

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 2nd May, 1974 at 6.45 p.m.

Present:

Belton, Cllr. Dr.	Kinsella, Miss Kay
Berry, Commissioner J.	Lacey, Miss Mary
Birmingham, Mr. Michael E.	Leonard, Commissioner T.
Brady, Cllr. M.	McCormick, Dr. James
Burke, Cllr. P. J.	Mahon, Dr. J. R.
Corcoran, Mr. J.	Meade, Dr. A.
Corrigan, Mr. Hugh P.	O'Flynn, Mr. Dermot
Cullen, Dr. J.	O'Keefe, Commissioner
Cunningham, Cllr. M.	James
Dockrell, Deputy H. P.	Ruane, Mr. Martin
Doyle, Dr. J. Stephen	Sweeney, Councillor J.
Guinan, Cllr. J.	Temple, Councillor J.
Harrington, Mr. Kevin A.	Timmins, Deputy G.
Hayes, Commissioner Liam	Timmons, Deputy Eugene
Hickey, Cllr. Patk.	Walker, Dr. John

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Prof. Ivor Browne, <i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>
Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. E. Keyes, <i>Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care</i>	Mr. F. McCullough
Mr. F. Donohue, <i>Programme Manager, Community Care</i>	Mr. P. J. Swords
Mr. J. F. Reynolds, <i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. M. Murray-Hayden
Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. Elliott, <i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i>	Mr. H. Dunne
Prof. B. O'Donnell, <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
	Mr. C. D. McElree
	Mr. E. Butler
	Mr. K. Quinn
	Mr. F. Williams
	Miss L. O'Kelly
	Mr. E. Dunphy
	Mr. B. Garvey
	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
	Mr. A. J. Duggan

50/74 The Chairman congratulated Councillor Dr. Belton on his recovery from his recent illness and the members joined with the Chairman in extending their good wishes to him.

51/74 The Chairman introduced Mr. Keyes, the new Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care and the members joined with the Chairman in giving Mr. Keyes a very warm welcome.

52/74 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE ESTIMATE
OF EXPENSES FOR 9 MONTHS ENDING
31/12/74

The Chairman referred to the splendid work done by the members in Committee and to the very full explanations given by the different officers to queries raised. Having invited comment from members who were unable to be present at the Committee meeting of the Whole House he prefaced the discussion by the following statement:

"The cost of the Health Services for the coming year shows, as is to be expected in view of the current inflationary trends, an appreciable increase of their cost for the last financial year. I do not want to anticipate any comments or opinions my colleagues may wish to voice but there are a few significant features I wish to refer to briefly.

(1) Local Authority representatives will note that the rate contributions amount to about 17/- of expenditure. This is the second year of the phasing out of contributions from the rates which will end completely at the start of 1977.

(2) Another feature calls for comment, namely the increased emphasis on the Community Care programme. Over the past few years, the Board has made a significant input of funds into the Psychiatric Service and several members have on occasions called for a similar development of the Community Care programme. I think the estimate is geared to this approach. For the nine months of this year a sum of £6-8m. is allocated for keeping the Community Care Services running at their existing level. Moreover, the estimate provides for additional expenditure of the order of over £1 million for further improvements.

Finally, I would like to refer to financial assistance to voluntary organisations. It has been the declared policy of this Board and its predecessor, the Dublin Health Authority, to foster and supplement the efforts of a multiplicity of voluntary organisations which we are fortunate to have operating in all

our constituent areas. This policy is being continued and in the coming nine months a total of approximately £600,000 is provided, which represents an increase of about £200,000."

After a general discussion the following motion proposed by Mr. D. O'Flynn and seconded by Deputy Dockrell was unanimously adopted:—

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, having met as a Committee of the Whole House, on the 2nd day of May, 1974 and having considered the Estimate of Expenses for the nine months ending 31st December, 1974 do hereby recommend that the Estimate be adopted by the Board as follows:

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Estimate 1973/74</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1973/74</i>	<i>Estimate for 9 months ending 31/12/74</i>
	£000	£000	£000
General Hospital Care	17,952.4	17,718.0	14,506.7
Special Hospital Care	5,980.5	6,592.0	5,253.6
Community Care	7,881.4	8,651.0	7,311.7
Central Services	1,375.6	1,409.0	1,168.0
Public Assistance Services	1,181.2	1,191.9	890.2
Health Inspectors	120.8	159.0	11.0
Estimated Gross Expenditure	34,491 -9	35,720.9	29,240.2
Estimated Income	2,519-9	2,770.9	2,140.2
Estimated Net Expenditure	31,972.0	32,950.0	27,100.0

53/74

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 4th April, 1974 having been circulated were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr J. Guinan seconded by Commissioner Hayes.

54/74 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

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

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Colman's Hospital, Hathdrum on 18th April, 1974.*
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 1st April, 1974.*

Arising from this report Dr. Walker referred to the number of cases of food poisoning in Cherry Orchard and also referred to the reasons set out by the Medical Superintendent there of the cause. Commissioner Berry, Dr. Belton, Mr. Corrigan and Dr. McCormick took part in the discussion which followed and Dr. O'Donnell replied giving a summary of the causes. Dr. Walker then proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. K. Harrington and unanimously adopted:—

"That this Board having noted that continuing incidence of salmonella infection as reported by the Medical Superintendent of Cherry Orchard Hospital, recommend to the Department of Agriculture and to the Veterinary authorities, that adequate controls be introduced and enforced so as to prevent the importation and sale of animal feeding stuffs which are contaminated and likely to cause human illness."

Dr. R. Belton was concerned about the feeding of foodstuffs containing antibiotics to animals and to the ability of farmers to purchase antibiotics for animals because of their injurious side-effects to humans. Mr. Corrigan explained that in the Control of Sales Regulations 1969 farmers had been exempted from its requirements. After a short discussion the following proposal by Dr. R. Belton, seconded by Dr. McCormick, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board urges the Department of Health to introduce legislation to restrict the sale of antibiotics for use on animals either therapeutically or in foodstuffs."

Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, referred to the item in the Report regarding the shortage of nursing staffs and pointed out to the members that An Bord Altranais had recently suggested to the Minister for Health that the time was opportune to appoint a commission to enquire into the whole question of nurse training in Ireland and had specifically mentioned that one of the points which would merit special

consideration was to investigate if the need for a State Enrolled nursing qualification existed in Ireland, or if training for this qualification should be provided.

55/74 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT KILGOBBIN

The following Report No. 16/1974 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"The dispensary residence and the dispensary (both under the same roof) at Kilgobbin, on 2 acres 1 rood statute measure, are held by the Board for ever, and discharged from and indemnified against the payment of all rent.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs, in their letter of 11th August, 1972 requested the Board to sell to them portion of the land attached to the residence for the purpose of erecting an Automatic Telephone Exchange. The net area required by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is 0.825 acres approximately.

The land is not required for any of the Board's purposes. The Chief Valuer has advised that the market value of the plot to be sold in fee simple is £4,000.

I propose, subject to the approval of the Board and to the sanction of the Minister for Health, to dispose of 0.825 acres of the land at Kilgobbin to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs for the sum of £4,000.

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

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

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

On a proposal by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, hereby consent to the proposals outlined in Report No. 16/1974."

(c) *Creation of additional nursing posts,
Psychiatric Service.*

Psychiatric nursing personnel were granted on a national basis an additional three days' annual leave with effect from the 1st April, 1973 to bring their leave entitlement up to 31 days per year. In addition they were granted six days off in lieu of liability to work on Public Holidays. With the 1st January now being a public holiday, the number of such days has increased to seven. Thus the Board has to give an additional four days to approximately 1,200 nursing personnel in the psychiatric service. This will require the employment of an additional fourteen staff to implement the increase at an approximate cost of £16,800.

(d) *Speech Therapy Services*

The Board's Speech Therapy Department, consisting of one Senior Speech Therapist and 5 Therapists, has been in operation since July 1973. It provides services to the three Programmes and sessions are done by the Board's Therapists at St. James's and James Connolly Memorial Hospitals on a cost refund basis. I am anxious to extend this service to provide additional sessions in the Kildare and Wicklow areas and I propose with the consent of the Board to create four additional offices of Speech Therapist to do so and to strengthen the services being provided in the Dublin area. The additional cost per year will be £8,000 approximately.

(e) *Night Superintendents,
St. Columciile's Hospital*

Up to the present senior nursing cover at night is provided at St. Columciile's Hospital by Ward Sisters who are paid a special allowance. I have received a recommendation from the Programme Manager, General Hospital Care that one post of Ward Sister be upgraded to Night Superintendent and that an additional office of Night Superintendent be created. I am in agreement with this proposal and now seek the approval of the Board to create this post, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health."

On a proposal by Mr. Corngan, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, consent to the proposals contained in Report No. 22/1974 and authorise the expenditure of £29,300 in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1973/74 under the following headings:—

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose of Expenditure</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Health	General Hospitals.	£2,000
	Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural.	£8,000
	Psychiatric Hospitals.	£19,300
		£29,300"

57/74 PURCHASE OF PREMISES AT DUBLIN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, GLASNEVIN

The following Report No. 19/1974 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In pursuance of the approved policy of building up a range of rehabilitative training centres, workshops and hostels for psychiatric patients, a factory premises at the Dublin Industrial Estate has been examined. The premises are available on a purchase or a rental basis and the advice of the Chief Valuer of the Corporation of Dublin has been obtained in this connection. He has advised that the alternative of purchase would be the more favourable for the Board and has reported that the price of £47,500, exclusive of V.A.T., for the fee simple interest in the premises is fair and reasonable.

The premises are required and would provide rehabilitation facilities for patients in the following categories:

1. Patients in the long stay programme. 50 places
 2. Patients in the short stay programme. 10 places
 3. Non-resident patients from the Finglas area
and surrounding districts. 20 places
- 80 places

The factory premises would operate in conjunction with the hostel facilities provided at Barrymore House and the former Adelphi Nursing Home at the North Circular Road and such additional non-institutional facilities as the efforts to

reduce the need for in-patient care will necessitate. Modifications to provide kitchen and dining areas and some additional toilet accommodation would cost £500 approximately, it is proposed, with the concurrence of the Board, to proceed with the purchase of the factory premises on the terms outlined above. Provision for the project is included in the capital budget.

Operating costs are estimated at £10,000 a year made up as follows:

Heating and lighting	£1,500
Meals and sundry incidental expenses	£6,500
Transport	£2,000

Apart from the likely necessity to employ a porter/driver no additional staff will be needed at this stage as the necessary personnel will be drawn from the industrial and occupational therapy centre at St. Brendan's Hospital.

Application will be made to the European Social Fund, through the Department of Labour, for a grant towards the cost of purchasing and equipping this Workshop and Rehabilitation Centre and for financial support towards the running costs. The operation will correspond, though with greater current attention to the long-stay patient, to the training and rehabilitation workshop at Hanbury Lane in respect of which the Fund has approved support in the sum of £10,250 for 1973, representing 50% of the eligible expenditure. For the same year, support has also been approved for the Day Centre and Hostel, Mount Pleasant Square (£21,750); the day/rehabilitation centre at St. Gabriel's, Clontarf (£11,500), and the Day Centre, Usher's Island (£6,190), making a total, with a sum of £904 in respect of capital expenditure, of £50,594 for that year out of the total of £56,384 for which application was made.

The Board's application in respect of 1974 has been broadened to include, within the current policy decisions of the European Commission in relation to the Fund, training and rehabilitation activities for physically-handicapped persons and amounts to £123,821."

On a proposal by Cllr. P. J. Burke, seconded by Commissioner Leonard, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 19/1974 be adopted."

58/74 HEALTH SERVICES REGULATIONS 1974—
CIRCULAR 3/1974

The above Regulations and accompanying Circular 3/1974 were circulated for the information of the members and noted.

59/74 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Motion in the name of Cllrs. Brady, Temple and Sweeney was withdrawn at the request of Cllr. Brady:—

"That we request the Minister for Health to restore to members of the Eastern Health Board and Local Health Committees the privilege of issuing temporary health cards in cases of emergency."

60/74 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter of 3rd April, 1974 from the Dublin Corporation was read:—

"I wish to inform you that the Commissioners for the Corporation, at their Quarterly Meeting on 1st April, 1974 adopted the following resolution:—

"That we the City Commissioners being concerned with the urgent need of a Health Centre incorporating facilities for Child Guidance in the Kilmore/Bonnybrook district in Coolock, call upon the Eastern Regional Health Board to give top priority to the provision of the required Health Centre on the site already provided by the City Commissioners for this purpose." "

It was agreed to defer the item for a Report at the next meeting of the Board.

(b) Letter dated 4th April received from Dun Laoghaire Corporation was read:—

"I transmit herewith for your information and attention the text of resolution which was adopted by the Borough Council at its meeting on 4th March, 1974:—

"That this Council recommends that our representatives on the Eastern Health Board take steps to ensure that the status of St. Michael's Hospital (Dun Laoghaire) be preserved, and enlarged, in order to make it the main hospital for Dun Laoghaire and South Co. Dublin together with St. Columcille's (Loughlinstown) and Monkstown Hospital and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Eastern Health Board and Dublin County Council." "

It was noted that the Board had already adopted the contents of the resolution as part of their policy on the general hospital development programme which was now awaiting decision by the Minister.

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

Eoghan O Caoimh,
Chief Executive Officer.

Chairman.