surgical services for patients in St. Brendan's Hospital. He was informed by Miss Glennon and Mr. Nangle that.

apart from very minor illnesses, all patients were referred to outside hospitals for treatment of this nature. This was found to be most uneconomic as staff were required to attend at these hospitals to provide special psychiatric nursing care. It was proposed by Dr. Mahon and seconded by Mr. Corrigan that the Board undertake to examine the need for establishing an Infirmary within the hospital complex capable of treating thirty female and thirty male patients.

Miss Kinsella enquired as to the number of alcoholics being admitted to our units. Or. Gorman stated that, where his wards in Vergemount Hospital and St. Brendan's Hospital were concerned, up to eight patients were admitted each month. Replying further to Miss Kinsella, he stated that only a very small number of drug abusers were being referred from Jervis Street Drug Unit. In hTs opinion, the facts concerning drug abusers were distorted by the news media and, as far as he is concerned, the Garda Drug Squad are to be complimented for their work in this field.

The Committee then inspected Units 23 and 23A, where it was noted that certain works of improvement were in hands. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction at the delay in completing these works and stated that admission wards in particular should be given prime importance where decorating and maintenance was concerned. It instructed that a special report on the progress of decorating and maintenance in these Units be submitted within one month. On receiving this report, the Committee would then consider whether a special meeting should be held to review this problem.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

Or. McCormick disagreed with the statement concerning drug abusers and on the suggestion of Councillor Guinan it was agreed to refer the matter to Professor Browne. Mr. Ruane referred to the necessity for fire training for student nurses and it was agreed to refer this matter to the Fire Officer and to Professor Browne.

(b) *"Report of Meeting of No. 4 Visiting Committee held at St. Clare's Home on Thursday, 7th June, 1973 at 5 p.m.*

Present:

Dr. J. Walker, Dr. J. S. Doyle. Mr. K. A. Harrington.
Dr. Walker presided.

Apology for Absence:

Dr. P. C. Jennings.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. L. B. Godfrey, Medical Superintendent; Dr. Jeawon, Assistant Medical Superintendent; Miss E. Power, Matron; Mr. E. Sheehan, Assistant Section Officer; Mr. A. O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer.

BUSINESS

Proposed Lift:

The Committee was informed that this project has been included in the Department of Health's Capital Programme for the current year. Accordingly, the Board had notified the Department that an order had been placed for a Falconi bed lift immediately in view of the delivery period of six months. The lift was the same model as that intended for the County Hospital, Naas, which had been selected following receipt of tenders and examination of technical performance data. A Falconi lift was also on order for Bru Chaoimhin, Cork Street.

Bed Occupancy, Medical Care. North-side Geriatric Service:

Matron reported that on the day of the visit there were 85 patients and 11 vacancies. Members were informed that since the last meeting, St. Clare's Home had been transferred to the medical administration of St. Mary's Hospital under Dr. Godfrey, as part of the North-side Geriatric service. Dr. Godfrey explained that it was the intention to devote St. Clare's to the accommodation of ambulant welfare home-type persons only and that, while it would take some time to achieve this objective, steps were already being taken in this direction in consultation with the two north-side geriatricians who were fully involved in the assessment of patients. Arrangements had been made with Dr. Brian Daly, Griffith Avenue, to be on call to the Home in the event of any emergencies. The Members were gratified to learn of these changes and in response to further questions, were given details by Dr. Godfrey of admission procedures. *The Committee recommended* to the Board that general practitioners be circulated with details of the organisation of the Geriatric Service, with particular reference to admission procedures, both on the north-side and generally.

It was noted that, provided vacancies were available, patients assessed as suitable by the Geriatricians could be admitted to St. Clare's from, say, the Richmond Hospital. The Committee adopted Matron's suggestion that the possibility of seconding nurses from the Richmond Hospital to St. Clare's for geriatric training be explored, perhaps through the agency of the Geriatricians.

Electricity Supplies. Sluicing and General Maintenance:

Mr. O'Brien apologised for the absence of the Engineering Officer, St. Brendan's Group, who was attending on the Visiting Committee to that Hospital on the same afternoon. The provision of the manual switchgear for the generator had not yet been reached but the work was not given a priority because the generator could be linked up by an electrician within hours of a breakdown of supplies. The switchgear will be provided at the earliest opportunity.

The sluicing machine had been delivered and was fitted. Work was in progress on laying of drainage from it and this would be completed within a week.

The Engineering Officer had advised that three additional toilets could be installed in the ground floor store room next to the existing toilets. He will be consulting with Matron on the availability of the room for this purpose.

The hip baths recommended by the Committee were on order and delivery was awaited.

In view of the rapid progress made by the Corporation in laying the Griffith Avenue Extension roadway, the Engineering Officer proposed to deal with the problem of trespass by renewing fencing and requesting the Corporation to provide a temporary gate pending erection of the permanent entrance; he proposed also to defer for the present the provision of a cattle grid which could cost in the region of £250. Mr. O'Brien said that it was necessary to review policy in relation to letting the St. Clare's lands for grazing particularly as the frontage, where trespass of cattle occurred, was now very much curtailed.

Matron drew attention to the condition of that part of the drive which was in process of being acquired by the Corporation and it was agreed that the Corporation would be approached to keep this portion of the drive in good repair.

A protective chain had been fitted at steps leading to the grounds as the Committee had requested.

Welfare Home:

Following completion of his discussions with technical officers of the Department of Health on the layout plan for the Home, Mr. Moloney, Architect, had submitted his proposals, involving an estimated expenditure of approximately £90,000, for the 40-bed Home. These had been sanctioned recently by the Department of Health and the working draw-

ings, bill of quantities, etc., were now being prepared. The Board expected to be ready to advertise for tenders for the construction of the Home in late August. The Committee noted from the layout plan of the Home that the day club facility referred to in the previous report had been omitted because a club was already in operation in nearby flats for the elderly.

Lands:

Members examined the map which had been prepared by the Architect showing all developments about the St. Clare's lands. They noted, in particular, that the developments (already under way or proposed) circumvented the Board's holding and they were informed that provision had been made for up to four access points to the grounds in order to facilitate any future use. The Committee noted the location of the proposed Welfare Home and agreed that it would require to be 'inked with St. Clare's by an internal roadway. Members were concerned that the exit onto Griffith Avenue Extension could be hazardous because of traffic danger to the elderly residents and it was agreed that (a) the provision of a suitable crossing near the exit gate should be taken up in due course with Dublin Corporation (b) it would be desirable to develop the entrance at the Welfare Home as the main entrance/exit for aft residents in view of the lighter traffic condition at that end.

INSPECTIONS

Members were shown the point at which cattle trespass was occurring and noted that wire mesh fencing was being erected along the driveway. It was requested that the lighting of the stairway be improved.

General:

The Committee thanked the Matron for the hospitality extended to them and for the assistance given by Dr. Godfrey, Matron and other officers during the visit.

Next Meeting:

It was decided that the Committee will meet at St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, on Thursday, 5th July, 1973 at 3 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 p.m."

Mr. Nolan, in reply to questions, explained the Corporation's proposals for the area around St. Clare's and advised the members that any agreement would be the subject of a report and the final approval of the Minister for Health.

(c) *"Report of Meeting of No. 4 Visiting Committee held at Mountpleasant Hostel on 7th June. 1973, at 2.30 p.m.*

Members Present:

Dr. J. Walker. Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. K. Harrington.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. E. Ryan, Dr J. Fernandez, Mr. M. Cummins.

An apology was received from Dr. P. C. Jennings who was unable to attend owing to illness.

The committee expressed sympathy on the death of Mrs. Tiernan, Hostel Supervisor, and paid tribute to the excellent manner in which she carried out her duties and the relaxed atmosphere which she was instrumental in creating in the hostel.

Dr. Walker recommended that the Personnel Officer be requested to determine a salary and terms of appointment appropriate to the position of hostel supervisor and arrange for a permanent appointment to this vacancy at an early date.

The committee recommended that a suitable stair covering and day room carpet be provided as soon as possible.

Mr. Harrington was informed by Dr. Ryan that the Mechanical Plant Superintendent was arranging for repair or replacement of the broken refrigerator in the upper floor of the hostel and Mr. Cummins informed him that his request made on the previous visit for the installation of a clothes washing machine was receiving attention.

Dr. Fernandez explained the function of the 12-bed unit which he administers at the Hostel and the relationship between it and the Behaviour Modification Unit at St. Brendan's Hospital. He gave a brief outline of the aims and structure of the service in both of these areas.

The committee expressed satisfaction at the service being provided by the Hostel.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 p.m. and the members proceeded to Daneswood Hostel".

(d) *"Report of Meeting of No. 4 Visiting Committee held at Daneswood Hostel on 7th June, 1973, at 4.20 p.m.*

Members Present:

Dr. J. S. Doyle. Mr. K. A. Harrington.

Officers in Attendance:

Mrs Vero. Mr. M. Cummins.

Apologies were received from Or. P. C. Jennings and Dr. J. Walker who were unable to attend.

Mr. Harrington commented on the desirability of installing a dishwashing machine and Mr. Cummins informed him that Professor T. Lynch, Clinical Director, had considered his earlier recommendation in this matter and regarded the washing up by the patients of normal crockery used at mealtimes as an integral part of a social training programme.

Dr. J. S. Doyle was pleased to note that improved lighting had been installed in the kitchen and that additional electric heaters had been installed. He recommended that the gardens be given immediate attention as they were considerably overgrown.

The meeting concluded at 4.40 p.m. and the members proceeded to St. Clare's Hospital".

Professor Browne undertook to have the members suggestions implemented.

78/73

BED BUREAU

The following Report No. 33/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"Following consideration of a letter from the Department of Health on the above, the Board at its May meeting (Min. 57/73 refers) adopted a resolution stating that 'The Bed Bureau should be operated by the Regional Hospital Board". This decision was conveyed to the Minister and the following letter dated 6th June was received in reply:

"I am directed by the Minister for Health to state that the Minister has under consideration the question of the continuance in operation of the services of the Dublin Hospitals Bed Bureau including appropriate provision for the continuance in employment of the Bureau Staff. The Bureau was established by the Hospitals Commission pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2 to 4 of the Public Hospitals (Amendment) Act, 1940; these Sections are scheduled for repeal under the Health Act, 1970. The same Act also provides (Section 42) for the dissolution of the Hospitals Commission. The Minister proposes to make an Order at an early date providing for the dissolution of the Commission. When the Commission has been dissolved it will be necessary to make alternative provision for the continuance of the Bed Bureau Service.

In considering the future arrangements for the Bed Bureau the Minister has taken note of the views of the Eastern Health Board and has considered fully the various possible ways in which the service might be operated.

(a) *The establishment of statutory body to carry on this limited service:*

The number of enquiries received by the Bureau range from 5,000 a year a few years ago to a current figure of 6,658 for the year to 31st March, 1973. A proposal to establish a separate statutory body would not be justified by the facts and could not be entertained.

(b) *The assignment of the function to the Dublin Regional Hospital Board:*

The Board was established with certain defined powers and functions and it would be out of character with the role the body was established to play and outside the scope of its operations to attempt to carry on a bed bureau service.

(c) *The assignment of the functions to the Eastern Health Board:*

The Board has continuing functions in relation to the provision of hospital services for persons in its functional area whether in the Board's own institutions or in hospitals with which the Board has an arrangement or is deemed to have an arrangement. In the circumstances it appears to the Minister that the Board is the appropriate body to carry on the work of the Bed Bureau and to accept responsibility for the Bureau Staff. The Board could consider the establishment of a committee to administer the bureau service which would be representative of the hospitals participating in the Bureau service.

The Minister has decided therefore that he should ask the Board, as the appropriate body, to undertake the bed bureau service with effect from the date of dissolution of the Hospitals Commission—which will be notified—and to ask that officers of the Board should make the necessary advance dispositions to this effect. The Board would, of course, be recouped in full approved expenditure incurred in the running of the bureau service".

In the circumstances, it seems that the Board will need to consider agreeing to take over the operation of the Bed Bureau. If so, then St. James and James Connolly Memorial Boards should, among others, be invited to join with the

voluntary hospitals in the new administrative committee to be set up. With the abolition of the Hospitals Commission, and in the absence of any clear indication as to the powers, duties etc., of the new committee, it may be necessary for the Board, in consultation with the Voluntary Hospitals and the Department, to draw up guidelines for its operation. The Board will also require guarantees against any unforeseen liabilities arising from taking over the Bureau, staff, premises, etc". On a proposal by Mr. D. O'Flynn, seconded by Dr. A. Meade, it was unanimously agreed as follows:—

"That the Board agreed to the Minister's request to undertake the Bed Bureau service, on the basis set out in the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's report".

79/73 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following Report No. 35/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

'The Minister for Health approved of temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to a limit of £2,500,000 for the quarter ending 30th June, 1973.

It is expected that the necessity for this overdraft accommodation will continue during the coming quarter. I recommend, therefore, that the Board consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to a limit of £2,500,000 for the quarter ending 30th September, 1973".

After a debate to which Commissioners J. Berry, Liam Hayes, Councillors Guinan, P. J. Burke, J. Temple, Mr. D. O'Flynn, Mr. H. Corrigan and Dr. Meade contributed, it was proposed by Councillor J. Temple, seconded by Councillor J. Sweeney and unanimously resolved:

"That the Eastern Health Board consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 35/1973".

80/73 EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The following Report from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer No. 36/1973 was submitted:

"The Minister for Health and Social Welfare has made Regulations providing for increases in allowances to disabled persons and persons suffering from Infectious Diseases.

(A) The Regulations which are effective from 1st July, 1973, provide for the following increases in maximum rate of weekly allowances:

(1) Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowances—*increase £1 p.w.*

	<i>Present Rates</i>	<i>New Rates</i>
Person with no means.	£4 90	£5-90
Other Persons	£4 65	£5 65

in addition to the above increase the new Regulations require health boards to provide for the payment of maintenance allowances to disabled persons over 16 years of age where neither the person nor the person's spouse (if any) is able to provide for his maintenance and the Board may no longer have regard to the means of relatives as heretofore when determining eligibility for the allowances. This easing of means test will result in (1) an increase in the number of beneficiaries and (2) many of the existing beneficiaries' allowances will be increased to the maximum rate from 1/7/73.

(2) Infectious Diseases (Maintenance) Allowances:

	<i>Present Rates</i>		<i>New Rates</i>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
	<i>Person with No means</i>	<i>Other Persons</i>		
Person with dependent spouse	£9 50	£9 00	£11.00	£10 50
Single or widowed person with dependant 16 years or over.	£7 20	£6 70	£8 20	£7 50
Single or widowed person.	£5 00	£4 75	£6 00	£5 75
Child dependants:				
18 years or over		£1-15		£1-65
Under 18 years 1st & 2nd children ...		£1 15		£1-65
3rd & subsequent children.		£1 15		£1 65
Domestic Help Allowance.		£2 75		£2 75

While it is not possible at this stage to forecast the actual cost to the Board of these improvements in the services it is estimated that the increase in costs, not provided in the Estimates, will be in the region of

(a) For Disabled Persons Services.	£390,000
(b) For Infectious Diseases (Mtce.) Regulations	£53,000

(B) *Hospital (Out-Patient) Services.* The Minister for Health has by letter dated 13/4/1973 approved of an increase in the sessional fee payable to Clinical Consultants and Specialists who provide services for Health Act patients at Voluntary Hospitals from £10 50 to £11 25 per 3 hour session and pro rata, from 1st January, 1973. The cost of the increase is estimated at £24,000 for 1973/74".

On a proposal by Councillor P. J. Burke seconded by Councillor M. Carroll the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

'That we, the Eastern Health Board, consent to the proposals contained in Report No. 36/1973 and authorise the expenditure of £467,000 in the current financial year in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1973/74 under the following headings:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Health	Extern Hospitals ~	£24,000
	Infectious Diseases.	£53,000
	Rehabilitation.	£390,000
		£467,000"

81/73

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The following Report No. 37/1973 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At the meeting for the month of May the Board was informed that the office accommodation sub-committee had considered the proposed leasing of premises in Thomas Street to house a proportion of the office staff and had agreed terms on which a lease could be sought. Following negotiations, in which the services of the Chief Valuer, Corporation of Dublin, were availed of the Auctioneers agreed to recommend to the builder the acceptance of a rental figure within the limits agreed by the sub-committee. A draft lease has been requested.

The Auctioneers have been informed that their clients must be in a position to let the Board have possession by the 1st November next at the latest. It will be necessary to have some internal works carried out to meet the requirements of the staff to be transferred to the new premises and these have been discussed and agreed with the departmental heads concerned.

The staffs which will avail of the new accommodation are those dealing with the Choice of Doctor Scheme, Medical Cards, the provision of Dental Services, Medical Appliances, Drug refunds and community health services together with the units dealing with the Welfare Services—including the Child Care social workers".

On a proposal by Councillor J. Guinan seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn it was unanimously adopted as follows:

"That Report No. 37/1973 be approved".

82/73 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion in the name of Dr. J. Stephen Doyle was seconded by Councillor M. Carroll and unanimously agreed to:

"That any money requested from the Board for work of a medical research nature must be approved by a Scientific Committee set up by the Eastern Health Board. If the Scientific Committee has any difficulty in reaching a majority decision the application for a Research Grant should be referred for arbitration to the Medical Research Council of Ireland".

83/73 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) I.N.C.A.—A letter from the Department of Health dated 7th June, 1973 was referred to by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in which his views on the Council's Report on Alcoholism and excessive drinking were sought.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Board's working party for examination.

- (b) Dublin Hospital Accident Service—

A letter dated 11th June, 1973 from the Department of Health was read regarding difficulties being experienced by the Mater Hospital in dealing with admissions to the Casualty Department. It was agreed to note the position following reference by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer to correspondence and discussions between the Eastern Health Board, the Department the Fire Brigade and the hospitals concerned regarding measures to be taken to improve the present situation.

- (c) The following letter dated 19th June, 1973 from the North Eastern Health Board was read and noted:

"The Board at its meeting on 21st May, 1973 adopted the following resolution:

"That the Minister for Health be requested to give each Area Health Board the responsibility for the administration of all matters dealing with the care of Mentally Handicapped in its own particular area".

The resolution has been forwarded to the Department of Health.

The Board at its meeting on 18th June, 1973 asked that the resolution be circulated to the other health boards".

- (d) The following letter dated 2nd July, 1973, from the Kildare County Council was read and it was agreed that Councillor Oliver Fitzpatrick, Railway Houses, Kildare, should fill the vacancy on their Local Health Committee.

"Consequent on the death of Councillor J. Dowling (Kildare County Council) a vacancy exists on the Eastern Health Board and on the Local Health Committee.

At its meeting held on Monday, 2nd July, 1973 Kildare County Council nominated Councillor Michael Brady, 622 St. Patrick's Park, Celbridge, to fill the vacancy on the Eastern Health Board and Councillor Oliver Fitzpatrick, Railway Houses, Kildare, to fill the vacancy on the Local Health Committee".

- (e) Letter dated 2nd June, 1973 from the South Eastern Health Board requesting the Names and Addresses of three members of the Board who would visit St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow, was read and it was agreed that Councillor M. Cunningham, A. Mahon and M. Brady would represent the Board.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

J. J. NOLAN.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Patrick Howard
Chairman.