

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

*Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital. Grangegorman on 1st November. 1973 at 6 p.m.*

*Present:*

Councillor Dr. R. Belton	Miss Kay Kinsella
Commissioner J. Berry	Commissioner Tom Leonard
Councillor M. Brady	Dr. James McCormick
Councillor P. J. Burke	Councillor A. Mahon
Councillor M. Carroll	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B.	Mr. Dermot O'Flynn
Mr. Hugh Corrigan, F.P.S.I.	Commissioner James O'Keefe
Councillor Michael Cunningham	Mr. Martin Ruane
Councillor J. Guinan	Councillor John Sweeney
Mr. Kevin A. Harrington, B.D.S.	Councillor John Temple
Commissioner Liam Hayes	Deputy G. Timmins
Councillor Patk. Hickey, P.C.	Deputy E. Timmons
Dr. P. C. Jennings	Dr. John Walker

*Apologies for Absence:*

Dr. J. Stephen Doyle, Miss Mary Lacey, Comm. Denis Larkin and Dr. A. Meade.

Councillor Patrick Hickey, Chairman, presided.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i>
Prof. Ivor Browne, <i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	Mr. F. Elliott, <i>Planning &amp; Eval. Officer</i>
Mr. F. J. Donohue, <i>Programme Manager. Community Care</i>	Mr. F. McCullough
Prof. B. O'Donnell, <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. J. F. Reynolds, <i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
	Mr. H. Dunne
	Mr. A. O'Brien
	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
	Mr. K. Quinn
	Miss K. Dolan



***Maternity Department. Out-Patient Clinics, Physiotherapy:***

The members were advised that further discussions had been held with the Department of Health on this project which was estimated to cost in the region of £20,000. It was expected that work should commence shortly and be completed in about six months' time.

***Day Hospital:***

No provision had been made in the current Capital Programme for this project, but the matter is being kept under review.

***Ambulance Service:***

The members were advised that the arrangements whereby urgent calls were being dealt with by the Ambulance Service at Dun Laoghaire during the period midnight to 8 a.m. were working satisfactorily. There was a limited demand for this service and during the twelve days to October only four calls were passed to Dun Laoghaire during those hours.

Councillor Temple stated that he was concerned with recent Press reports to the effect that an Ambulance Service was not being provided by the Board in the area after 6 p.m. He requested that the Board supply him with written confirmation to the effect that a 24-hour Ambulance Service is being provided in the area. Mr. Swords undertook to let him have this confirmation.

***Nursing Staff:***

The Assistant Matron stated that the position in regard to nursing staff was generally satisfactory and that there had been a good response to a recent series of advertisements. She also stated that there were at present 5 State Enrolled Nurses employed, and that since the recent purchase of the second house in Wyattville there were no problems in providing accommodation for staff.

***Student Nurses:***

Mr. Swords stated that, following the last visit of the Committee, he had been in communication with the Matron, St. James's Hospital with a view to increasing the number of Student Nurses to 10. The members were disappointed that St. James's Hospital could not accede to this request and they recommended that further representations be made to the Hospital Board in this matter.

*Engineering Services:*

Mr. Swords reported that during the past week the Department of Health had approved of the Board's proposals for the appointment of Engineering and Maintenance Officers and arrangements were in hands to bring the staff complement up to the required strength. Mr. Brennan, Maintenance Officer, referred to the current programme of work in St. Columcille's and he stated that since the last meeting of the Committee further improvements in services had been carried out at the Hospital as follows:—

1. The installation of two calorifiers and two water pumps.
2. Up-dating of electrical equipment, including a new control panel following the installation by the E.S.B. of a new services main.
3. Painting was at present in progress in Lourdes Ward and the Hospital Chapel.
4. Standardisation of electrical sockets and fittings.
5. Repairs to Aubrey Park, Shankill, where there was now accommodation for four doctors.
6. Further work in the X-Ray Department and extra accommodation for filing, reporting and accommodation for the Radiologist.

The members were pleased to note that the Hospital clock had been repaired.

*Heating, Hot Water and Electrical Services:*

Mr. Swords stated that the Consulting Engineers were at present completing their examination of the heating, hot water and electrical services in the Hospital and the Department of Health had been advised of the need to make an allocation in the 1974/75 Capital Programme for this work, which was provisionally estimated to cost in the region of £50,000.

*Pathology:*

The members were disappointed to learn that there had been a delay in the Department of Health approving of the proposed arrangements with St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park. They recommended that further strong representations be made to the Department to enable the arrangements to proceed. Mr. Swords confirmed that while the arrangements

involved a payment to Elm Park towards the cost of the additional Pathology staff there would be an overall saving to the Board on the present long-standing arrangements.

*General:*

Dr. Roche submitted the following statistics in regard to the admission of patients, X-Ray Department and attendance at Casualty Department. He stated that every effort was being made to accept all applications for admission to the Hospital and this was reflected in the increasing number of admissions which were estimated to total 4,000 in the present financial year. At present there were approximately 30 patients who could be termed long stay geriatrics, there were 11 patients with fractured femurs who would be hospitalised for long periods and at the date of the meeting there were 2 emergency beds set up in addition to the normal complement. The members recommended that a special effort be made to supply a more suitable type of emergency bed so as to get over the nursing difficulties involved.

*Hospital Statistics:*

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Admissions</i>	<i>Births</i>
1961/62 .....	2.269	331
1962/63 .....	2.258	378
1963/64	2,436	587
1964/65	2.829	719
1965/66	2.633	693
1966/67	2.736	652
1967/68	3.113	732
1968/69	3,027	629
1969/70	2.983	604
1970/71	3.128	558
1971/72 .....	3.367	545
1972/73 .....	3.583	541
Six months to 30/9/73 .....	1.885	335
Estimate 1973/74 .....	4.000	725

*X-Ray Department  
Monthly Average of Patients*

	<i>Casualty</i>	<i>Extern</i>	<i>Wards</i>	<i>Wicklow</i>	<i>Total Monthly Average</i>
1971	250	75	404	45	774
1972	302	62	420	26	810
6 months to June. 1973	429	115	410	45	999
July. 1973	483	139	396	57	1.075
Aug. ..	487	132	372	51	1.042
Sept. ..	351	114	303	39	807

*Casualty Department Attendances  
1st January, 1973 to 30th September, 1973*

Dublin Area	3.479	
County Wicklow	4.364	
		7.843

The members were pleased to note the increasing use of the facilities at St. Columcille's and they recommended that the Board be supplied as soon as possible with plans for the overall development of the Hospital site in view of the rapidly expanding housing development in the area served by St. Columcille's Hospital.

The members were pleased to note that conditions generally in the Hospital were satisfactory and that progress continued to be made in the development of the services.

*Next Meeting:*

Clonskeagh Hospital, Tuesday, 6th November, 1973, at 3 p.m.

The members expressed their thanks to the Medical Superintendent and to the Assistant Matron for the assistance afforded to them during the meeting.

The meeting finished at 4.30 p.m."

- (b) *"Report of Meeting of No. 2 Visiting Committee held at St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling, on Monday, 1st October, 1973 at 1.00 p.m.*

*Present:*

Councillor P. Burke, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner J. Berry, Mr. H. Corrigan, Dr. J. Mahon, Mr. M. Ruane.

*Apologies for Absence:*

Dr. Belton, Miss Kinsella, Commissioner Leonard, Dr. O'Dea, Medical Administrator.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Dr. O'Riordan, Medical Officer; Miss Keogh, Matron; Mr. Crumlsh, Engineering Officer; Mr. Sheehan, Assistant Section Officer; Mr. O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer.

Dr. Josephine Clarke, former Medical Officer, attended at the invitation of the Committee.

Councillor Burke, presiding, paid tribute to the years of faithful service rendered by Dr. Clarke and welcomed her to the meeting. He wished her many happy years in her retirement. The Members associated themselves with the Chairman's remarks, to which Dr. Clarke replied. The Committee also welcomed Dr. O'Riordan, Medical Officer, to their first meeting at the Home since his appointment.

*Bed Occupancy:*

Of the 207 beds, 186 were occupied on the day of the visit. There was some inconvenience in Units A and B due to the renovation work being carried out but Matron was very satisfied with the progress being made.

*Staffing:*

Matron reported that the nursing and wardsmaid staffing position was satisfactory. 32 Nurses were employed with 2 part-time on night duty and 1 State Enrolled Nurse. Twelve permanent nurses lived in and the remainder consisted of married nurses who lived locally. Replying to Members' questions regarding the role of the State Enrolled Nurse, Matron said she was very pleased with the one State Enrolled Nurse on her staff and on this basis would be pleased to have more. The Committee recommended that the Board continue to press An Bord Altranais and the Department of Health for the recognition of this grade as a matter of necessity to cope with

geriatric nursing needs in the Dublin area. The Members commended Matron for the manner in which she was able to secure and retain the services of temporary staff and for the cordial and cheerful atmosphere in the Home.

The Committee endorsed the request of Dr. O'Riordan, Medical Officer, that the services of a Psychiatrist be provided for the Home from St. Loman's Hospital at least once monthly.

*Chapel:*

Matron reported that the Chaplain had again asked that the modifications to the altar be carried out. The Committee was informed that proposals drawn up by the Architect in respect of seven chapels in the Board's Institutions since the introduction of the new liturgy were still awaiting the approval of the Department of Health. It was agreed, at the Engineering Officer's suggestion, that he would proceed with the modifications as soon as his present programme permitted.

*Renovations and Repairs:*

Members were informed that the contract repairs of Units C and D had been completed at a cost of £21,000 approximately. An examination of the Administration Building had revealed similar defects in the timber structure there and it was decided that the renewal work would be carried out by the Engineering Officer and his staff. Mr. Crumlish informed the Committee that the renewal of the front portion of the building was about half-completed and would be finished before the onset of severe weather; a commencement on the remainder of the building would be left over until next spring. The building did not have central heating and provision for this was being incorporated as the work progressed.

*Sewage Disposal:*

A decision was expected shortly, on the basis of a Consultant Engineer's recommendation, regarding the purchase of a sewage digestion unit. The unit would be installed by the Board's maintenance staff.

*Fire Precautions:*

The Engineering Officer said that, having regard to the structure of the buildings, fire precautions were as good as they could be: the Fire Officer and Mr. Crumlish consulted regularly, staff were lectured regularly and a rota of male employees under the Engineering Officer's control patrolled the Home on a 24-hour basis. The provision of patrol clocks at strategic points to monitor the surveillance arrangements was under consideration.



***Future of Home:***

Commenting on the views of the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, that he "would like to see Bru Chaoimhin, St. Brigid's Home and St. Clare's Home replaced by small community-based welfare homes". Members agreed with the conclusion that the existing homes must continue for the foreseeable future because of the size of the geriatric care problem. In view of this, the renovation and other works necessary to keep St. Brigid's Home in order were justified.

***Inspections:***

The Committee inspected Units A and B and Units C and D and spoke with staff and many of the patients. They were impressed that, notwithstanding the condition of helplessness and incontinence of many patients, their comfort and contentment was obvious. Matron and staff were complimented on the cleanliness and cheerful appearance of the wards. The Chairman inspected the renovation work on the Administration building and congratulated the Engineering Officer for his initiative in taking on this additional work.

***General:***

The Committee thanked Matron for the hospitality extended to them and the Officers in attendance for their help during the visit.

***Meetings of the Committee:***

Members decided that, in future, the Committee will meet at its principal institution, St. Brendan's Hospital, every third month and that the other hospitals and homes will be visited in rotation in the intervening months.

Accordingly, the next meeting will be held at St. Brendan's Hospital on Monday, 5th November, 1973 at 1.00 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 p.m."

**CORRECT:**

**A. O'BRIEN.**

**P. J. BURKE,**

*Chairman.*

(c) *"Report of Meeting of No. 3 Visiting Committee held on Thursday. 18th October. 1973 at 4.30 pm. at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy.*

*Present:*

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman; Councillor A. Mahon, Councillor M. Brady, Dr. A. Meade, Mr. O. O'Flynn, Mr. M. Bermingham.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Sr. M. Dominic, Matron; Sr. M. Angela, Asst. Matron; Dr. J. T. O'Neill, Medical Officer; Mr. P. J. Swords, Administrative Assistant; Mr. V. Crumlsh, Engineering Officer; Mr. P. Sheehan, Section Officer.

Mr. P. Moloney, Arch., was also in attendance.

## INSPECTIONS

The Chairman formally welcomed Dr. A. Meade on his first visit to St. Vincent's Hospital.

The members inspected the new Convent. Nurses Home and Mortuary. Male and Female wards were visited and members noted the happy disposition of patients and staff and the excellent standard of cleanliness in the ward areas.

*Bed Occupancy:*

Sr. Dominic informed the Committee that 300 geriatric patients, 9 maternity patients and 3 babies were accommodated on the day of the visit.

Sr. Dominic further informed the members that there was a waiting list of 20. In spite of her best efforts she could do nothing to reduce the number on this waiting list as there was a constant demand for admission to the hospital.

Mr. Swords stated that it was hoped that the Welfare Home to be provided in Naas would house patients from north Co. Kildare and in that way would free some of the present beds occupied in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy. This would go a considerable way in helping to reduce the waiting list. It would also be a better arrangement for the relatives and friends of patients from north Kildare in regard to visiting and being in communication with the patients.

***Convent, Nurses Home and Mortuary:***

The members were happy to note the progress being made and the Chairman asked Mr. Moloney to give them the up-to-date position. Mr. Moloney stated that good progress was being made with the scheme and he hoped that the scheme would be completed to coincide with the Community's Centenary Year. He expected that the builders would be in a position to hand over this scheme in early Spring. He recommended that when the old buildings were demolished the landscaping of the area should be commenced.

He had discussed this with the Community and they were very pleased with the progress.

***Engineering Services:***

Mr. Crumlish again stressed the need for the setting-up of the Maintenance Groups and stated that proper maintenance could not be carried out without the required staff.

***Home Helps:***

Mr. Sheehan replied to Councillor Mahon that there were a total of 49 Home Helps employed at 30.9.73 catering for a total of 55 cases. Expenditure to the end of September was £2,985.00.

Cllr. Bermingham enquired as to the present position regarding the Senior Social Worker and Mr. Sheehan informed him that the position of Senior Social Worker was being advertised and that it was being treated as a matter of urgency. Councillor Bermingham stressed the importance of this appointment and asked that this matter be given priority within the Community Care programme.

***Alcoholic Unit—Cuan Muire:***

Mr. Sheehan informed Mr. O'Flynn that Professor I. Browne and Mr. McCullough would be visiting Cuan Muire in the near future regarding matters raised by the Department of Health in response to the Eastern Health Board's application for sanction to the payment of a capitation rate.'

He informed the members that the Department of Health were mounting a national campaign on The Problem of Excessive Drinking and that they had asked the Health Board to organise meetings and discussions within its area. In response to the Department's request, approximately 20 voluntary organisations within County Kildare had been written to inviting them to hold meetings of their organisations and informing them that the Health Board would be prepared to provide guest speakers on this subject at their respective meetings.

***Scheme of Improvements, Phase III:***

Mr. Moloney presented to the Committee outline plans for Phase III development of St. Vincent's. The plans include for the demolition of the old administration block. Mr. Moloney explained the plans in detail and replied to queries raised by the members. He had discussed these plans with the members of the Community who were in agreement with the outline development. He expected to have detailed plans finalised by December, 1973. The Chairman, on behalf of the members expressed their agreement with the outline plans as presented and the members unanimously agreed that Mr. Moloney should now proceed with the detailed plans for submission to the Health Board and the Department of Health.

Mr. Moloney informed the members that the cost of the new buildings, demolition and development of the site would be in the region of £250,000.

The members also noted with appreciation that, following discussions with the Board's officers and the Community, arrangements were being made to provide facilities for out-patients in the new accommodation and provision was also being made for a new Dental Clinic.

***General:***

The Committee thanked the Matron for her hospitality and for the facilities afforded them. They congratulated the Matron and staff on the cleanliness and pleasant condition of the hospital.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 24th January, 1974, at 3.00 p.m. at Athy."

(d) ***"Report of Meeting of No. 3 Visiting Committee held on Thursday. 18th October. 1973 at 1.30 p.m. at the County Hospital. Naas.***

***Present:***

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman; Councillor A. Mahon, Councillor M. Brady, Dr. A. Meade, Mr. D. O'Flynn. Mr. M. Bermingham.

***Officers in Attendance:***

ST. M. Antoinette, Matron; Dr. M. Waldron, Co. Physician; Mr. P. J. Swords, Administrative Assistant; Mr. V. Crumlish, Engineering Officer; Mr. P. Sheehan, Sections Officer.

Mr. P. Moloney. Architect was also in attendance.

*The following members of Kildare Local Health Committee also attended:*

Mrs. C. O'Connor, M.P.S.I.; Deputy P. Power, Councillor W. Callaghan.

#### INSPECTIONS

The Chairman, Cllr. P. Hickey, stated that it was his privilege to formally welcome Dr. A. Meade on his first visit as a member of the No. 3 Visiting Committee to the County Hospital, Naas and also to formally welcome the members of the Kildare Local Health Committee.

A general inspection of the Male Medical wards. Lift shaft and the Out-patient Department was made by the members. The houses which the Board proposed to purchase on the building site nearby were also inspected.

#### BUSINESS

##### *Bed Occupancy:*

The Matron reported that a total of 56 patients were accommodated on the day of the visit. The Male medical wards had recently been reopened and the Female medical wards now closed to facilitate the completion of the second lift shaft.

##### *Lifts:*

Mr. Moloney, Architect, informed the members that the lifts were at present en route to the County Hospital. One lift shaft had been completed and he was very satisfied with the progress being made with the other. He expected that the lifts would be delivered within three weeks and that the installation would be completed by February, 1974. The members expressed their satisfaction with this progress, and Mr. O'Flynn stated that he was very happy with the improvements made in the wards, in particular the new floor covering, the installation of the piped oxygen and the rearrangement of the beds. The members commented favourably on the bright and cheerful appearance of the newly decorated wards.

##### *Fire Precautions:*

Sister Antoinette informed the members that Mr. O'Flaherty, Fire Officer, had supervised four Fire Drills within the last fortnight. Dr. Meade was glad to note that the fire escapes had been checked and passed by the Chief Fire Officer. Mr. O'Flynn informed the Matron that there was a film entitled "Fire Hazards in Hospitals" available from the National Film Institute, which he considered would be of tremendous interest

to all the staff. Matron thanked him for his concern and stated that she would ask Mr. O'Flaherty to arrange a showing of this film.

*X-Ray Department and General Development of Hospital:*

Mr. Moloney stated that he was at present carrying out a feasibility study with regard to the provision of a Kitchen, Dining Room, 30-Bed Acute Unit, offices for Engineering staff and Administrative staff, and the siting of the Welfare Home at Naas. He stated that in preference to presenting the members with outline plans for piecemeal development, he would prepare plans showing the total development of the Naas County Hospital and submit them to the Committee for their approval. Mr. Swords stated that the Department had been advised of our proposals in this matter.

*Out-Patient Department:*

Mr. Sheehan, Section Officer, informed the members that out-patient clinics such as ophthalmic, E.N.T., etc. which did not require hospital facilities, had been transferred to the Health Centre at Naas. He also stated that it was decided to increase the number of medical out-patient clinics to three per week as soon as possible. This would give the same number of out-patient medical clinics as surgical. Mr. O'Flynn expressed a wish to visit the Naas Health Centre:

Councillor A. Mahon asked that the facilities for meals for out-patients who would be delayed, etc. be examined with a view to improving them. He was concerned that out-patients might be left for a considerable time without provision being made for some form of meal or refreshment. Mr. Swords stated that it was the Board's policy to make provision for this problem and Mr. Moloney, who was already looking into the question of dining facilities for staff would make provision for this need.

*Accommodation for Staff:*

Mr. Swords informed the members that, following discussions which he had with officers of the Department of Health, the Board had been advised that it was in order to enter into negotiations with Kildare County Council on the basis of the Council retaining St. Mary's Hospital as the administrative headquarters of the Council. Negotiations were at present taking place with the Council as to the basis for

formally handing over the premises to the Council. At the moment there were eleven nursing staff residing in St. Mary's Hospital and following receipt of the Department's letter on the matter, it had been considered prudent to reserve two further houses on the nearby housing scheme and the Department of Health had been advised accordingly. The Committee recommended that the Board should proceed with the purchase of six houses for staff accommodation in the new housing scheme. Mr. Moloney indicated that there were a number of minor adaptations needed to make the houses suitable for staff accommodation.

*Engineering Services:*

Mr. Swords informed the meeting that the provision of Maintenance Groups throughout the Board's area was being proceeded with. Mr. Crumlish, Engineering Officer, stated that maintenance staff were needed immediately and that the situation was becoming critical. The members expressed their dissatisfaction with the delay in the setting up of these Groups, and asked that this matter be proceeded with as a matter of urgency.

*General:*

The Chairman thanked the Matron and staff of the Hospital for the hospitality extended to them. He stated that they were working under extremely difficult conditions and the members fully appreciated this. The members complimented the Matron and staff on the efficient running of the Hospital and noted in particular the cleanliness of the wards, etc.

The Matron thanked the Chairman for his kind remarks and stated that a vote of thanks was due to the Dublin hospitals who had accepted patients from the County Hospital at very short notice. She also wished to thank Messrs. Duggan Bros.. Contractors, for their full co-operation and also all members of the staff without whose full co-operation the efficient running of the hospital would not be possible.

*Next Meeting:*

It was decided that the next meeting would be arranged for early in 1974 when the new lifts would be ready for commissioning."

- (e) *"Report of Meeting of No. 4 Visiting Committee held at Legion of Mary Hostels, North Brunswick Street, on Thursday, 4th October, 1973, at 4 p.m.*

*Present:*

Dr. P. C. Jennings, Deputy E. Timmons, Mr. K. A. Harrington, Commissioner Liam Hayes, Dr. J. Walker.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Dr. J. S. Doyle.

*Officer in Attendance:*

Mr. P. J. Swords, Administrative Assistant.

*Legion of Mary Representatives:*

Miss U. Craig, Miss C. Craig, Mrs. McNamara, Mr. T. Doyle, Mr. P. Tynan, Mr. C. Quinn, Mr. B. Crowley.

Mr. Frank Duff was unable to be present due to a prior engagement.

**BUSINESS**

*Chairman of the Committee:*

Dr. Jennings suggested that the office of Chairman of the Committee should rotate amongst the members and accordingly it was agreed that Mr. Harrington should now act as Chairman of the Committee.

*Building Programme:*

The members were advised that apart from some minor details, the two programmes of work in the Hostels were now almost completed at a cost of approximately £290,000. Mr. Swords stated that since the previous meeting of the Committee in February last the Architect, Consulting Engineers and the Board's officers had a number of meetings with the Legion representatives in regard to some further urgent work which was required in the two Hostels. The Architect was at present preparing his report on the matter and the Department of Health had been advised during the course of recent discussions on next year's Capital Programme that an allocation of money would be required for the Hostels. The proposals included the replacement of dangerous buildings in which the voluntary workers were accommodated, replacement of a dangerous wooden structure in the Morning Star Hostel, the improvement of the fire escapes and the replacement of the open fires in the Morning Star. The members were advised that the Board's officers were aware of the urgency of having



this work done as soon as possible and the Department would be pressed to make a further allocation of funds for this work.

Dr. Walker raised the question of arrangements for attending to a relatively small item without the need to obtain departmental sanction and Mr. Swords informed the members that while provision was made in the revenue Estimates for minor works, it was necessary to obtain an allocation of capital moneys from State funds and as such the Department had to be advised of proposals in this regard. However, the arrangements for the maintenance services were being revised and the officers concerned were being reminded of the need to attend to minor maintenance matters as expeditiously as possible.

*Night Shelter Arrangements:*

Mr. Swords stated that, following a meeting with the Legion authorities last month, the remaining single women and families in Griffith Barracks were transferred to the Regina Coeli Hostels and there were now no persons being accommodated in Griffith Barracks. The members were informed that some of the families seeking shelter from the Board had to do so because of family disputes and the Legion members as well as providing immediate needs of shelter endeavoured to effect family reconciliation. This had already been done in a number of cases resulting in families being reunited and mothers and children returned to their own homes.

The Legion representatives reported that the arrangements for the provision of shelter for male casuals which was previously provided at Usher's Island continued to operate satisfactorily and no difficulty was experienced in making satisfactory arrangements for the numbers requiring shelter.

As in the case of the mothers and children the Legion endeavoured to rehabilitate as many as possible and their efforts would continue to be directed in this way.

*Medical Cover:*

The members were advised that, following a recent discussion which had taken place with the Legion authorities on the question of providing an adequate support service for the Legion, satisfactory arrangements had been made with the Medical Superintendent, St. Mary's Hospital, for dealing with acute medical cases. However, there would appear to be a need for discussion at senior medical level in so far as the Psychiatric Services were concerned and the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, was being advised of the position. The Legion representatives stated that these discussions were necessary since the Legion Hostels were

providing accommodation for a considerable number of former psychiatric patients and there was a need to have adequate support services available to them in the event of it becoming necessary for patients to return at short notice to St. Brendan's Hospital for treatment. The members agreed to review the position at their next meeting.

*Heating:*

The Legion representatives reported that the arrangements for the provision of heating and hot water in the new Hostels from the boiler house at St. Brendan's were not entirely satisfactory. They considered that the heating should be available as required and not "according to the calendar". Mr. Swords stated that this matter would be referred to the Engineering Officer, St. Brendan's, with a view to making the desired improvement in the arrangements.

*Fire Equipment:*

This matter was discussed at length and it was agreed that the matter would be examined and reported on for the next meeting by the Board's Chief Fire Officer.

*General:*

Mr. Tynan, on behalf of his colleagues, stated that a very good working arrangement had been established with the officers of the Eastern Health Board in their services for the relief of distress amongst the less fortunate members of the Community. They would keep as their main aim the rehabilitation of those in need of it. Mr. Harrington and the other members again conveyed the Board's thanks to the voluntary staff of the Legion for their work and stated that they would continue to press for finance to complete the programme of repairs and improvements to the Hostels, particularly in regard to the provision of acceptable standards of accommodation for the voluntary staff.

*Inspections:*

Dr. Walker made an inspection of the new chalets, family units. He found the conditions very good and complimented the Architect for the design, layout, etc. of the Units. He recommended that consideration be given to the provision of tarmac and grass areas around the new chalets and that the gravel areas be replaced as far as possible.

*Next Meeting:*

Thursday, 1st November, 1973. Commence with Mount Pleasant Hostel at 3 p.m. and follow up by visits to Daneswood and St. Clare's Home.

The meeting finished at 5 p.m."

114/73 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PSYCHIATRIC  
SERVICES

The following report. No. 46/1973, from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

*"Residential Centre for Severely Disturbed Children:*

At its meeting for February 1973 the Board approved a proposal to rent from Dublin County Council a residence at Marley, Grange Road, Rathfarnham for a special school with residential treatment facilities for severely disturbed children. It was noted that the possibility of developing similar facilities elsewhere would be pursued. These developments are in line with the recommendations contained in Professor Browne's policy report on the development of the Mental Health services in which he envisaged the establishment of three residential treatment units each of 20 beds to meet the need for facilities for the treatment of acutely disturbed children.

A second suitable premises has now become available in the Blanchardstown area. Dublin Corporation having acquired property at Warrenstown House for housing purposes is prepared to make the residence available to the Health Board at a rent of £1,500 per annum. Professor Browne and Dr. McCarthy, Director of the Child Psychiatric Service, have inspected the premises and consider the location eminently suitable and the layout satisfactory subject to some adaptation having regard to the type of patient to be accommodated. Expenditure of £10,000 approximately will be involved including the cost of central heating, renewal of the electrical installation, floor coverings, etc.

A further report will be furnished in due course with regard to capital outlay and the operating costs, including staff costs, which will necessarily be substantial because of the type of patient for whom the treatment centre is intended.

*Hostel for Autistic Children:*

Some considerable time ago the Dublin Health Authority approved of the purchase and equipment of a suitable property, if one could be found, for use as a hostel for children for whom the pre-adolescent unit in St. Loman's Hospital was becoming unsuitable. The premises at 197C North Circular Road which were formerly used as a residence for a member of the psychiatric medical staff can now be made available for this purpose.

The Irish Society for Autistic Children are agreeable to undertake the running of the hostel which will in general cater for autistic children over the age of 12 years. The Minister for Health is prepared to approve of this arrangement which will

involve an annual grant to the Society the details of which will be worked out and reported to the Board in due course."

Professor Browne explained how the proposals therein fitted into his overall plans and after a discussion to which Commissioner Hayes, Mr. Corrigan, Miss Kinsella, Dr. McCormick, Mr. O'Flynn and Councillor Guinan contributed the following resolution, proposed by Dr. McCormick and seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn was unanimously adopted:—

"That Report No. 46/1973 be adopted."

#### 115/73 BORROWING PROPOSALS

The following report No. 47/1973 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"I submit, herewith, a schedule of Capital Expenditure for which long-term borrowing arrangements must be made.

PROJECT	Estimated cost £	Estimated grant £	Balance £	Loan Ap- proved £	Amount to be raised £
County Hospital, Naas:					
Installation of Lifts	50.000	25.000	25.000		25.000
Staff accommodation	60.000	30.000	30.000		30.000
59, Wyattville Park: Purchase	7.800	—	7,800		7,800
St Brendan's Hospital					
Replacement of steam mains	8,000	4.000	4.000		4.000
St. Has Hospital: Wards 8A and 8B improvements	12,000	6.000	6.000		6.000
Newcastle Hospital: Improvements	10000	5.000	5.000		5,000
New Hostel, Usher's bland	100,528	9.000	91.528	73.719	18,000
Night Shelter, Island St.:					
Adaptation for use as Day Centre	10.000	5.000	5.000		5,000
Maintenance Works, St. Ita's and St. Brendan's	38.000	19.000	19.000		19,000
Reconstruction. Castleknock Child Guidance Clinic	5,000	2.500	2.500		2,500
Marley, Grange Road: Renovations	10.000	5.000	5.000		5,000
Child Guidance Clinic and Day Nursery, Baltyfermot	85.000	42.500	42.500		42500
Child Guidance Clinic, St James's Hospital	35.000	17.500	17.500		17,500
124E, Emmet Road: Purchase and alterations	15.000	7,500	7.500		7,500
Central Mental Hospital: Renovations to kitchen and dining hall	8.000		8.000		8.000
<b>TOTAL A</b>	<b>454.328</b>	<b>173 000</b>	<b>273.328</b>	<b>73.719</b>	<b>202.800</b>



voluntary organisations operating in the area. As the members are aware, the number of voluntary organisations in the City is quite high and I propose to invite applications from interested bodies by advertisement. I will then submit the names to the Board, so that two representatives may be appointed.

**2. Kildare Local Health Committee:**

Resignations have been received from some members of this Committee. I set out hereunder the names of those who resigned and the names of the new members, submitted by their group/organisation.

<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Replacement</i>
Public Health Nurse: Miss M. Gleeson	Mrs. M. Hennessy, The Harbour, Kilcock
Dentist: Mr. L. Dunne	T. Benson, Rose Acre, Dublin Rd., Naas
Psychiatric Consultant: Dr. D. Ward	Dr. I. Binchy. St. Loman's Hospital
Vol. Organisation Rep.: Sr. M. Carmel	

**3: Dublin County Local Health Committee:**

<i>(a) Resignation</i>	<i>Replacement</i>
Psychiatric Consultant: Dr. G. O'Gorman	Dr. K. Allman, St. Gabriel's, Clontarf

**(b) Recommendations:**

- (i) "That the County Dublin Health Committee give full investigations and consideration to the provision of adequate health centres in the North County Dublin area."
- (ii) "That a full health service be made available in centres on a number of evenings each week between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m."
- (iii) "That this Committee (the Dublin Health Committee) call upon the Eastern Health Board to provide disabled persons maintenance allowances to severely mentally handicapped adults at home comparable to the proposed allowances for severely mentally handicapped children who are cared for in their own homes."

#### 4. *Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee:*

##### *Recommendation:*

'That this Committee recommends that the Eastern Health Board make provision for at least one Welfare Home in the Dun Laoghaire area in its 1974/75 Capital Programme.'

After discussion to which the following members contributed. Commissioner Hayes, Commissioner Berry, Cllr. Mahon, Dr. McCormick, Cllr. Temple, Mr. Ruane, Dr. Belton, Cllr. Carroll and Cllr. Guinan, the following resolution, on a proposal by Cllr. A. Mahon and seconded by Cllr. Carroll, was adopted:—

"That report No. 48/1973 be adopted with the Kildare vacancy being referred back to Kildare County Council for a recommendation."

#### 117/73                      EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 49/1973 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

##### *"(1) Superannuation Increases, 1973:*

The Minister for Local Government has authorised the revision of public service pensions generally with effect from 1st October, 1973 on the basis of pay rates which became operative on 1st July, 1973. The estimated cost including non-recurring arrears for which no provision has been made in the estimates is £55,000 for the period to 31st March, 1974 and in a full year is £90,000. The Board's approval to the increased expenditure for 1973/74 is accordingly requested.

##### *(2) Out-Patient Services. Fees to Consultants:*

The fees payable to consultants under the Out-Patient (Specialists) Services Scheme have been revised by the Department of Health with effect from the 12th June, 1973 as follows:—

Clinical Consultants	£11.93 per 3 hour session and pro rata
Pathologists	£11.93 per 3 hour session and pro rata
Radiologists:	
Up to 5 years after acquiring Specialists qualifications in Radiology	£9.33 per 3 hour session and pro rata
Over 5 years after acquiring Specialists qualifications in Radiology	£11.93 per 3 hour session and pro rata

Fees had also been increased in June last with retrospective effect to the 1st January, 1973. To meet the combined additional costs, the Estimates for the year 1973/74 should now be increased under the heading "Specialists Services" by £50,000. The Board's approval has been obtained to excess expenditure amounting to £24,000 for the year 1973/74: Approval is required for the balance of £26,000. The Department of Health have been informed of this increase.

**(3) *Physiotherapy Treatment. Out-Patient Services***

Up to the present, the Health Board has made available physiotherapy treatment on an out-patient basis at certain extern hospitals for persons who are holders of the General Medical Services Card and also those persons aged 70 years and over. The Minister for Health has now directed that physiotherapy treatment should be made available as an out-patient service under the provisions of Section' 56 of the Health Act to persons with full eligibility and persons with limited eligibility. The Health Board has advised the hospitals concerned to extend the facilities for physiotherapy treatment to include persons with limited eligibility. The cost of the former scheme as operated by the Board was in the region of £4,000 per annum. With the extension of the services to persons of limited eligibility, it can be expected that the cost of the services will be considerably increased. The Department of Health has been informed of the position regarding the additional cost"

After discussion to which Dr. McCormick, Commissioner O'Keefe, Dr. Jennings, Cllr. Temple contributed, the following motions as set below were unanimously adopted:—

(a) "That we, the Eastern Health Board, consent to the proposals contained in Report No. 49/1973 and authorise the expenditure of £81,000 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	Board Hospitals—Psychiatric	£30,000
	Central Services	25,000
	Extern Hospitals	26,000
		£81,000"

Proposed: Dr. J. McCormick. Seconded: Comm. J. O'Keefe.



(b) "That this Board urges the Department of Health to approve the Board's proposals regarding the revision of the fees payable to Physiotherapists in Wicklow for surgery and domiciliary treatments."

Proposed: Cllr. John Temple. Seconded: Cllr. Michael Brady.

(c) 'That facilities for Physiotherapy treatment be made available to domiciliary patients at the Physiotherapy Department in the hospital on direct application to the hospital out-patient department by their general practitioner."

Proposed: Dr. P. C. Jennings. Seconded: Cllr. P. J. Burke.

118/73

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The following report No 50/1973 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"As the Board is aware Hospital services are made available under the Health Act to dependants of persons insured under the Social Welfare Act. Heretofore, the Health Board made available such services to children of mothers who were currently in benefit under the Social Welfare Act, even though the father in each case was not eligible for the services under the Health Act. The Department of Health has now given the following ruling to be adopted in such cases:—

- (1) 'The position is that a child is regarded as being a dependant of the father and his eligibility for health services will depend on the father's eligibility. The children of a man with an income exceeding £1,600 are not therefore regarded as having limited eligibility. A wife's entitlement to services cannot be extended to her children, except, of course, where she is a widow and the children would automatically be regarded as her dependants."
- (2) "I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer you to previous correspondence regarding the provision of hospital services for infants up to six weeks following birth where their mothers are insured but whose fathers do not have limited eligibility.\*I am to inform you that the Minister, following further \* clarification of the position with his legal advisers, considers that these infants are entitled to free in-patient services under the 1970 Act." "

The position now obtaining regarding the eligibility of children of mothers insured under the Social Welfare Act is that the services are made available by the Health Board for the period of 6 weeks following birth (referred to under the Health Act as medical care for infants). In all other instances, a child's eligibility for hospital services will depend on his father's position regarding entitlement."

After discussion to which Deputy E. Timmons, Deputy G. Timmins, Councillor Burke, Commissioner Hayes contributed the report was noted.

119/73 SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
PEAMOUNT HOSPITAL BOARD

Councillor P. J. Burke was unanimously elected to be the Board's representative on the Peamount Hospital Board, on a proposal by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Deputy E. Timmons.

120/73 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) letter dated 31/7/1973 from the Department of Health re Pesticide Residues in Food was read and noted.
- (b) letter dated 23/10/1973 from Councillor Niall Andrews to the Chairman, complimenting the staff of Unit 2, Clonskeagh Fever Hospital, on the excellence of the service provided, was read. The members were very pleased at the tribute to the staff and directed that they should be so advised.

The meeting terminated at 8 p.m.

CORRECT:

J. J. NOLAN,  
*Deputy Chief Executive Officer.*



*Chairman.*