

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

*Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of fine Eastern Health Board in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 9th January, 1975 at 6 p.m.*

*Present:*

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
Mr. M. Birmingham	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. P. Hickey
Cllr. D. Browne	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Dr. R. Carroll	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. J. Connolly	Miss M. Lacey
Mr. J. Corcoran	Cllr. T. Leonard
Dr. J. Cullen	Cllr. M. McWey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Deputy H. P. Dockreli	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. J. Dunning	Mr. M. Ruane
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Aid. A. FitzGerald	Dr. J. Walker

*Apologies for Absence:*

Cllr. T. Hand. Dr. J. McCormick, Deputy C. Murphy,  
Mr. D. O'Flynn.

Deputy H. P. Dockreli, by agreement, took the chair in the absence of Cllr. Hickey, who was detained at a meeting in James Connolly Hospital, and Mr. D. O'Flynn, Vice-Chairman, who was also absent through illness.

*Officers in Attendance.*

Mr. E. O Caoimh	C.E.O.	Mr. F. J. McCullough,
Mr. J. J. Nolan	Deputy C.E.O.	Admin. Assistant
Mr. F. J. Donohue	P.M. Community Care	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. T. Keyes	P.M. Spec. Hospitals	Mr. H. Dunne
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. M. Murray-Hayden
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. F. J. Elliott	P. & E. Officer	Mr. B. Garvey
Mr. P. J. Swords	Admin. Assistant	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. Clarke	do. do.	Miss K. Dolan

**1/75                                    CONDOLENCES**

Votes of sympathy were passed with the families of the former President Eamonn de Valera on the death of his wife; Mr. E. McManus, Superintendent Assistance Officer, on the death of his father; Cllr. T. Leonard on the death of his father, and Dr. B. McCaffrey on the death of his mother. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased and directed that their sympathy should be conveyed to the bereaved families.

**2/75                                    CONGRATULATIONS**

The Chairman advised the members that Dr. P. C. Jennings had been honoured with the Order of St. Gregory by Pope Paul and that Dr. Stephen Doyle has been appointed Professor of Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He congratulated them on behalf of the members and the members joined with the Chairman in conveying their congratulations.

**3/75                                    CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 5th December, 1974, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by CHr. Sweeney, seconded by Miss Lacey.
- (b) The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee of the Whole House held on 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December, 1974, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Alderman A. FitzGerald.

**4/75                                    PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

The reports of the following committees having been circulated were noted:

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Wicklow on 4th December, 1974.*
- (b) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Newcastle Hospital on 4th December, 1974.*
- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee held at Bru Chaoimhin on 11th December, 1974.*
- (d) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at the Old Coombe Day Centre on 11th December, 1974.*

- (e) *No. 3 Visiting Committee held at St. Ita's Hospital. Portrane, on 12th December, 1974.*
- (f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Clare's Home, Glasnevin on 3rd December, 1974.*
- (g) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Daneswood Hostel on 3rd December, 1974.*

**5/75            MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL  
HEALTH COMMITTEES**

The minutes of proceedings of the following Local Health Committees, having been circulated, were noted:—

- (a) *Dublin City L.H.C. meeting held on 11th December. 1974.*
- (b) *Dublin County L.H.C. meeting held on 2nd December. 1974.*
- (c) *Dun Laoghaire L.H.C. meeting held on 26th November. 1974.*
- (d) *Kildare L.H.C. meeting held on 28th November. 1974.*
- (e) *Wicklow L.H.C. meeting held on 15th November, 1974.*

**6/75            REVENUE BUDGET 1975**

The following Report 1/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted, as was letter 20th November, 1974, Ref. HSG.330 from the Department of Health setting out the Minister's reasons for arriving at the 1975 Budget allocation. Also submitted was the detailed Book of Estimates, tables of statistics and a supplemental report showing the additional cost of salaries and wages in revised Estimates for 9 months to 31st December, 1974 over the original estimate provision for the period.

**" REVENUE BUDGET FOR 1975**

*Out-turn for "transitional" year (9 months April—December, 1974)*

1. Before considering the financial provision for 1975 it is relevant to review the estimated out-turn for the above period. In summary the position is as follows:—

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Actual expenditure for 1973/74 (last full financial year) (1)</i>	<i>Department's allocation for "transitional" year</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure for "transitional" year (3)</i>	<i>Increase— Col. 3 over Col. 2</i>
<i>Expenditure</i>	£000	£000	£000	£000 +
General Hospital Care ___	6,004-4	4,496-8	5,456-4	959-6 +
Special Hospital Care —	6,708-6	5,153-8	5,798-6	644-8 +
Community Care ___ —	6,338-5	539-44	5,977-0	582-6 +
Central Services ___ —	1,591-9	1,168-0	1,356 7	188-7
<b>TOTAL</b> _	<b>20343-4</b>	<b>16,213-0</b>	<b>18,588 7</b>	<b>+2375-7 +</b>
Deduct Income ___ —	1,307-1	1,140-0	1,270 0	130-0
Net Expenditure ___ —	19,336-3	15,073-0	17318-7	+2,245-7

2. The principal causes for the increase of over £2 million are:—

National Agreement, 1974, Salary and Wage adjustments. Pension increases, increases in Employers' contribution under Social Welfare Insurance ..... £1,063,000

Price increases over 8% allowed in Department's Allocation ..... 460,000

Approved Schools—increased rates ..... 32,000

Disabled Persons Allowances — increase from July, 1974 ..... 98,000

£1,653,000

The remainder of the estimated increase in the 1974 expenditure is due to the fact that the Department's allocation was insufficient for extern homes, ambulance services, handicapped children's allowances. Meals on Wheels and other services.

#### *Revenue Budget for 1975*

3. Reports from each of the three Programme Managers were considered at Committee Meetings of the Whole House in the months of October, November and December. These reports embodied a comprehensive review of the Board's activities during the "transitional" year and in addition embodied detailed estimates of the cost of the existing

services as well as desirable extensions and improvements for 1975. In adopting these estimates in principle the Committee noted that they would be subject to re-consideration when the Department of Health's allocation was notified to the Board.

4. An allocation of £23.5 million was conveyed to the Board by letter of November 20th, copy of which is re-circulated herewith. The kernel of that letter is that the Department's allocation was "set so as to cover the estimated cost in 1975 of maintaining services at their present level." As already reported (Report No. 59/1974) discussions took place between the Department's officials and the Management Team on 29/11/1974, in the course of which it was pointed out to them that an allocation of £23.5 million was not considered sufficient to maintain the services at their existing level. The following Table sets out the extent of the difference between the Management Team's estimate and the Department's allocation.

	<i>Management Team Estimate (Based on 8 months' expenditure to 30/11/74)</i>	<i>Department's Allocation (Based on 6 months' expenditure to 30/9/74 incl. provision for items listed in para. 2 of Circ. of 20/11/74)</i>	<i>Difference</i>
General Hospital Care ___	£8,239,100	£7,472,800	—£764,300
Special Hospital Care ___	£8,507,000	£7,812,400	—£694,600
Community Care ___	£9,042,300	£8,106,200	—£936,100
Central Services ___	£1,905,600	£1,905,600	—
<b>TOTAL</b> _	<b>£27,694,000</b>	<b>£25,297,000</b>	<b>£2,395,000</b>
Deduct Income ___	£1,797,000	£1,797,000	—
<b>Net Expenditure</b> ___	<b>£25,897,000</b>	<b>£23,500,000</b>	<b>£2,395,000</b>

5. In regard to the two Hospital Programmes it may be conceded that there is room for divergencies in estimating costs inasmuch as hospitalisation costs are subject to unpredictable factors such as fluctuations in patient admissions, the incidence of epidemics, climatic conditions, etc. But in

our discussions with the Department's officials it was emphasised to them that hospital costs based on the experience of April-September 1974 was unrealistic. Over the years experience has shown that these costs are appreciably higher over the winter period (October-March). In the most recent years for which final figures are available hospital costs in the winter period showed an increase of the order of 15%.

6. In regard to the Community Care Programme where the difference between allocation and estimate is the highest there is less room for uncertainty. As members are aware, demands for an expansion of the Medical, Welfare and Social Services in the programme continue to grow. Moreover, it is more feasible to identify evolving trends in demand and compute costs. A detailed analysis of these trends and costs has been furnished to the Department and a copy is attached as Appendix A to this Report. However, the monthly system of monitoring expenditure referred to in paragraph 3 of the Department's letter of November 20th will, in a relatively short period, show up cost trends and in the meantime the services will continue to be administered at the existing levels. On this basis the attached Estimate of Expenses 1975 in the form requested by the Department is recommended for adoption.

7. Payment of the allocation of £23.5 million will be made directly out of the Board's Revenue Account. Additional payments will be made on behalf of the Board for these services not covered by the direct allocation. These agency payments total £32.9m. (£29.6 million for Voluntary and Joint Board Hospitals and £3.3 million for the choice of doctor and chemist scheme). Thus the total cost of the health services in the Board's area for 1975 *as estimated by the Department*, is of the order of £56.4 million.

#### *Development Funds*

8. It will be noted from the Department's letter of 20/11/74 that limited additional funds will be made available under this heading. Proposals for developments and improvements in each of the three programmes have already been furnished to the Department and it is expected that notification of the amounts available will be received by January 31st.

At the time of writing the Minister has not exercised his control powers under Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970, details of which were set out in a previous Report (Report No. 59/1974)."

## APPENDIX A

## COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

## ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN EXPENDITURE

<i>SERVICE</i>	<i>Allocation per Dept. Cir. HSG330 20/11/74 £</i>	<i>Expenditure 1375 based £</i>	<i>Estimated Estimated Short-fall on trends £</i>
<i>General Medical Services</i>			
<i>Limited Eligibility Medicines</i>	250,000	294,000	44,000
<i>Long term illness scheme</i>	200,000	220,000	20,000

Prior to 1st April, 1974 entitlement to this service was confined to insured persons in manual employment, to other persons whose income did not exceed £1,600 per annum, voluntary (s.w.) contributors and to farmers whose valuation did not exceed P.L.V. of £60. Since the 1st April, 1974 all insured persons (including those paying W. & O. contributions only) are eligible together with self-employed persons and pensioners whose income does not exceed £1,500 per annum. Farmers whose P.L.V. is not in excess of £60 are also eligible. The non-manual insured persons became aware of their eligibility in recent months only. It is expected that claims from this large group of persons will be numerous in 1975. Expenditure for September / October / November, 1974 shows that the average monthly expenditure has reached £24,500 (£294,000 per annum).

The expenditure trend this year has been £15,000/ £16,000 in the early months, £18,000 in August and September, £19,000 in October and November. On the basis of this trend the cost of the scheme during 1975 will be a minimum of £220,000 (12 months x £19,000).

<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>
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Expenditure on this service is currently £8,000 per month and at this rate would amount to £96,000 in a full year. We have provided a further £19,000 to enable us pay an increased subsidy of 30p to compensate for increased food costs since the present subsidy, i.e., 25p was approved.

<b>Home Helps</b>	<b>207,000</b>	<b>267,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
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The expenditure on this service is currently £20,000 per month or £240,000 for a full year. Provision has also been made for a net increase in the numbers employed—10 per month at an average of £4 per week, i.e., £13,000. A sum of £14,000 has also been provided to give a modest increase in current rates of pay.

<b>Medical and Surgical Appliances</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>84,000</b>
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The expenditure for the 8 months to 30th November, 1974, was £102,000, which would be £153,000 for twelve months. Comparison of the quarter ended 30th June, 1974, with the quarter ended 30th November, 1974, indicates that there is an increase of 25% in take up of services. Provision must also be made for expected increases in cost of the order of 20%—(23% for some items). A feature of this service in the past few years has been the continuing increase in the number and in the range of appliance prescribed — with special emphasis on items for the treatment and rehabilitation of the handicapped. Chiropody is an expanding service and demands for this service are likely to increase in 1975. Expenditure for the 8 months ended 30th November, 1974 is £18,000 (£27,000 for 12 months) and having regard to the fact that 8,500 persons are now receiving treatment it is very likely that the expenditure in 1975 will be approximately £30,000.

<b>Handicapped Children Allowances</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
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Requirements based on November figures, 1,542 at £300 per annum =£462,600. Un-met commitments balance on hands 30th November, 1974=133. Provision for 36 cases



for 27 months and 36 cases for 15 months=£37,800.  
Expansion and trends provision also made for a net  
increase of 10 cases per month for 12 months (78 x 10  
x25=£19,600).

**Maternity and  
Child Health**

**Services-**

<b>Section 65 Grants</b>	42,000	54,000	12,000
<i>Existing Day Nurseries (8)</i>			£
Payments on account to 30/11/1974			15,600
Balances outstanding for period ending 31/12/74			<u>8,500</u>
Total for 9 month period. . . . .			24,100
Add 1/3 for 12 month equivalent.....			<u>8,000</u>
			32,100
Add 10% for higher costs. . . . .			<u>3,200</u>
			35,300
<b>I.S.P.C.C.</b>			8,000
<b>Catholic Social Service Conference</b>			
Commitment for 12 months. . . . .			3,800
Provision for increased costs from 1/7/1974			
50% $\frac{3}{4}$ x 3,800 x		$\frac{1}{2}$ .....	1,500
			48,600
Shankill District Nursing Association			<u>2,400</u>
Seven Oaks Day Nursery.....			<u>3,000</u>
			£54,000

<b>Milk for Mothers</b>	227,000	280,000	53,000
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The expenditure for the eight months ended 30/11/1974 was £151,000. For a 12 month period the expenditure would be £227,000. During the year 1975 a total of approximately 3-6 million pints of milk (together with dried milk products) will be issued. The price of milk from the 1st November, 1974 is 7½p per pint. The cost of the scheme for the year commencing 1/1/1975 will therefore be £270,000 (3-6 million pints x 7½p), plus approximately £10,000 for dried milk products—a total of £230,000—

	1969/70	1973/4	1974	1975 Est
<b>Beneficiaries</b>				
families	5128	6727	7094	7400
Pints	2537074	3085755	3347400	3600000
Cost	£105,058	£171,100	£251,000	£270,000
Price of pint:		5p to 5½p	1/10/1973	
		5½p to 6p	1/4/1974	
		6p to 6½p	1/10/1974	
		Extra 1p—Mid-October 1974 to 7½p		

***Children in  
Care Boarded  
out Children***

	65,000	73,000	8,000
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Requirement based on 8 months expenditure to 30/11/1974 £69,800. Expansion and trends provision made for short-term fostering, 10 at £6 per week for 12 months, i.e., £3,200.

<b>Approved Schools</b>	245,000	260,000	15,000
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Requirements based on 290 persons at £12-50 per week for 12 months, i.e., £253,600. Expansion and trends provision was made for increased numbers, 10 persons at £12-50 per week for 12 months, i.e., £6,500.

<b>Mass Radiography</b>	21,000	28,000	7,000
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The budget of the Mass Radiography Board for the year 1975 is £85,000. It is expected that the Eastern Health Board's contribution will be approximately one-third or £28,000.

***Dental, Aural and  
Ophthalmic Services***

<b>Dental Appliances</b>	22,000	32,000	10,000
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The figure of £32,000 is the estimated amount of contributions by the Board towards the cost of dentures provided by private dentists for eligible insured persons under the Department of Social Welfare Dental (Benefit) Scheme. It includes also the cost of the service provided by private dentists for eligible persons in North and North-East County Dublin. The Department of Social Welfare rates for private dentists providing dental treatment were increased by 35% from 1st July, 1974. Expenditure this year is running at £2,000 a month, which would be £24,000/£25,000 over a twelve month period.

The private dentists who are providing dental treatment for eligible persons in the North/North-East of County Dublin are due an increase in rates comparable with that of private dentists operating in the Social Welfare Scheme. The effect of the increase will be that the cost of the service in the North/North-East County Dublin for 1975 is likely to be £7,000. Total estimate for 1975 for dental appliances (adults) is, therefore, £32,000.

Aural Appliances	15,000	20,000	5,000
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The average monthly expenditure for the five months ended 30th November, 1974 on hearing aids (including repairs thereto) and the supply of batteries was £1,530. On this basis the expenditure for the year 1975 is estimated to be at least £18,400 but in view of the increasing demand for and cost of batteries £20,000 is a more realistic estimate.

#### Extern Dental

Treatment	6,500	30,500	24,000
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The estimate of £30,500 had the following elements:

- (1) £5,000 annual grant payable to the Dental Hospital.
- (2) £5,500 to meet claims from eligible insured persons for portion of the cost of dental treatment provided by Dept. of Social Welfare panel dentists under the Dental Grant-in-Aid Scheme.
- (3) £20,000 to meet the additional cost of dental treatment of eligible (non-insured) adults by private dentists—assuming that agreement as to fee per item is reached between the I.D.A. and the Dept. of Health by, say, mid-1975. Unless and until the Board is authorised to avail of the services of private dentists, it cannot cope with the demand for treatment from eligible adults (including students).

#### Rehabilitation

##### Disabled Persons

Allowances	1,440,000	1,640,000	200,000
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Requirement is arrived at as follows:—

Expenditure week ending 30/11/74=

30.473 x 52..... £1,584,500

Current commitments, 100 cases,  
awaiting approval for 14 months \_ 42,400

Expansion and Trends. Provision for  
net increase of 6 cases per month

for 12 months..... 13,100

£1,640,000

Training Fees	41,000	61.800	20.800
Estimated requirement based on expenditure up £4,800 for the month November. 1974 £57.600			
Expansion and Trends Provision for net increase of two cases per month at average cost of £54 per month for 12 months, i.e., 54 x 78 ..... 4,200			
			£61.800

The figure of £54 per month above includes training fees, maintenance and travel and is the average per month of training a person.

<i>Blind Welfare</i>	105,000	130,000	25,000
Estimated (on going) — Requirements arrived at as follows:—			
(1) Institutions, 120 persons @ £12 per week for 52 weeks			£74,880
(2) Board for employment of the Blind, 21 persons @ £27 per week for 52 weeks			29,484
(3) Training 3 persons, 1.000			1.000
			£106,364

*Un-met Commitments*—Grant to National Council for the Blind for 9 months to 31/12/74 not paid to date 7.500

<i>Expansion and Trends</i> —Provision for			
(1) Training additional 2 persons		500	
(2) Board for Employment of Blind — 9 additional persons for 8 months. 9 x 27 x 35 weeks			8.500
(3) Institutions—Provision for 10 persons in New Home for Aged Blind at Clonturk Park for 8 months, i.e., 10 x £12 per week x 35 weeks			4,200
(4) Grant to National Council for the Blind —Provision for increase from 40% to 60% of salaries of Social Workers....			3,936
			£130.000

<b>Grants to Voluntary Organisations</b>	<b>550.000</b>	<b>663,000</b>	<b>113,000</b>
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The estimated ongoing expenditure for 12 months based on experience to 30/11/1974 is £426.300

**Un-met Commitments**

(1) Community Organisations providing services mainly for elderly .....	£27,100
(2) Bodies providing Institutions for the elderly .....	20,000
(3) Bodies providing Day Services for the Mentally Handicapped .....	35.000
(4) Miscellaneous — Specialist Organisations catering for particular groups and special handicaps	41,300
(5) Bodies providing Hostels for deprived adolescents	9,000
Add for (1 to 5), i.e.. 1/3 x 132400 for full year .....	44.100
	£176.500
Expansions and Trends .....	60.200
Estimated Requirements .....	£663,000

**SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED SHORTFALL**

	£
Limited Eligibility Medicines	44.000
Long term illness Scheme	20.000
Meals on Wheels	24.000
Home Helps	60.000
Medical and Surgical Appliances	84.000
Handicapped Children's Allowances	20.000
Maternity & Child Health Services—Sec. 65 grants	12.000
Milk for Mothers	53,000
Boarded out Children	
Approved Schools	15,000
Mass Radiography	7,000
Dental Appliances	10,000
Aural Appliances	5.000
Extern Dental Treatment	
Disabled Persons' Allowances	200.000
Training Fees	20.800
Blind Welfare	25.000
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	113,000

**TOTAL 744.800**

The Chief Executive Officer gave a summary to the members of the situation obtaining and after debate to which the Chairman, Mr. Corrigan and Cllr. Connolly contributed, the following motion, proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Browne, was unanimously adopted:—

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, having considered Report No. 1/1975 of the Chief Executive Officer and the Estimate of Expenses for 1975, which are in accordance with the Minister for Health's allocation of £23.5 million, do hereby adopt the Estimate on the clear understanding that, if it prove inadequate, the necessary finances should be made available by the Department of Health."

#### 7/75 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following report No. 2/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The Board gave its consent at its meeting on 3rd October, 1974 (Minute No. 121/74) to the borrowing of up to £3,000,000 by way of bank overdraft for the three months to 31st December, 1974.

The amount overdrawn on that date was £3,953,522. The rating authorities in the Board's area have paid their full contributions for the nine months period to 31st December. The cash shortfall occurred because the payments of Health Services Grant were not sufficient to meet outgoings. The state of the Board's account has been brought to the attention of the Department of Health on many occasions. It is expected that the situation will be remedied in substantial measure in the course of this month.

It is clear that the Board will require continuing overdraft facilities during the next three months. It is considered, having regard to experience, that accommodation up to £3,000,000 will be essential.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board consent to the temporary borrowing of up to £3,000,000 by way of overdraft during the three months ending on 31st March, 1975."

After debate to which the Chairman and Mrs. Barlow contributed, the following motion, proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Cllr. Sweeney, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 2/1975."

### 8/75 BORROWING PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 3/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

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

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>Loan Approved</i>	<i>Amount to be raised</i>
Capital Grants for Voluntary Organisations	£	£	£	£	£
St Mary's Hospital— Improvements (Stages 1 and 2)	314 000 30.000	15,000	314 000 15.000	211 000	103 000 15,000
St. James's Hospital— Premature Infants Unit	72.000	48.000	24.000	17,000	7.000
Central Kitchen Staff Restaurant and Boiler House	578.000	357.000	221.000	193.000	28.000
	994.000	420.000	574.000	421,000	153.000

It is proposed to raise three separate loans from the Commissioners of Public Works, all repayable over a period of 35 years, as follows:—

Loan A    £103,000

Loan B        15.000

Loan C        35,000 "

After replies by Mr. Donohue and Mr. Swords to questions raised by the Chairman, Cllr. D. Browne and Dr. Jennings, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Mrs. Barlow, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 3/1975 be adopted."

**9/75 GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL CARDS**

The following report No. 4/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Section 45(1) (Part IV) of the Health Act 1970 provides as follows:—'A person in either of the following categories shall have full eligibility for the services under this Part—

- (a) adult persons unable without undue hardship to arrange general practitioner medical and surgical services for themselves and their dependants;
- (b) dependants of the persons referred to in (a).'

Section 45(3) of the Health Act 1970 gave the Minister for Health power to make regulations specifying the classes of persons who would have full eligibility. The then Minister decided not to do so and, in asking the Chief Executive Officers of the eight Health Boards to accept the responsibility for deciding who is or who is not entitled to a medical card, he urged that uniform standards be adopted in all Board areas. The Minister's request has been agreed to by the Chief Executive Officers.

At its meeting on 1st June, 1972, I informed the Board that I proposed to adopt guidelines for the issue of medical cards in the area of the Eastern Health Board. The weekly income referred to in the guidelines is inclusive of the income of the spouse (if any) in addition to the applicant's own income. The income of other members of the household is not taken into account. To arrive at the applicant's assessable income deduction is made of the amount of fixed outgoings on housing in excess of £2 per week, i.e., rent, rates, mortgage repayments.

I have recently reviewed the guidelines in the light of the increase in the cost of living but particularly as this increase affects applicants in the lower income group, and I propose that the weekly income limit for single persons be increased by £2-75 in the cases of those living with relatives and by £3 for those living alone, and the weekly income limit for a married couple be increased by £4-50. I propose also that the allowance for each dependant child under 16 years be raised from £1 -75 to £2-25 and the allowance for each child over 16 years who has no income of his/her own and who is being maintained at home by his/her parents be raised from £2-75 to £3-25.

The proposed guidelines compensate for the increase in the cost of living which has taken place in the period November, 1973, to November, 1974, as computed in the



official Consumer Price Index issued by the Central Statistics Office.

I set out hereunder the proposed guidelines which will apply from 1st January, 1975. For comparison purposes the current guidelines are also shown.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Guidelines operative January-December. 1974. Weekly Income £</i>	<i>Proposed guidelines from the 1st January, 1975. Weekly Income £</i>
Single person living with relatives — — —	12 00	14 75
Single person living alone —	14 00	17 00
Husband and wife — —	20 00	24-50
Husband, wife and 1 child —	21-75	26-75
Husband, wife and 2 children	23 50	29 00
Husband, wife and 3 children	25-25	31-25
Husband, wife and 4 children	27 00	33-50
Husband, wife and 5 children	28 75	35-75
Husband, wife and 6 children	30 50	38 00
For each additional child under 16 years — —	1 75	2 25

#### ALLOWANCES

- (a) Deductions from gross weekly income for rent, rates, "ground rent and mortgage charges — Excess over £2 00 Excess over £2-25
- (b) For each child over 16 with no income and maintained at home by applicant — — £2-75 £3-25
- (c) Travelling expenses — Exceptional expenses necessarily incurred in travelling to and from work where these create undue hardship.

Persons with no income other than the following pensions and allowances will automatically qualify for a medical card:—

- Old Age (Care) Allowance
- Old Age (maximum) (non-contributory) pension
- Widows (maximum) (non-contributory) pension

Orphans (non-contributory) pension  
 Deserted Wife's Allowance  
 Blind Pension  
 Infectious diseases (maintenance) allowance  
 Disabled persons (maintenance) allowance

There will be cases where the person's circumstances will place them outside the eligible category but who, because of special circumstances, would be placed under some strain if they had to pay for general practitioner services. Applications from such persons will be dealt with individually on merit. Eligibility for many services other than general practitioner services is independent of a person being the holder of a medical card.

At the 1st October, 1973, the number of holders of medical cards and their dependants was 204,562. The corresponding number at 1st November, 1974, was 213,949, an increase of 4-6% and representing 21-60% of the population of the Board's area."

Dr. Meade enquired as to whether the new guidelines would result in an increase in numbers on the Register and Mr. Dunne gave an estimated breakdown of the likely new situation, particularly arising from the increase in the numbers of unemployed persons. After debate to which Cllr. Duming and Dr. Jennings contributed, the following resolution proposed by Cllr. D. Browne, seconded by Prof. J. S. Doyle, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 4/1976 be adopted."

10/75

**LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
 VACANCIES**

- (a) Dublin City — Sr. Carmel Hamill, Little Sisters of the Assumption, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Dublin City Local Health Committee on a proposal by Alderman Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. D. Browne.
- (b) Wicklow Local Health Committee—Mr. Hugo Flinn, The Tunnell, Greystones, was nominated by Wicklow County Council to fill the vacancy and the members unanimously agreed to his appointment.

11/75                   **CARDIAC AMBULANCE SERVICE**  
(Mm. 148/75 refers)

The following Report No. 5/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Arising from Report No. 57/1974 on the Cardiac Ambulance Service, the Dublin Medical Officer has submitted the following information to enable members to consider more fully this report which had been deferred from the December meeting;—

'1. My statement in the report that the Fire Brigade Ambulance answered coronary heart attack calls was queried, it being thought that they only dealt with accident cases. Captain O'Brien, the Chief of the D.F.B. Service, has since confirmed to me that they answer all emergency calls, whether street accidents or otherwise.

When they get a call to what they consider may be a coronary heart attack case they notify the Stillorgan Service as they set off, so that often the two ambulances arrive on the scene together. In this case the D.F.B. Ambulance withdraws, but if for any reason the Stillorgan Ambulance is not available or arrives late, the D.F.B. Ambulance conveys the patient to the nearest hospital.

2. It was suggested that while the Stillorgan service gave a good service in the South of the City, there was need for a similar service based in the North of the City. I enquired from the Irish Heart Foundation as to whether they ever had, or would be prepared to, set up a similar service in the North of the City. I quote from the reply received as follows:—

"Over three years ago we discussed the possibility of locating an ambulance of the Stillorgan Service at the Mater Hospital to cater for North side calls. At this time the Mater was keen on providing its own Cardiac Ambulance on similar lines to that organised by Professor Pantridge in Belfast. Neither idea progressed at all.

At no time did the Foundation ever discuss or negotiate with another Motor Company on the North side the possibilities of providing a Cardiac Ambulance Service.

When one considers the personal dedication by the Director of the S.A.S. to the operation of his cardiac ambulance service and its record to date, it is difficult to visualise a new private group being brought to the same standard of efficiency. Indeed it would hardly be financially leasable to think in terms of a separate private service being available on either

side of the Liffey. With an average time of 14 minutes to reach a subject on the North side, the question of time may not be considered to be a critical factor in arguments for a North based ambulance.

The Foundation would not wish to become involved with an additional cardiac ambulance structure; in fact we would very much like to have E.H.B. deal directly with the S.A.S.. but we would, of course, continue to train the staff as required.

Incidentally, 44 subjects have now been successfully resuscitated in the Cardiac Ambulance, and calls over the past year are averaging 100 per month, with approximately half coming from the Dublin Fire Brigade. In recent months the Stillorgan Ambulance Service has equipped itself with two new cardiac ambulances at a total cost of £12,800.

I would like to compliment the E.H.B. for the prompt payment of S.A.S. accounts over the past few months. It is greatly appreciated on all sides."

3. I enquired from Captain O'Brien as to whether he would be prepared to have some of his ambulances, e.g., those based at the Kilbarrack Depot, fitted with cardiac ambulance resuscitation equipment. His reply is that he would not be prepared to do this at the present time.

The above points support the conclusion reached in my previous report that there is no obvious way of improving on the present Stillorgan based service. The position should, of course, be kept under review."

After a very wide ranging discussion to which Prof. Doyle, Alderman Fitzgerald, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Harrington, Dr. Jennings, Mr. Corcoran, Dr. Mahon, Cllr. Sweeney contributed and to which Prof. B. O'Donnell replied, it was agreed that the latter should consult with the Irish Heart Foundation, Stillorgan Ambulance Service and the Mater Hospital on the possibility of setting up a Cardiac Ambulance Service on the North side of the city. The question of equipping some of the Board's own ambulances with basic equipment to deal with cardiac cases should also be investigated.

**12/75            EMERGENCY SERVICES—BALLYMUN  
                         AREA—SELECTION OF WORKING PARTY**

After a short discussion the members agreed that the investigation should not be confined to the North side only but should include all the Board's area, after which the follow-

ing members were selected to act on the working party—  
Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Jennings, Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Corrigan, Mr.  
Ruane, Cllr. Connolly. Dr. Walker. Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Durning,  
Mr. Corcoran, Prof. S. Doyle.

The meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.  
CORRECT:

E. O Caoimh,

*Chief Executive Officer.*

  
CHAIRMAN