

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 4th October, 1973, at 6 p.m.

Present:

<p>Commissioner John Berry Mr. Michael E. Birmingham Cllr. M. Brady Cllr. P. J. Burke Cllr. M. Carroll Dr. Robert Carroll Mr. Hugh P. Corrigan Cllr. Michael Cunningham Dr. J. Stephen Doyle Cllr. J. Guinan Mr. Kevin Harrington Commissioner Liam Hayes Cllr. Patrick Hickey Dr. P. C. Jennings Miss Mary Lacey</p>	<p>Commissioner Tom Leonard Cllr. A. Mahon Dr. J. R. Mahon Dr. A. Meade Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell Mr. Dermot O'Flynn Commissioner James O'Keeffe Mr. Martin Ruane Cllr. John Sweeney Cllr. John Temple Deputy G. Timmins Deputy Eugene Timmons Dr. John Walker</p>
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Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Dr. R. Belton, Mr. J. Corcoran and Dr. J. Cullen.

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

<p>Mr. E. O Caoimh <i>Chief Executive Officer</i></p> <p>Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i></p> <p>Professor Ivor Browne, <i>Chief Psychiatrist</i></p> <p>Professor B. O'Donnell <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i></p> <p>Mr. F. J. Donohue, <i>Programme Manager, Community Care</i></p> <p>Mr. J. F. Reynolds. <i>Finance Officer</i></p>	<p>Mr. R. N. Lamb. <i>Personnel Officer</i></p> <p>Mr. F. Elliott, <i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i></p> <p>Mr. J. Clarke</p> <p>Mr. F. McCullough</p> <p>Mr. P. J. Swords</p> <p>Mr. P. A. Sheehan</p> <p>Mr. H. Dunne</p> <p>Mr. K. Quinn</p> <p>Miss K. Dolan</p>
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101/73 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th September, 1973, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Councillor P. J. Burke, seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan.

102/73 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Commissioner Liam Hayes requested that Standing Orders be suspended to enable him to discuss press reports of a speech made by an officer of the Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. O'Keeffe and on a vote the motion was defeated by 19 votes to 4 as follows:—

19 Against:

Mr. Birmingham. Mr. Corrigan. Cllr. Cunningham, Cllr. Guinan, Mr. Harrington, Cllr. Hickey, Dr. Jennings, Miss Lacey, Commissioner Leonard, Cllr. Mahon. Dr. Mahon. Dr. Meade, Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Sweeney, Cllr. Temple. Deputy G. Timmins, Deputy E. Timmons and Dr. Walker.

4 For:

Commissioner John Berry. Commissioner Liam Hayes, Deputy Dr. O'Connell and Commissioner J. O'Keeffe.

103/73 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

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

(a) "*Report of Meeting of No. 2 Visiting Committee at Cherry Orchard Hospital on Monday. 3rd September, 1973, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.*"

Present:

Councillor P. Burke. Commissioner John Berry, Mr. H. Corrigan. Mr. M. Ruane.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Miss Kinselia and Dr. Beiton.

Councillor Burke presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. E. O'Connor, Assistant Medical Superintendent, deputising for Dr. O'Herlihy who was on leave; Miss T. C. Taaffe. Matron; Miss M. Geoghegan. Assistant Matron; Mr. J. V. Crumlish, Engineering Officer; Mr. C. Killeen, Chief Clerk; Mr. P. J. Swords, Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS***Assistant Matron:***

The Chairman and members of the Committee welcomed Miss Geoghegan, who took up duty as Assistant Matron on that day.

Smallpox Unit:

The members were advised that no allocation had been made in the current capital works programme for the provision of a Disinfection Unit. It was intended that this project would be listed with others for consideration in connection with the 1974/75 Programme for Capital Works. Miss Taaffe stated that she had made temporary arrangements which would make the Unit operational in the event of an outbreak of smallpox and Mr. Swords stated that during the recent outbreak of smallpox in London arrangements were made to enable a caravan to be purchased immediately and brought to the site, should the need arise.

Cholera Outbreak:

Matron reported that as a temporary measure members of the staff were being immunised against cholera. The members expressed their appreciation of the initiative shown by the Hospital Authorities in this matter.

Dining Rooms:

Miss Taaffe reported that Mr. Moloney, Architect, had made a number of inspections of the kitchen area and he was preparing plans for the rationalisation of the dining rooms. Mr. Swords stated that it was intended that this work would also be listed in the Board's proposals for capital works during the coming year.

Bed Occupancy:

Dr. O'Connor reported that there was a high demand for beds and during the past week 220 beds out of 230 beds available were occupied. This compares with 183 patients in the Hospital at the same period last year. Although there had been some reduction in the level of demand for beds since the 1st January last (1,967 admissions) as against 2,127 last year. Dr. O'Connor stated that the overall position was not expected to change from last year when they had the highest number of admissions since 1965. The number of patients for whom accommodation could not be provided was 117 to the 31st August and this compares with 120 last year. No seriously ill patient was refused admission and it was only after consultation with The patients own doctor

that the Hospital refused an admission, on the express direction of the Medical Superintendent or his Deputy.

Nursing Staff:

Matron reported that at the date of the meeting the following nursing staff were employed:—

Ward Sisters.	13
Permanent Nurses.	14
Temporary Nurses.	32
Part-time Nurses.	37
State Enrolled Nurses -.	44

Out of this complement of staff 24 were on leave. She stated that every effort was being made to avoid closing further wards in the Hospital. She stated that she would require 24 more nurses to open the two wards which were at present not used for patient accommodation. However she saw no prospect in the immediate future of recruiting this number of staff although ever/ effort was made to recruit staff by personal contact and by advertising regularly in the daily papers and in the professional journals circulating here and abroad. The position in regard to State Enrolled Nurses was discussed at length. The members were advised that over a period of five years there had been correspondence and discussions with An Bord Aitranais and the Department of Health in regard to the establishment of a Training School in the Board's Hospitals for a grade of nurse similar to the State Enrolled Nurse. The matter had also been discussed with the Minister for Health when members of the Health Authority attended on a deputation at the Department in October, 1970, following which further representations were made to the Department and An Bord Aitranais at the request of the Authority. In April, 1972, An Bord Aitranais and the Department of Health advised the Board as follows:—

"AN BORD ALTRANAIS.
11 Fitzwilliam Place,
Dublin 2.
18th April, 1972.

Dear Mr. Swords.

Thank you for your letter of 6th April, re state enrolled nurses, which I had considered by An Bord at its meeting last Thursday.

The members wished me to inform you that they are keeping this question under review, but at present are of opinion

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that circumstances have not changed sufficiently since the matter was last considered in depth, and that consequently it is not intended to proceed with the recognition of the enrolled nurse or to set up a programme of training for this grade at present.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Keogh,
Chief Executive Officer".

"Department of Health.
Custom House,
Dublin 1.
19 Aibrean. 1972.

A.114/84

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to your letter (Ref. H.D. 248) of the 6th instant and previous correspondence in regard to the question of State Enrolled Nurses and to say it is understood from An Bord Altranais that in existing circumstances they do not intend approving of a scheme of training for a grade of state enrolled nurse.

I am to add that apart from the difficulty in recruiting qualified nurses from Dublin Hospitals the Minister is not aware of any problems of recruitment elsewhere in the country. In the circumstances, and having regard to the fact that there are considerably more applications from suitably qualified candidates for admission to general nurse training-schools than there are places available for them, the Minister considers that, at this stage, the introduction of another grade of general nurse would not be justified.

Mise, le meas,

(Signed) B. O h-Iarflaithe".

These letters were submitted to and noted by the Board.

The members of the Committee requested that the Matron prepare a special report for incorporation in the report of the meeting. This report is as follows:—

"At the moment there are two ward units closed to patients. One unit has been used for some time as temporary accommodation for nursing staff. These Units would have a normal bed complement of 52. But for the fact that I have been able to recruit up to 44 State Enrolled Nurses, the

Hospital would have had to close at least four more Units and this would place me in a position of not being able to meet the demand for patient admissions since the Hospital would have an effective complement of only 120 beds. Admissions have been running at a very high rate during the present year and last week 220 beds out of 230 beds staffed were occupied. Cherry Orchard Hospital provides a service for the Board's area and is used as a national centre for the treatment of many types of infectious disease. The Board will appreciate that since there is no register for State Enrolled Nurses in this country, the position in regard to their employment is not entirely satisfactory. Since this grade of staff are not formally recognised, there is a tendency for them not to remain too long in the Board's employment resulting in a considerable turnover of staff. The Hospital administration is already aware that Cherry Orchard Hospital, in association with St. Mary's can provide residential and teaching facilities for this grade of nurse and it should be possible to obtain other types of experience needed by co-operating with some of the other Hospitals of the Board, such as St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, County Hospital, Naas, and the District Hospital, Baltinglass, and other hospitals where experience in surgery, casualty, maternity etc. can be obtained.

I am satisfied that the present arrangements for the employment of this grade of nurse are not satisfactory".

Commission of Inquiry:

The members, having considered the general position in regard to nursing services, recommend that the Minister for Health be requested to set up a Commission of Inquiry to examine and report on nurse training and staffing in hospitals.

Engineering Staff:

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Crumlish on his recent promotion to the grade of Engineering Officer. Mr. Swords advised the members that the Department of Health were being asked to sanction the required number of posts of Engineering Officer and Maintenance Officer as quickly as possible to enable the reorganisation of the Engineering Services to be put into effect.

Maintenance:

Mr. Crumlish reported that he hoped to commence work on the painting programme in the Hospital shortly. It had been arranged to repaint the Domestic Home as part of this year's programme

Fire Precautions:

Matron stated that the Board's Chief Fire Officer had arranged to attend a number of study days for staff so that nursing and other staffs would be familiar with procedures etc. in the event of an outbreak of fire. The Engineering Officer stated that special attention was given in all Hospitals, Homes etc., to maintaining fire appliances in good condition. With the appointment of Maintenance Officers in his area more attention could be given to the training of hospital staffs in fire prevention etc.

The Committee thanked Dr. O'Connor and Miss Taaffe for the assistance given them during the meeting and also asked that their thanks be conveyed to the Catering Superintendent and her staff for the excellent lunch provided.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at St. Brigid's Hospital on Monday, 1st October, 1973, at 1 p.m.

The meeting finished at 3 p.m."

- (b) *Meeting of the No. 3 Visiting Committee held at St. Gabriel's Day Centre, Clontarf, Dublin, on Thursday, 6th September, 1973, at 3.00 p.m.*

Members Present:

Dr. Aidan Meade, Mr. M. Birmingham.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. B. McCaffrey, Clinical Director; Dr. M. Hartman, Psychiatrist; Mr. M. Cummins, Section Officer; Mr M. Murrhy, Psychiatric Nurss.

Dr. McCaffrey and Mr. Murrhy gave a summary of the service being provided at St. Gabriel's Day Centre and of the numbers of patients who have successfully returned to take their place in the community, having benefitted from the course of treatment at the Centre.

Dr. McCaffrey said that it was hoped in the future to include some long-stay chronic patients from St. Brendan's Hospital in rehabilitation programmes.

Dr. Meade expressed interest in Dr. Hartman's policy of helping patients to cope with stress situations by training rather than by the use of psychotherapeutic drugs.

The members expressed satisfaction at the work being undertaken and at the condition of the Day Centre, and also at the success achieved to date by the operation of the Hostel at Raheny, Dublin.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 p.m."

- (c) *"Report of Meeting of No. 4 Visiting Committee held at St. Loman's Hospital at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 6th September 1973.*

Present:

Dr. P. C. Jennings. Chairman; Dr. J. Walker, Dr. J. S. Doyle.

Officers in Attendance:

Dr. T. Fahy, Clinical Director; Miss K. Golden, Matron; Mr. E. Butler, S.E.O.; Mr. D. Dunne, Dep. Charge Nurse; Mr. P. McGrath, A/Section Officer.

Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting Dr. Jennings inquired if there was still the need for extra hostel accommodation. In reply Dr. Fahy stated that the sixteen places available in St. Mary's were not sufficient and he estimated that up to thirty patients at present in hospital could be catered for in hostels, if available.

In addition Dr. Fahy stated that there was a need for day centre facilities on similar lines at the Crumlin Day Centre to cater for patients who are not in need of hospital care but who require group therapy and group activity. There are approximately thirty five day patients attending the hospital and there is a waiting list of forty six for admission to Crumlin.

Mr. Butler stated that the new day centre at Maynooth, to cater for North Kildare area patients, would be opened shortly. Planning permission for use of these premises as a day centre had been refused by Kildare County Council but it was expected that this matter would be resolved soon.

Dr. Fahy informed the meeting that the average length of stay of patients in hospital was under three months, that 20 - 25% of admissions are first admissions and that the total admission rate and attendances at out-patient clinics are increasing.

The operation of, and facilities available at Crumlin Day Centre were explained by Dr. Fahy and Mr. Dunne, nurse in charge of the centre. It was opened in May 1969 and caters for thirty six chronic schizophrenic patients engaged on

Industrial Therapy work who are paid factory piece rates earning up to £4 per week each. There is an average daily attendance of thirty and the centre is staffed by three nurses. There have been 126 referrals to the centre nine of whom have been placed in open employment. Regular family visitations and follow up of patients takes place. The service provided, apart from benefitting the patients relieves their families of a considerable burden. It is estimated that the cost per patient is £5 per week. Dr. Fahy gave details of research which has been carried out into the operation of the centre. The members expressed their pleasure at the success of the centre and complimented Dr. Fahy and the staff concerned on the provision of such a useful and economic service.

In reply to questions regarding the Child Psychiatric Services Mr. Butler said that work on the former dispensary at Castleknock was nearing completion and that some services were already being provided. When fully operational it will release the premises at 197c North Circular Road for use as a hostel for autistic adolescents.

The members agreed to arrange for a meeting in Castleknock early in January.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 p.m."

104/73 ALLOWANCES FOR DOMICILIARY CARE FOR SEVERELY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Circular H126/9/1 from the Department of Health, outlining a new scheme of allowances for severely physically or mentally handicapped children who are living at home and who need constant care was discussed. After questions by Dr. Jennings and Dr. O'Connell on certain points in the scheme, to which Mr. F. J. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, replied, the scheme was noted and approved

105/73 QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor P. J. Burke, seconded by Councillor John Sweeney that the Chief Executive Officer answer the question lodged.

Commissioner Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D.,

RE DAY CENTRE, USHER'S ISLAND

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to furnish

- (a) cost of building
- (b) cost of running

- (c) numbers of people employed
- (d) purpose for which originally built and reason for change in policy
- (e) activity
- (f) numbers of attendances.

Reply:

- (a) £110,000.
- (b) £28,000 per annum.
- (c) 1 Clinical Director, 1 Senior Psychiatrist, 1 Psychiatrist, 1 Charge Nurse, 2 Nurses, 2 Psychiatric Social Workers, 1 Psychologist, 1 Domestic and 2 Porters.
- (d) (1) The Centre provides a programme for the needs of drug abusers and also for persons assisting in the rehabilitative process (Coolmine Therapeutic Community, Switchboard Crises Intervention Centre). The Centre also treats persons showing disturbance likely to lead to delinquent behaviour referred by Welfare Officers of the Department of Justice.
- (2) The former Dublin Health Authority approved of the building for the accommodation of homeless families arising from the housing crisis which developed following the finding of a large number of dangerous dwellings in the City area. By 1970 it was found that the Corporation's housing programme had been so developed that, with the assistance of the facilities provided by the Dublin Health Authority in Griffith Barracks, the accommodation problem for homeless families was being contained.

In 1970 the Authority considered a report (No. GP. 7/1970) from the Chief Psychiatrist on the drug problem in the Dublin area. In that report it was stated that an assessment service for drug abusers based in Jervis Street Hospital had been set up but that the service there should be "matched by facilities which would operate in a more liberal way in dealing with the general problems of disturbed adolescents, including drug abusers, where these can be contained within society. For these cases, what is needed is a centrally located, flexible centre incorporating daily care, evening care, group activities, family treatment and, where necessary, hostel care. The combination of a liberal centre such as this with a high-security unit, will enable us to set up a behaviour-shaping programme on learning theory

lines involving a continuum of reward and deprivation as indicated for the individual patient". The Board agreed, with Ministerial sanction, to make the building available for the purpose recommended by the Chief Psychiatrist. The Chief Psychiatrist is presently reviewing the position generally.

- (e) (1) Family psychiatry on a community basis—evening lectures to parent groups are organised.
- (2) Medical staff hold on-going discussions with Vocational Education Committee to consider the possibility of a collaborative programme which would benefit students suffering from behavioural disorders. Seminars and lectures are continuously provided over the year for nursing and para-medical personnel.
- (f) February 1972/January 1973 —1.367.
February 1973/August 1973 — 593.

106/73 REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON
ALCOHOLISM

The following Report No. 43/1973 submitted by the Chairman of the Working Party Mr. Dermot O'Flynn was submitted:

'The Working Party appointed by the Board to examine the recommendations made by I.N.C.A. had a meeting on Monday, 30th July. A further meeting was held on Thursday, 20th September at which two new members Dr. Meade and Commissioner Hayes attended.

The Committee at its first meeting in July had considered in great depth the full report of I.N.C.A. and its consequential recommendations. It was noted with regret that there was no mention of the Board's own Centre. St. Dymphna's, North Circular Road, which had been in existence since November, 1969 and was the only Hospital, excluding Shaftesbury Square, which was specifically set up for the treatment of Alcoholic and Drug dependence. As far as the members could ascertain, it is the only Hospital that, on a 5-day per week basis, provides an out-patient service for Alcoholics exclusively. St. Dymphna's has treated 755 in-patients and in the year ended 31st March, 1973 it had a case load of 2,160 out-patients, and a total attendance of 4,346 patients.

The members accepted the evidence which showed that within the past five years, there had been a significant growth in the problem of Alcoholism in Ireland. They agree that, in addition to the provision of proper back-up services, it is most

urgent to make plans to offset the growth of excessive drinking habits. This has become noticeable as a National Problem, with an impact on our Youth as well as sections of our Adult population. The members agreed that, one of the primary objectives in tackling Alcoholism was to educate Public Opinion, and amend our personal attitudes towards it.

The members agreed that such a change could best be achieved with a balanced and well-planned programme of Education and Information. In this, it was essential that any media advertising should be of the highest standards, and be subject to the approval of qualified experts. The members felt that T.V. advertising should not screen moving filmlets, glamourising social drinking or fun-drinking, and associating alcohol with manliness and achievement. In its place they could show the civilised and proper use of alcohol at meal-times. Still pictures or slides, advertising brand names, only these should be permitted. The application of the Guidelines for advertising Alcoholic Drink on television (as already voluntarily accepted by R.T.E.) should now be subjected to a critical re-examination. It was felt that the Government should consider making it obligatory to print a warning label on all Alcoholic drinks viz:—that one *could* become dependent on Alcohol, i.e., for many people it could become a Drug of Addiction

The Committee were also unanimously of the opinion that general practitioners should be made more fully aware of the agencies who are engaged in this field, and that each general practitioner should be supplied with the I.N.C.A. poster or chart, which sets out the twelve-points alert system, and that it should be compulsory for these to be displayed in all waiting rooms, hospitals, out-patient clinics as well as in pubs, lounge bars and all places where alcoholic drink is sold. The Committee were further of opinion that general practitioners should be advised that, when checking the history of a patient, care should be taken to cover the possibility of the patient having an alcoholic problem somewhere in the past. The members also felt that sufficient care should be taken to ensure that out-patient and in-patient facilities would be made available, to meet any upsurge in patients requiring treatment, as a result of the campaign of education and information—already planned for Autumn, 1973 by the Department of Health.

The Committee recommends that the Board's Social Workers, engaged in Community Care, should be given an opportunity for special training in dealing with Alcoholics, and the complex personal and family problems arising therefrom

The Committee also drew attention to their report in May, 1972 (Min. 50/72 refers) concerning the setting up of a Marriage Advisory Tribunal, which would meet in private and assess cases, it recommended that this body be given powers to make its decisions binding and also have the power to grant a free legal aid certificate to enable legal separations to be sought if it felt the case justified it. This concept will need further examination and study.

The Committee proposed that a Reception and Assessment House for Alcoholics be set up in North City and another to cater for Dublin South. It is important that any such Clearing House should have a geographic separation from any Mental Hospital. These units would act as referral depots for G.P.s—to divert Alcoholics from OPDs of General Hospitals—to provide a time-lag to grade and classify individual patients for treatment. They felt that if Psychiatrists had to receive and detain unco-operative Alcoholics in Alcoholic Units, these Units could not function properly.

The Committee noted that many Youth Leaders were concerned at the serious problems now arising from young people drinking "under the legal age". In its present state the Law is not enforceable and is urgently in need of reform. Following a road accident, where Alcohol was found to be a contributory factor, reference should be made to this in the report by the Coroner, or the Garda authority. It was felt that the Blood Alcohol level should be reduced to 80 mm.

The members were unable to calculate the loss to the National Economy created by many aspects of alcoholism, e.g. absenteeism, low productivity, inaccurate certification for sick leave, nervous disorders, family tensions etc. Industry should concentrate on positive research in this area.

The Committee did not agree with Recommendation No. 65. The Committee agreed that, as suggested by the Minister, the Board should make available a sum of £6,600 to I.N.C.A. in the current year, subject to the above-mentioned qualifications".

After an extensive debate in which some of the Working Party's views were emphasised, the following motion proposed by Councillor P. J. Burke, seconded by Dr. O'Connell, was unanimously adopted: —

'That the sub-Committee be complimented on its report and that the Report be adopted".

It was agreed that the special points made by a number of Board members should be incorporated in an accompanying

letter to the Department of Health. On the question of treatment of persons suffering from Alcoholism the following motion was proposed by Dr. O'Connell and seconded by Councillor M. Carroll and agreed unanimously:—

'That the Eastern Health Board call on the Minister for Health to arrange for free treatment of Alcoholics at any of the following Centres:—St. Patrick's Hospital, St. John of God Hospital, St. Dymphna's, North Circular Road. Belmont Park Hospital, Waterford, Lindwell Hospital, Cork and at any public Psychiatric Hospital".

The following members contributed to the debate:—Dr. Meade, Dr. Walker, Mr. Ruane. Mr. O'Flynn. Dr. O'Connell, Dr. Mahon, Cflr. P. J. Burke, Cflr. Guinan, Dr. Jennings, Cflr. Brady, Dr. Carroll, Commissioner Hayes, Cflr. Sweeney, Cflr. Temple, Cflr. Cunningham, Cflr. Mahon, Cflr. M. Carroll.

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EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The following Report No. 44/1973 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"(A) *Labour Court Recommendation 2771.*

*Week-end/Public Holiday and Night Duty Payments—
- General Trained Nurses:*

Further to my Report No. 41/1973 concerning the implementation of the above Labour Court award to Psychiatric Nurses, the Minister for Health has now approved the application of its terms to General Trained Nurses up to and including Ward Sister level. The implementation of these payments will cost approximately £220,000 in the current year and £160,000 in 1974/75 for which no provision has been made in the Estimate.

(B) *Board for the Blind:*

The Minister for Health, by letter dated 27th June, 1973 (reference KA. 121/193) approved a revised capitation rate of £23-00 per week per person payable with effect from 1st April, 1973 in respect of blind persons employed by the Board for the employment of the Blind in their workshops at Rathmines and for whom Health Boards have accepted responsibility for payment of the maintenance charge. Prior to the transfer of functions under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, from the Department of Social Welfare to the Department of Health, payment to the Board was made as follows:

- (1) Capitation rata £360 per annum. 50% paid by the Board and 50% paid by the Department of Social Welfare.

- (2) An annual contribution corresponding to the product of $\frac{1}{2}$ d (old pence) in the £ of rateable valuation of the rating Authorities within the Health Board's functional area.

A sum of £24,500 was provided in the current year's estimates to meet the payments. There are 25 persons from the Health Board's functional area employed at Rathmines (24 Dublin, 1 Kildare). To implement the revised capitation rates will cost £29,900 in the current financial year which will result in excess expenditure of £5,400".

On a proposal by Councillor Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Hayes it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, consent to the proposals contained in Report No. 44/1973 and authorise the expenditure of £225,400 in the current financial year in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1973/74 under the following heading:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose of Expenditure</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Health		£
	Board Hospitals.145,000
	Joint Board-St. James's.75,000
	Blind Welfare.5,400
		£225,400"

108/73 SWANN REPORT ON THE USE OF
ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY
MEDICINE

The following Report No. 42/1973 from the Dublin Medical Officer. Professor B. O'Doinsl, was submitted:—

'This Committee was concerned with the possible ill-effects on humans that might result from the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine.

Antibiotics may be used:

- (1) As feed additives ('feed' antibiotics) to improve growth of animals and fowl, by reducing incidence of infections, and it is also thought that some antibiotics may have a specific growth effect.
- (2) Therapeutically—(a) by vets
(b) by farmers.

Regarding (1) and (2) (b) the danger is that these practices may cause transferable (infective) drug resistance in the human.

The Committee recommended:

- (1) That the use of "feed" antibiotics should be severely curtailed, and
- (2) That therapeutic antibiotics, including sulphonamides and nitrofurans, should be available only on veterinary prescription for animal use.

The Irish Food Advisory Committee recommended to the Departments of Health and Agriculture that the recommendations of the Swann Report should be adopted in this country also. As a result, a Working Party representing both Ministries is studying the matter. Already, the Department of Agriculture has made a Regulation forbidding the sale by animal food-stuff manufacturers of foodstuffs containing certain specified antibiotics, such as tetracyclines and nitrofurans.

They are still studying ways and means of restricting the direct availability of therapeutic antibiotics to farmers.

There are also E.E.C. Directives on the subject".

Professor O'Donnell explained that he had prepared a much larger report and had condensed the main points into the report which was before the members.

Dr. Doyle and Dr. Walker and Mr. Corrigan congratulated Professor O'Donnell on the report and on a proposal by Mr. Corrigan seconded by Councillor P. J. Burke it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That Report No. 42/1973 be noted"

109/73

PROGRESS REPORT

The following Report No. 45/1973 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"I submit report on the planning and development of health centres:

North Strand Health Centre:

Construction of this centre commenced in December, 1972 and it is expected that it will be completed and ready for occupation in January, 1974

Tallaght Health Centres:

The housing development in Tallaght continues with the completion of the Dodder area scheme and the rapid build-up in the Oldbawn, Tymon South, Springfield and Kilnamanagh areas. It is proposed to build three permanent health centres in the area, it is hoped to commence the first health centre in 1974/1975 in the Dodder area and this would be followed in 1975/1976 by the second permanent health centre in the Springfield area. A third health centre will be located in the North East Section of the development. The existing temporary health centre in Tallaght Village, which serves the entire area at present, will continue to operate until the three permanent health centres are completed.

Blanchardstown Area—Health Centres:

This major developing area is at present being serviced by the dispensary at Castleknock, which is too small and too far from the developing areas. A site for a health centre in the village of Blanchardstown has been leased. A temporary health centre will be erected there shortly to provide services for persons in Castleknock, Blanchardstown Village and the developing area between Blanchardstown and Clonsilla until a permanent health centre is completed in each of the three major developing areas as follows:

- (i) The proposed Town Centre in 1975/1976
- (ii) Hartstown area in 1977/1978
- (iii) Mulhuddart area in 1978/1979

Coolock Health Centre:

Services for the Coolock area are at present being provided from a temporary health centre at Barryscourt Road. A site for a permanent health centre has been allocated by the Corporation at Cromcastle Road and the sanction of the Minister for Health is awaited for the project. A schedule of the accommodation to be provided is being drawn up.

Kilbarrack Health Centre:

A temporary health centre has been erected on a site obtained from the Vocational Education Committee at Kilbarrack and it will be in operation in about two weeks time. Dublin Corporation has been asked to reserve a site for a permanent health centre to be provided at a later date.

Inchicore Health Centre:

The dispensary premises at Vincent Street, Inchicore, are beyond economic repair and the sanction of the Minister for

Health has been obtained for the purchase of a nearby premises at 124E Emmet Road for use as a temporary health centre. The premises will be adapted and put into operation as soon as the Law Agent has completed the legal formalities of purchase.

A site near St. Michael's Church, Emmet Road, has been allocated by Dublin Corporation and the sanction of the Minister for Health is awaited for the schedule of accommodation and sketch plans submitted for a permanent health centre.

Ballybrack Area—Health Centre:

The health centre at Ballybrack is not large enough to cope with the expected increase in population of approximately 10,000 in the major housing project between Killiney Golf Course and Ballybrack. Negotiations for the purchase of a suitable site from Dun Laoghaire Borough Corporation are being concluded and approval in principle for the erection of a health centre has been received from the Minister for Health.

Health Centre Facilities in South Finglas:

A second health centre in the centre of Finglas South/Tolka Valley area will be needed to provide for an increased population of at least 10,000 and Dublin Corporation has been asked to provide a site.

The health centre at Ballygall Road, Finglas, has not sufficient accommodation for the considerably increased population in the Finglas area and apart from this, it is a considerable distance from the new housing development in South Finglas.

Health Centre Facilities in Skerries:

In 1971 the Board acquired the premises and land adjoining the dispensary in Skerries in order to increase the accommodation for the provision of health services for the area. In the event of a significant increase in the population of Skerries in the future a new health centre will be erected on the lands attached to the existing dispensary.

Blessington Dispensary:

The Board's proposals for the reconstruction of Blessington Dispensary so as to provide better surgery and waiting room facilities and new dental and nursing suites, have been referred back by the Department of Health for reconsideration. The proposals are being re-examined by the Board's Architect

Arkiow Health Centre:

A site for a health centre at Arkiow has been allocated by the Arklow Urban District Council. Planning permission has been applied for. The Department's approval to the Architect's sketch plan is awaited.

Ticknock/Ballinteer—Health Centre:

Due to the extensive housing development now taking place in the Ballinteer/Ticknock/Holylands area the additional projected population is expected to reach 20,000 when the development is completed. The health centres at Dundrum and Rathfarnham are operating to maximum capacity and they would not be able to meet the extra demand for services. They are, in any case, too far from the new housing schemes. A site has been sought from the Corporation and the sanction of the Department of Health for the provision of a health centre for the area is awaited.

Wicklow—Health Centre and Offices:

Officers of the Board are negotiating the acquisition of a suitable site adjacent to the hospital in Wicklow on which a health centre in which accommodation for dental, child health, immunisation and other services will be provided. The schedule of accommodation is being prepared and when this is approved the Architect will be instructed to prepare a sketch plan. It is necessary to provide additional accommodation for the medical and professional staff in the health offices and the site would be capable of accommodating offices.

The estimated cost of providing a health centre would be £60,000 and of providing the office block would be £50,000.

Maynooth—Health Centre Facilities:

The accommodation in the dispensary at Maynooth is not sufficient for the provision of dental, child health, nursing and other services for this expanding town. Officers of the Board are negotiating the acquisition of a suitable site adjacent to the College Grounds.

Athy—Health Centre Facilities:

The health centre facilities in Athy are under examination at present.

Clondalkin/Deansrath/Ronanstown/Lucan—Health Centres:

A major housing development is planned for the above area. The Board has health centres at Clondalkin and at Lucan. It is possible that at least one further large health centre will be required."

Mr. F. J. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, gave an outline of the situation in regard to Health Centres and to the flexibility in buildings which they hope to achieve. Dr. Meade felt that group practice facilities should be provided in them and Dr. Jennings felt that approval in principle from the Department of Health should be obtained.

After a further discussion to which Dr. Doyle, Councillor Cunningham, Councillor Guinan, Councillor Brady, Commissioner Hayes, Councillor Burke and Mr. D. O'Flynn contributed, on a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Commissioner Hayes it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That Report No. 45/1973 be noted".

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion in the name of Councillor E. Timmons was seconded by Councillor J. Guinan and after a short discussion it was agreed to defer consideration of the motion as a report on the subject would be submitted at the next meeting of the Board:—

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby requests the Chief Executive Officer to permit patients' prescriptions under the Mental Treatment Acts to be dispensed by local Chemists as with holders of medical cards".

The meeting terminated at 8 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,
Chief Executive Officer.



Chairman.