

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. Dockrell	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. J. Dunning	Mr. M. Ruane
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

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

Deputy H. P. Dockrell, 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
TOTAL _	20343-4	16,213-0	18,588 7	+2375-7 +
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	—
TOTAL _	£27,694,000	£25,297,000	£2,395,000
Deduct Income ___	£1,797,000	£1,797,000	—
Net Expenditure ___	£25,897,000	£23,500,000	£2,395,000

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).

Meals on Wheels	91,000	115,000	24,000
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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.

Home Helps	207,000	267,000	60,000
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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.

Medical and Surgical Appliances	136,000	220,000	84,000
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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.

Handicapped Children Allowances	500,000	520,000	20,000
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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 x 25=£19,600).

**Maternity and
Child Health
Services-**

Section 65 Grants	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
I.S.P.C.C.			8,000
Catholic Social Service Conference			
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

Milk for Mothers	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
Beneficiaries				
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.

Approved Schools	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.

Mass Radiography	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***

Dental Appliances	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

Grants to Voluntary Organisations	550.000	663,000	113,000
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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

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

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

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Mr. K. Harrington
Mr. M. Birmingham	Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C.
Cllr. M. Brady	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Mr. J. Corcoran	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell, T.D.	Cllr. C. Murphy, T.D.
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. G. Doyle	Mr. M. Ruane
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Dr. J. Walker
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. T. Hand and Dr. J. O'Conneii, T.D.
Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. K. Quinn
Prof. I. Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. F. McCullough	Admin. Assistant	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. J. Clarke	Admin. Assistant	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Mr. P. J. Swords	Admin. Assistant	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	
Prof. B. O'Donnelli	Dublin Medical Officer	

13/75 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of meeting held on the 9th January having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Leonard, seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

14/75 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr. Connolly asked when the emergency plan committee would commence operations and he was advised that it was intended to hold the first meeting this month.

15/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Columcille's Hospital on 9/1/1975.*

The report of this committee meeting was noted, Cllr. Sweeney having been assured that the Department of Health were being pressed for approval to the proposed improvements in the electrical services at the Hospital.

- (b) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at the County Hospital, Naas. on 10/1/1975.*

The report of this committee meeting was noted. Mr. Birmingham raised the question of how improvements at this hospital, which had been submitted to the Department of Health, were progressing and Mr. Swords advised of the current situation.

**16/75 MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL
 ADVISORY HEALTH COMMITTEES**

- (a) Minutes of County Dublin Local Health Committee meeting held on 6th January, 1975, having been circulated, were noted, the Chief Executive Officer having pointed out to the members that some of the recommendations of the Local Health Committee involved expenditure and that the Board could not act on them as there were no funds provided therefor in the current estimates.

He indicated that when the final allocation of funds was determined all advisory committees would be informed of the position.

- (b) Minutes of County Wickiow Local Health Committee meeting held on 17th February, 1975, having been circulated, were discussed.

Cllr. Sweeney referred to the apprehension created by the reporting in the press of the proposed closure of Wickiow Hospital. Mr. Nolan outlined the background to the decision of the Visiting Committee, explaining that the only intention was to benefit the people of Wickiow by giving them better and more concerted community care and clinic services. The C.E.O. also advised the

members that he had replied to a letter from the President. Wicklow Chamber of Commerce, on similar lines. Cllr. Carroll also contributed to the debate.

Deputy Murphy raised the question of the proposed hospital at Arklow and Mr. Swords informed him that he was willing to meet this committee. Cllr. Sweeney stated that he fully supported the proposal to have the hospital in Arklow. A general discussion took place on the relative merits of Hospital and Home confinements. After a debate to which Cllr. Sweeney, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Dr. Meade, Cllrs. Durning and Connolly, Dr. Jennings, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn contributed and to which Dr. O'Donnell replied, the minutes were noted.

17/75 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Dr. Meade proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable an item of importance to be discussed, i.e., the situation which would have to be met should the doctors in the choice of doctor scheme withdraw their services. Cllr. Mrs. Barlow seconded the motion. After a short discussion the motion was put to the meeting and was carried by 15 (fifteen) votes to 14 (fourteen). The voting was as follows:—

For (15) Cllr. Mrs. Bartow, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. H. Corrigan, Dr. Cullen, Prof. Doyle, Mr. Harrington, Cllr. Hickey, Miss Lacey, Dr. Mahon, Dr. Meade, Deputy Murphy, Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Sweeney and Dr. J. Walker.

Against (14) Mr. Birmingham, Cllr. Brady, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Connolly, Deputy Dockrell, Cllr. Doyle, Cllr. Durning, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Jennings, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. Leonard.

As the necessary three-fourths majority was not received, Standing Orders could not be suspended and the meeting then proceeded to deal with the next item.

18/75 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 1975

The following Report No. 6/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" In my Report No. 1/1975 I mentioned that proposals for development of services in the three programmes had been submitted to the Department of Health.

These proposals were discussed by officers of the Department and the Board at a meeting in the Custom House on 17th January. The Board's proposals for capital expenditure in the current year were also discussed. The Board's priorities of capital and revenue expenditure were outlined in detail, and noted by the Department officials, who stressed that the money available for all health board areas was very limited. They explained that each health board's needs were being examined and when this examination was complete, each health board would be told its allocation for the development of services including grants under Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953, to voluntary organisations.

It is expected that this information will be received early in February. If so, I shall be able to submit details to the Board at the March meeting."

After a short discussion the following motion was proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Deputy Dockrell and was unanimously adopted:

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 6/1975 be noted."

19/75 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following Report No. 7/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

" In Report No. 2/1975 I requested the Board's consent to temporary borrowing up to £3,000,000 by way of overdraft during the three months to 31st March, 1975.

The request for £3,000,000 overdraft was based on the assumption that the overdraft of £3,953,522 on the Board's Account at 31st December, 1974, would be greatly reduced by a substantial payment of Health Services Grant early in January, 1975. In the event a payment of £1 million Health Services Grant was received early in January. As a result the overdraft was not contained within the limit of £3 million. It exceeded £4 million for most of the month and rose to £5,009,214 on 20th January, 1975. An instalment of grant in respect of 1975 amounting to £1.8 million was received today.

It is expected that a further instalment of grant to cover arrears will be received in February, but the amount of this instalment has not yet been determined. In these circumstances it is necessary to seek the Board's consent to temporary borrowing up to a limit of £5 million during the

months of January and February. It is unlikely, however, that this limit will be reached on more than a few occasions during the period.

A further report on the situation will be submitted at the next meeting of the Board."

On a proposal by Deputy Dockrell, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, the following motion was adopted:

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 7/1975."

**20/75 GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES-
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL
SERVICES CARD APPLICATIONS**

The following report No. 9/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" At meeting of the Board held on 5th December I undertook to inform the Board of the proposed wording of the acknowledgment of applications for medical cards.

I propose to have two letters:—

- A. Acknowledging applications which contain sufficient information to enable the Board to determine eligibility within a few days.

The wording will be as follows:—

"I wish to acknowledge receipt of your application

dated _____ for a medical card.

Your application is being examined and a decision as to whether or not you are eligible will be made as soon as possible but not later than two weeks from this date."

6. Acknowledging applications which have not been completed fully or where confirmation of income is required.

The wording will be as follows:—

"I wish to acknowledge receipt of your application

dated _____ for a medical card.

To enable the Board to make an early decision as to whether or not you are eligible will you be good enough to forward to this office, as soon as possible (e.g., certificate from your employer showing your income over the past six months. Form of certificate is attached)."

The Medical Card Section is considering a change in the processing of applications for Medical Cards which is expected to shorten considerably the interval between the date eligibility is determined and the date on which the applicant is requested to choose his doctor. The new procedure is about to be tested and if it is feasible it should not be necessary to continue to issue acknowledgment at A above."

Alderman A. FitzGerald congratulated Mr. Dunne on the proposed form of acknowledgment but suggested that a time limit should be inserted when a request was made for additional information or verification of some facts in the form. Dr. Jennings suggested that in the case of old people who did not supply the extra information requested, that an Inquiry Officer or Assistance Officer should call on them to explain what was required. After a lengthy discussion to which the previous speakers. Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Durning, Dr. Walker. Dr. Meade, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow contributed and to which Mr. Donohue and Mr. Dunne replied, the report was noted and the following motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and seconded by Cllr. Browne was unanimously adopted:

"To propose that all old age pensioners, permanently disabled and infirm persons be exempt from annual scrutiny for medical cards."

**21/75 ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AT
NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL FOR MENTALLY
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

The following Report No. 10/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

" I have considered carefully the application from the County Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped for additional accommodation in the Nurses' Home at Newcastle Hospital, Co. Wicklow, and I have consulted the staff about this. I recommend to the Board that the additional accommodation be granted. This consists of two sitting rooms, a toilet, a kitchenette and store adjoining the L-shaped room at present used by the Association.

I recommend that the granting of this accommodation be subject to the following conditions:—

1. That the Association will undertake not to seek further accommodation in any existing buildings at Newcastle Hospital.

2. That the Association will take all necessary precautions to ensure privacy of staff quarters and reasonable quietness so that night staff can sleep during the day. This will involve confining the children to an area including the quarters they now occupy, the additional accommodation proposed, the yard and playing field. It will be necessary to ban vehicular traffic other than staff cars and vehicles transporting the children to and from school, from the front of the home, and it will also be necessary to keep the gate into the yard locked while the children are at school.
3. That the Association will fully indemnify the Board in respect of its public liability in regard to the Association's activities.
4. That the temporary building at the back of the Home be removed within a period of three months unless planning permission for its retention is obtained within that period.
5. That the Chief Psychiatrist is satisfied that the standard of care in the unit is satisfactory.

Approval to the foregoing will involve re-location of staff recreational facilities and administrative offices and since this entails the re-location of telephones, redecoration, etc., it would be some time before the facilities sought could be made available. The cost is likely to be in the region of £1,000, but more precise details on this will be obtained later. This figure will, however, have to be allocated from the existing maintenance provision as no funds for this development are available. It is normal for the Board to pay capitation rates for handicapped children in approved Care Units, but the project at Newcastle is a new development and again no funds are available in the current year for this. Accordingly, the cost of the Care Unit, other than heating, lighting and food will have to be met in the current year by the Association if they wish to open the Unit in the current year.

During the course of my discussions with the staff, they expressed their concern at the impression that had gone abroad that they had objected to the provision of services for the handicapped children. This is, of course, quite incorrect. The staff have sought to preserve quietness so that night staff can sleep and also privacy and, when you have regard to the fact that children have been found in bedrooms, on stairways, boiler house, on the road, etc., it is not surprising that staff have expressed their concern. Some members of the Association have given the impression that the demands of the

Association must be met irrespective of the needs of staff, and they fail to comprehend that the Board and, indeed, the people of Wicklow are dependent on the staff for the provision of a psychiatric service. There never..has been a full staff complement in this hospital and controversy of the type that has gone on is not helpful in recruiting the staff we need.

I have some reservations in recommending the granting of the additional accommodation sought. It is clear to me that it is far from ideal to locate a service of this type in staff quarters. However, this is an interim measure only. The position should be re-examined at the end of six months and if it is found at that time that the operation of the Care Unit and the school is affecting the efficient running of the hospital, the position will have to be re-considered. In the meantime, the Association should be asked to honour the undertaking given that it will obtain approval from the Department of Education for the school. When this is obtained, the building of the school should proceed without delay and a decision can then be made on the provision of special care facilities for the children."

After some questions had been asked by Dr. Jennings and answered by Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow was unanimously adopted:

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 10/1975 be adopted."

**22/75 TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN LANDS
 AT OBERSTOWiM**

The following Report No. 11/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

" The following property, which was formerly part of the Balrothery Workhouse at Oberstown, Lusk, Co. Dublin, is held on Leases from the Board by Mrs. Mary E. Brennan, 30, Crumlin Road, Dublin. The Leases expire on 3rd December, 2059.

- (1) Lease dated 30th December, 1961, Minister for Health to Mary Ellen Brennan, relating to Balrothery Workhouse for 15 acres, 2 roods and 12 perches, subject to the yearly rent of £150-00. This property and that mentioned at (2) and (3) were vested in the Dublin Health Authority by the State Lands (Workhouses) Act. 1962.

- (2) Lease dated 13th October, 1972, Eastern Health Board to Mary Ellen Brennan, relating to a Cottage and Garden on the lands comprised in the Lease No. 1 subject to the yearly rent of £20-00— Report No. 68/1971 to the Board Meeting held on 6th January, 1972, refers.
- (3) Lease dated 6th March, 1974, Eastern Health Board to Mary Ellen Brennan, relating to 14 acres at Oberstown, Co. Dublin, subject to the yearly rent of £300-00—Report No. 71/1972 to the Board Meeting held on 5th October, 1972, refers.

Mrs. Brennan has applied to the Board for permission to transfer the remaining period of her interest in the lands to Mr. Mark Sheehy, 37, Glenview North, Swords, Co. Dublin, with whom she has entered into a contract for sale. Mr. Sheehy intends to use the property for market gardening.

Satisfactory personal references have been received as to Mr. Sheehy's suitability and I propose, subject to the execution of a guarantee document with Mrs. Brennan and to the payment by her of the Law Agent's costs and any rent due, to give consent to the transfer of her interest in the Leases to Mr. Sheehy.

The Law Agent has advised that this transaction does not come within the scope of Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, and, in the circumstances, the Minister's consent to the arrangement is not required."

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. M. Carroll the following motion was unanimously adopted:

"That the Eastern Health Board consent to the proposals outlined in Report No. 11/1975."

23/75 HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1974

Letter dated 31/12/74 from the Department of Health on the above subject having been circulated was noted.

24/75 CREATION OF ADDITIONAL POSTS

The following Report No. 8/1975 was submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

" Creation of Additional Posts of Porter, St. Ita's Hospital.

The internal deliveries of stores and meals from the Kitchen and Stores at St. Ita's Hospital are made by means of vans manned by four drivers employed on a seven-day rota basis.

In the past help was provided by using the services of patients. Due to the changing nature of therapy treatment the services of patients for these duties are no longer available. The Programme Manager has examined the needs in this area and is satisfied that there is a need for two additional Porters at a cost of £3,300 pa., which will eliminate overtime costs exceeding this.

I propose with the consent of the Board to seek the sanction of the Minister for Health to the creation of these additional posts."

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Browne it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 8/1975 be noted."

25/75 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion in the names of Cllr. J. Connolly and Cllr. J. Durning was considered:—

" In the installation of a kidney machine in a private home the full cost be borne by the appropriate authority or Eastern Health Board whatever the case may be."

After a discussion to which Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Dockrell, Dr. Walker, Cllrs. Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Lemass contributed and to which Mr. Swords replied, it was agreed that the matter would be referred back for a report.

26/75 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 13/1/1975 from the Department of Local Government conveyed approval to the continuation of the arrangements whereby Dublin Corporation functions as a public assistance authority and administered by the Board up to and including 31st January, 1976.
- (b) Letter dated 3/2/1975 from the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, inviting Mr. J. J. Nolan, recently nominated as a Board member, to attend the next meeting of its management committee. The members expressed approval of this arrangement.
- (c) Letter dated 5th November from Department of Health was read in which the Minister advised that in assessing a person's eligibility for Hospital Services, an income from casual or unforeseen overtime should not be taken into account in determining eligibility under the income limit of £2,250 p.a. section.

27/75

CONGRATULATIONS

Before the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman informed the members about an exhibition in Ballsbridge called Opportunity Ireland at which the Eastern Health Board, in conjunction with the other health boards, had a stand. He wished to publicly thank Mr. R. N. Lamb, Personnel Officer, and Mr. J. Byrne, S.E.O. Personnel, and all the other officers concerned for their efforts in making the event such an outstanding success. The members endorsed the Chairman's congratulations.

The meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.


Signed: Chairman.

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

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

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
Mr. M. Birmingham
Cllr. M. Brady
Cllr. D. Browne
Cllr. M. Carroll
Cllr. J. Connolly
Mr. J. Corcoran
Mr. H. Corrigan
Dr. J. Cullen
Deputy H. P. Dockrell
Cllr. G. Doyle
Dr. J. S. Doyle
Cllr. J. Durning
Ald. A. FitzGerald

Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
Cllr. T. Hand
Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. P. Hickey
Cllr. D. Kinsella
Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. M. McWey
Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. A. Meade
Deputy C. Murphy
Mr. D. O'Flynn
Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Sweeney
Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Dr. P. C. Jennings, Miss K. Kinsella and Dr. J. McCormick.

In the Chair:

Cllr. P. Hickey, Chairman.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Prof. I. Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. J. Clarke	Admin. Assistant	
Mr. F. McCullough	Admin. Assistant	
Mr. P. J. Swords	Admin. Assistant	

28/75 CONDOLENCES

The Chairman advised the members of the death of Mr. Peter Larkin, father of Miss E. Larkin, of Secretariat Department, and of the death of Mr. T. A. Healy, Section Officer in the Hospitals Section. The members stood as a mark of respect for the deceased, and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the bereaved families.

29/75 ILLNESS OF MEMBERS

The Chairman advised the members also of the illness of Dr. P. C. Jennings and Dr. J. McCormick and members directed that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to both doctors.

30/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6th February having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal of Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

31/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

The reports of the following committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

(a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, on 13th February, 1975:*

Cllr. Sweeney drew attention to the fine work being carried out by the various voluntary organisations and it was agreed that Mr. Swords should convey the Board's thanks to them for their work.

(b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 3rd January, 1975:*

Mr. Corrigan drew attention to the grave concern of the Committee members at the delay in having alterations and fire alarm facilities executed at the Lower House. Mr. D. O'Flynn and Mrs. Glenn expressed similar views and after Mr. Keyes explained the situation it was agreed that the Board's concern be conveyed to the Department of Health.

(c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brigid's Hospital, Crooksling, on 12th February, 1975:*

Noted.

(d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. John's House, Seafield Rd.. on 19th February. 1975:*

Mr. D. O'Flynn expressed his pleasure at the report on the work of the Centre and would like week-end openings to be revived.

Following a short discussion to which Dr. Meade and Mr. Corcoran contributed and to which Mr. Keyes replied, it was agreed that a small sub-committee should be set up to study and make recommendations on the proposed Misuse of Drugs Bill. The following were selected as the sub-committee:— Mr. O'Flynn, Dr. Meade, Mr. Conigan, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and the Board's Chairman, Mr. P. Hickey.

(e) *No. 4 Visiting Committee- meeting held at St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, on 18th February. 1975:*

Noted.

(f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 7th January. 1975:*

Cllr. Mrs. Glenn raised the question of improved telephone system and fire alarm services at this hospital and Mr. Keyes advised that proposals in this regard were with the Department of Health for approval and that in view of the limitations on finance available a decision might have to be made as to whether the scheme at the Lower House, St. Brendan's, would take priority over the scheme at St. Loman's.

Dr. Walker suggested that an emergency unlisted telephone number should be available in each of the hospitals to deal with emergencies.

Mr. O'Flynn directed attention to a decision whereby concerned members from the Nos. 2 and 4 Visiting Committees might come together and form a small sub-committee to deal specifically with the Child Psychiatric Service.

**32/75 MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH
 COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were considered:

- (a) Dublin City Local Health Committee meeting held on 15th January, 1975, arising from which Mr. Harrington thanked the Board for being the first organisation to help the Dental Association with its preventivis dental health scheme, i.e.. Dental Health Week organised by that body. Cllr. Connolly also contributed to the debate.**

- (b) Dublin City Local Health Committee meeting held on 12th February, 1975.—Noted.
- (c) Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 3rd February, 1975.—Noted.
- (d) Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee meeting held on 28th January, 1975.—Dr. Walker drew attention to his motion on the provision of dental services for all children up to and including the age of 16 and after discussion to which Mr. Harrington, Cllr. Hand, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Connolly and Dr. Meade contributed and to which Mr. Donohue replied, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and seconded by Cllr. Connolly was unanimously adopted:—
 - " That the E.H.B. recommend amendment of present legislation to enable children over 14 years of age to avail of free dental services."
- (e) Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 23rd January, 1975.—Noted.

33/75

QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, it was unanimously agreed that the Chief Executive Officer answer the questions lodged.

Question: (1) Alderman A. FitzGerald:

" Can the Chief Executive Officer inform the Eastern Health Board of whatever plans he has for utilising the extensive site at the bottom of Garden Hill, Old Kilmainham, which is apparently owned by the Eastern Health Board? This property is heavily overgrown and has been unused for a very long time."

Reply:

" In May, 1966, at the request of Prof. I. Browne, Chief Psychiatrist, approval was given by the Dublin Health Authority to the use of Garden Hill House as a School and Centre for the training and treatment of autistic children—the house has been the residence of the late Dr. McCarthy, R.M.S. of St. Kevin's. There was need for the accommodation and service because of the inadequacy of facilities at the original centre for autistic children which had been set up at St. Loman's Hospital some years previously.

On 3rd July, 1969 (Report No. 69/69) the Dublin Health Authority consented to the leasing of a site of approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre at Garden Hill to U.C.D. for the erection of an Endocrine Research Unit. On 25th March, 1971 (Report No. 48/71) the Authority consented to the disposal of an additional area of approximately a half acre at Garden Hill to U.C.D. to cater for expansion of the work including establishment of a Centre for Community Studies. The site at Garden Hill was not included in the land transferred to St. James's Hospital Board in 1971 by the Eastern Health Board.

As Professor Browne has proposed further developments on the site, discussions and negotiations have been proceeding for some time on the basis of insuring that the best interests of the Board's services to the community are given priority. A formal report in this regard to the Board will be furnished when sufficient progress has been made."

Question: (2) Alderman A. FitzGerald:

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he is aware of the extent of Salmonella Food Poisoning in the Dublin region and, if so, is he aware of any difficulties with the Public Health Act in implementing standards to 'Take Away' food units, including vans and caravans, now commonplace in the City."

Reply:

" Salmonella infection is primarily a disease of domestic animals and birds—chickens, ducks, pigs, calves, etc. In former days when the farmer reared a few calves of his own, and his wife reared a few dozen chickens, this infection was not widespread. In recent times it has become widespread among animals and is frequently passed on to man because of the following practices:

1. Mass production of food animals and fowl. Hundreds of animals or birds may be intensively reared in close confinement for slaughter. This gives increased opportunity for spread of infection. Conveyor-belt slaughtering causes carcasses to become infected unless stringent precautions are taken.
2. Increased consumption of meat and made-up meat products, e.g., hamburgers, pate. etc. These products, if not well prepared, cooked and stored, act as a culture medium for Salmonella germs if they are present in the product in the first instance.

3. Mass eating out in canteens, restaurants, etc.— increased opportunity for infection.
4. Catering practices, such as cooking meat dishes en masse, letting them cool and then re-heating by microwave oven or otherwise before serving to customers in eating establishments. Unless such food is quickly cooled after cooking and then kept under cool and hygienic conditions, there is danger of Salmonella and other types of food poisoning.
Ice-cream, cream products, mayonnaise, salad materials, etc., may also contain the infection. The germs will multiply in these foodstuffs if they become contaminated.
5. The increased business in take-away foods, especially chickens and sandwiches from take-away food shops. Spit-roasted chickens have been known to carry Salmonella germs, due to the fact that their interiors have been insufficiently cooked.
6. It is thought that many animals and fowl are infected in the first instance by infected animal foodstuffs, often imported from abroad.

The Food Hygiene Regulations is a good code which gives ample powers to Health Inspectors to deal with unhygienic food premises. The difficulty is the sheer number of such premises which is increasing daily. Many pubs now serve food, which is a good thing for other reasons.

The Regulations apply to food stalls and food vehicles and therefore they cover food-selling vans and caravans which commonly trade in suburban housing schemes. I doubt if these vans contribute much to the spread of Salmonella poisoning, as most of what they sell is in packages. The hot-dog stalls which appear after night are not as common in Dublin as in other cities. Health Inspectors do, if necessary, work at night to keep a check on these vendors.

The only yardstick of incidence of Salmonella infection is the number of notifications received. Weekly notifications in the Dublin area since the beginning of January have been as follows:—

Week Ended 4.1.75 — Nil	Week Ended 1.2.75 — 3
.. 11.1.75 — Nil	.. .. 8.2.75 — 2
.. 18.1.75 — Nil	.. .. 15.2.75 — Nil
.. 25.1.75 — 1	.. .. 22.2.75 — 1

In the Dublin area Salmonella infection is commonest in hospitals, especially Children's Hospitals and Geriatric Hospitals, where small outbreaks occur from time to time. The source of infection is often food that is brought in by visitors. Spread from patient to patient may then occur."

34/75 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following report No. 12/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

" At its meeting on 6th instant the Board gave its consent (Minute No. 19/75) to temporary borrowing up to a limit of £5m. for the period to the end of the month. In the event, the overdraft reached that limit on 19th instant and increased to a peak of £5.4m. on 26th instant. It fell back to £3 3m. on the following day when an instalment of Grant amounting to £2.1m. was received from the Department of Health.

An estimation of requirements during the month of March indicates that the overdraft will reach a high point of £5-7m. before the next instalment of Grant will be received. Allowing for contingencies, it is prudent to have approval for temporary borrowing up to a limit of £6m.

Accordingly, it is necessary to seek the Board's consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft of up to £6m. during the month of March.

A further report on future borrowing requirements will be submitted to the Board at its next meeting."

After discussion the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Hugh Corrigan was unanimously adopted:

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 12/1975."

35/75 BORROWING PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 13/1975 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>
St Mary's Hospital—New Boiler	£ 7.200	£	£ 3500	£	£
Patrick's Home—Telephone and Fire Alarm System	25,000	3,600 12500	12500	25,000	3500
County Hospital, Naas—Lift Installation — — —	70,000	35,000 36,000	35,000	30500	12500
Staff Accommodation and Fur-	72,000		36,000	80,000	10,000
District Hospital, Baltinglass—30-Bed Unit — — —	143,000		143,000		6500
	317,000	87,100	230,100	135500	95,100
Bru Chaoimhin — Renovations		10,000		107,000	
Unit 1 St Clare's Home — Lift Installa-	29,000		29,000	250500	29,000
St Vincent's, Athy—Convent Nurses* Home and Mortuary	20,000		20,000	100,000	20,000
St Colman's, Rathdrum— 86-Bed Unit, Staff Houses, Re-	140,000		140,000	120,000	33,000
	510,000		510,000	326,000	
	125,000		125,000		
novation of St Kevin's Unit	170,000		170,000		260500
Welfare Homes Pray	160,000		160,000		25,000
Ballymun Clonskeagh	361,000		351,000		50,000
Regina Coeli/Moming Star Hostels—Reconstruction					40,000
					25,000
	1515,000	10,000	1505,000	1,023500	482,000
St Brendan's Hospital— Steam Mains — — — — Mechanical Fuel Handling —	30,000	15,000	15,000		11500
St Ita's Hospital— Heating Services — — —	70,000	35,000	35,000	4500	35500
Internal Telephones, Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting — 72-Bed Unit — — — — Female Chronic Block — —	500,000	250,000	250,000		120,000
	120,000	60,000	60,000		60,000
	250,000	125,000	125,000	130,000	125,000
	70,000	35,000	35,000		35,000
	47,000	23300	23500		23500
	60,000	30,000	30,000		30,000
Purchase of and alterations to 730/732 Sth. Circular Road — Factory, Glasnevin — — —					
	1,147,000	573,500	573500	134,000	439500

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	£95,100
Loan B	£482,000
Loan C „.....	£439,500
	£1,016,600"

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Corrigan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 13/1975 be adopted."

36/75 CAPITAL BUDGET 1975

The following Report No. 14/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Notification has been received from the Department of Health that the Minister has approved of an allocation of £680,000 for capital expenditure by the Board in 1975.

The Department estimate that £440,000 of the amount allocated will be needed to meet anticipated commitments in respect of completed schemes and on-going projects. This figure is considerably less than the amount estimated by the Board's officers, and I am in correspondence with the Department regarding the matter. I shall report further when it has been resolved. A sum of £240,000 has been allocated for "new starts" as follows:—

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Cost £</i>	<i>Allocation for 1975 £</i>
Warrenstown House Renovations—		
Residential Accommodation for disturbed children and special schools		30,000
	86,000	
St. Ita's Hospital—		
New 72-Bed Unit for Mentally Handicapped patients	250,000	40,000
Female Block renovations (mental handicap and psychiatric unit)	70,000	
St. Cotman's Hospital, Rathdrum—		
Renovation of St. Kevin's Unit for long-stay geriatric accom modation	388,000	60,000 50,000
	170,000	
Two Health Centres		
	£964,000	£240,000

It will be seen that the amount allocated for new projects is small. The Department stress that the funds available for hospitals and health boards were strictly limited and priority selection had to be made. The amount allocated, therefore, cannot be exceeded. If, however, the Board considers within this allocation that there are projects on which building could commence in 1975 the Minister would consider substituting a project or projects for any of the schemes mentioned above.

The Board also makes grants under Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953, in support of capital works undertaken by voluntary bodies. A list of proposed grants has been submitted to the Department, and is at present being considered.

The Department state that they hope to notify us of the further amount of capital money which will be made available for this purpose within the next few weeks."

The Chief Executive Officer explained the possible outcome of the shortfall in the capital budget allocation, but that he hoped to proceed as indicated with the possibility that the position would improve later in the year. After a short discussion to which Deputy Dockrell, Cllr. Durning, Cllr. Connolly, Alderman FitzGerald contributed, the following motion proposed by Cffr. Mrs. Barlow, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney, was unanimously adopted!

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 14/1975 be noted.

37/75 ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 1973/74

The Abstract of Accounts 1973/74 and accompanying report No. 15/1975, set out hereunder, were submitted by the Chief Executive Officer

"The following report has been submitted by the Finance Officer—

' I submit Abstract of Accounts of the Eastern Health Board for the year to 31st March, 1974. The abstract details the Revenue and Capital income and expenditure on the Health Services operated by the Board and includes the following statements:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1974.
Particulars of Expenditure in respect of the Board's Hospitals and Homes.

Average Daily Cost of the Board's Hospitals and Homes.

Statement of Capital Debt.

Details are also given of the Income and Expenditure on the Public Assistance Services which the Board provided on an agency basis for the Dublin Corporation and the Councils of Counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow.

The General Purposes Services (Revenue) Account is in respect of salaries of Health Inspectors engaged on Housing and Sanitary Services, which is recoupable from the rating authorities for whom the service is provided.

The following summary statement compares the expenditure and income on Health Services for the year with the amounts in the Estimate of Expenses approved by the Minister—

	<i>Estimate of Expenses 1973/74 £</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1973/74 £</i>
General Medical Services:		
Choice of Doctor Scheme	2,960.000	3,420.812
Other Medical Services	1,136.400	1,460.377
Hospitals and Homes:		
Board's Hospitals	4,003,500	4,474.915
Joint Board Hospitals	3,622.000	4,302.146
Extern Hospitals	9,628.200	9,524.797
Specialist Services	463.000	490.776
Psychiatric Services	5,931.600	7,019,388
Maternity and Child Health Services	1,003.400	968,470
Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases	640,600	646,969
Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural Ser- vices	530,200	441.792
Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Disabled Persons	980.000	1,284,924
Boarding out, etc., of Children	293.300	362,866
Ambulance & Transport of Patients	414.400	462,918
Supervision of Food and Drugs	85.000	81.547
Blind Welfare	122.300	147.389
Registration of Births. Deaths and Marriages	25,400	16,778
Central Services	1,350,600	1,556,515
Total Expenditure	£33,189,900	£36,663,379
Income	1,217,900	1,557,258
Net Expenditure	£31,972,000	£35,106,121

It will be noted that the gross expenditure was approximately £3-5m. more than the estimate approved by the Minister.

The allocation for 1973/74 was based on an estimated net level of expenditure in 1972/73 of £24,033,000. In fact the net level of expenditure in 1972/73 turned out to be £1 -5m. greater at £25,544,712.

During the year 1973/74 several reports were submitted to the Board indicating that additional expenditure would be incurred in respect of salaries and wages adjustments, allowances for week-ends, Public Holidays and night duty for Psychiatric Nurses, increased capitation rates for approved schools, increases in Disabled Persons' Allowances, superannuation increases, increases in Blind Persons' Allowances, etc. The total additional expenditure approved by the Board on foot of these reports was £2,042,400.

This amount, plus the £1 -5m. under-estimation in the base figure referred to above account for the overall increase of £3 5m.

The gross expenditure for the year, expressed in terms of the Board's programme was as follows:—

General Hospital Programme	.....	£18,792,634	
Special Hospital Programme	....	£7,019,388	
Community Care Programme		£9,294,842	
Central Services	.....	£1,556,515	
			<i>Total</i> _ £36,663.379

At the end of the year there was a cumulative deficit of £4,552,666-16. This is shown in the Statement of Balances as due in respect of Health Services Grant. It is made up as follows:—

Deficit at 31/3/1973	.....	£2,698,160.94
Health Grant accrued due in 1973/74		£26,110,505.22
		£28,808.666.16
Health Grant received in 1973/74		£24,256,000.00
Deficit at 31/3/1974	.....	£4.552.666.16

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Connolly, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

" That Report No. 15/1975 be noted."

38/75 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The following Report No. 16/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Grants Received and Approved

I have received from the Department of Labour notification that the Commission of the European Communities has approved payment to the Health Board of the sum of £55,827 from the European Social Fund towards the cost of training operations carried out in 1974.

Assistance to the amount of £50,142 has previously been received towards the cost of training operations carried out in 1973.

Further information is awaited in regard to the composition of the grant for 1974 and the arrangements of the Commission for detailed examination of the Board's application prior to payment. It is understood that the amount of the grant has been arrived at as follows:—

Operating Costs:

Hanbury Lane Workshop and Mount Pleasant, St. John's, St. Loman's and Usher's Island Day Centres	£21,259
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Contribution Towards Capital Costs:

Group Home. Raheny; Usher's Island; 30 Mount Pleasant Square	951
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Training and Placement Expenses:

National Council for the Blind	5,000
Board for the Employment of the Blind	13,750
National Association of the Deaf	2,500
Polio Fellowship	1,125

Lodging Allowances:

Rehabilitation Institute trainees	4,000
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Training of Instructors

7,242

£55,827

It is noted that, whereas in respect of 1973 the grant towards the operating costs of the Hanbury Lane Workshop and the Psychiatric Day Centres was based on 50% of the approved operating cost, the 1974 grant is apparently based on a figure of 10%, which is related to the number of trainees from these operations going into open employment.

An application in respect of operations to be conducted during 1975 has been submitted but there is as yet no information about the amount of the grant to be received. In future years, if a recommendation made in the recent report of the working party established by the Minister for Health in relation to training and employing the handicapped is adopted, applications of public authorities and voluntary bodies for support from the Social Fund would be co-ordinated by the National Rehabilitation Board into one comprehensive application."

After a discussion to which Mr. O'Flynn, Professor Browne and Mr. Keyes contributed and to which Mr. Elliott replied, it was unanimously resolved on a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Deputy Dockrell, as follows:—

" That Report No. 16/1975 be noted."

39/75 HEALTH EDUCATION BUREAU

Press release dated 3rd February setting out the composition of the Bureau, and Press release dated 17th February giving the Minister's statement to the first meeting of the Bureau were circulated. The Chairman expressed disappointment at the Board having no representative on the Bureau.

Dr. Walker endorsed the Chairman's views and referred to his recommendation at an earlier meeting wherein he had urged the Board to nominate some persons to the Bureau.

After discussion, to which Cllr. Connolly, Mr. O'Flynn, Dr. Doyle and Alderman FitzGerald contributed, the following resolution, on a proposal by Dr. Doyle seconded by Mr. O'Flynn, was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Board deplores the Minister's decision not to include any member of the Eastern Health Board on the Health Education Bureau and requests that the Minister appoint members of the Eastern Health Board to the Bureau."

40/75 TRIENNIAL ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MEATH HOSPITAL BOARD

The following Report No. 17/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The present period of office of the Eastern Health Board representatives on the Meath Hospital Board expires on 6th April, 1975. It will be necessary for the Health Board to appoint eleven members to the Meath Hospital Board for a

three-year period commencing 7th April, 1975. For the information of members the current representatives on the Meath Hospital Board are:—

Mr. P. A. Brady, M.P.S.I., P.C.	" Santessa ", 14 Leicester Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6.
Mr. P. J. Burke	251 Swords Road, Santry, Dublin 9.
Senator John Boland	Skerries, Co. Dublin.
Cllr. J. Connolly	39 Hughes Road South, Walkinstown, Dublin 12.
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell, T.D.	66 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Cllr. Miss M. Ennis	Springhill, Garristown, Co. Dublin.
Mr. John J. Hunt, P.C.	94 Griffith Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9.
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist. Eastern Health Board, 1 James's Street, Dublin 8.
Cllr. J. Guinan	47 The Rise, Mount Merrion. Co. Dublin.
Dr. Angela McInerney	Huntstown House, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin.
Mr. Patrick Gallagher	Merchant Banking Ltd., 23 Clare Street, Dublin 2."

Mr. J. J. Nolan advised the Board that the Meath Hospital Board was a very important institution, as well as being an important member of the Federated Voluntary Hospitals Group, and felt that it would be in the best interest of the Eastern Health Board if three of the eleven members to be elected were officials of the Board. He suggested that the appointment of himself, Mr. P. J. Swords, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. T. McManus, Senior Executive Officer, would be appropriate. The members unanimously accepted his proposal and then proceeded to elect the remaining eight members. The following persons were proposed for membership:—

<i>Member</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Cllr. Mrs. Glenn	Dr. Walker	Alderman FitzGerald
Cllr. J. Guinan	Cllr. Sweeney	Mr. K. Harrington
Mr. P. J. Burke	Cllr. Sweeney	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. Mrs. Barlow	Cllr. M. Carroll
Alderman FitzGerald	Cllr. Mrs. Glenn	Deputy Dockrell
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. Brady	Mr. J. Corcoran
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Cllr. Durning	Dr. Doyle
Cllr. Mrs. Barlow	Cllr. Connolly	Cllr. C. Murphy
Mr. P. A. Brady	Mr. H. Corrigan	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. T. Hand	Cllr. D. Kinsella	Cllr. Mrs. Glenn
Mr. S. Kelly	Ald. FitzGerald	Cllr. T. Hand
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mr. D. O'Flynn	Ald. FitzGerald
Dr. A. McInerney	Mr. K. Harrington	Dr. J. S. Doyle
Mr. J. Hunt	Cllr. C. Murphy	Cllr. G. Doyle
Cllr. Miss Ennis	Cllr. C. Murphy	Cllr. G. Doyle

A Ballot was then held with the following scrutineers being appointed: Alderman FitzGerald, Cllr. Doyle and Mr. Elliott.

The following six members who received the most votes were elected: Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Dr. A. McInemey, Cllr. M. Carroll, Alderman A. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. D. Browne.

There was a tie between Cllr. Miss Ennis, Deputy Dockrell and Mr. P. J. Burke. Deputy Dockrell then withdrew, leaving Cllr. Miss Ennis and Mr. P. J. Burke to fill the remaining two places.

41/75

HOME DIALISES

The following Report No. 18/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Under circular letter Number H3/72 from the Department of Local Government, local authorities are empowered to give grants towards reconstruction or improvement work or the building of an additional room in a house occupied by a disabled person. This grant is altogether separate from the ordinary State and supplementary reconstruction grants for houses. The grants may be made by County Councils or county borough corporations to cover the total approved cost in the case of a non-vested local authority dwelling or, in all other cases, a maximum of two-thirds of the approved cost. Half of the local authority's grant expenditure is recouped by the Minister for Local Government subject to a maximum recoupment of £500 in any one case.

Local authorities have accepted that the adaptation of a house or building an extra room for the purpose of accommodating and operating a kidney dialysis machine comes within the scope of circular H3/72 and they have given grants or carried out the work themselves as appropriate in these cases. The shortfall which the patient or spouse would be required to meet would normally, therefore, be one-third of the cost of the work involved as assessed by the local authority. Of course if any additional work were done over and above that considered appropriate by the local authority the shortfall would be greater.

It can be assumed that in most cases patients who qualify for these home dialysis grants would own their own houses and might be expected to be in a position to meet their own proportion of the cost. There have, however, been instances where the Health Board considered that this would place an undue hardship on the patient or the individual on whom the

patient is dependent, and in these cases the Board made a contribution towards the cost of alterations or addition to house under Section 61 (Home Help Service) of the Health Act, 1970.

I propose to continue this policy for any such similar cases which arise, bearing in mind the cost of any necessary expenditure incurred by the applicant, such cost being based on the level of grant determined by the local authority. It is difficult to estimate the cost of this scheme in any year but a sum of £2,000 should cover contingencies."

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 18/1975 be noted."

42/75 FUTURE HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Letter of 25th February, 1975, from the Department of Health having been circulated was considered. Mr. J. J. Nolan referred to the previous decisions of the Board following study of Comhairie na n-Ospideil Reports. He suggested that as the Minister had asked the Board to consider the proposals outlined in his letter and to indicate whether they were in agreement with them, the Board should set up a small Sub-Committee to study the proposals and report back. He suggested that the Sub-Committee should as already selected consist of Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman; Dr. J. Mahon, Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. D. O'Flynn and Deputy H. P. Dockrell.

On a proposal by Mr. K. Harrington, seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

" Propose that the Board's Sub-Committee on Hospital Development meet to consider letter of 25/2/75 from Minister for Health on future Hospital Development and that the following should constitute the Sub-Committee: Cllr. P. Hickey, Chairman; Dr. J. Mahon, Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. D. O'Flynn and Deputy H. P. Dockrell."

43/75 MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The following Report No. 19/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

*" Transfer of Mass X-Ray Services to the
Eastern Health Board*

I wish to report that the Tanaiste and Minister for Health will shortly make a revocation order transferring the Mass X-Ray services to the Eastern Health Board. It is expected that the transfer will be effective from 1st April, 1975.

The possible dissolution of the Mass Radiography Board was considered by the Chief Executive Officer Group early in 1973 and the group was satisfied that with the dissolution of the Board the services could be operated by the Eastern Health Board, which would provide service on an agency basis to the other Health Boards.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act 1961 the Minister will dissolve the Mass X-Ray Board and transfer its property, rights and liabilities to the Eastern Health Board. It will also provide for the transfer of the holder of any office under the Mass Radiography Board to a similar office under the Eastern Health Board. The Department of Health has indicated that they will provide the necessary financial provisions to cover the cost of the transfer of this service to the Eastern Health Board. The following categories and number of staff will therefore be transferred to this Board with effect from 1st April, 1975:—

7 Radiographers
 1 Clerical Officer
 3 Clerk Typists
 2 Field Organisers
 1 Chief Technician
 2 Driver/Technicians 1
 Office Cleaner

The Medical Director and the Secretary of the Board will continue to operate the service to at least the 30th June, 1975.

Prof. B. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer, and Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, were the Eastern Health Board representatives on the Mass X-Ray Board."

After questions by Dr. Walker, Deputy Dockrell, Cllr. Kinsella and Dr. Doyle were answered by the Chief Executive Officer, the following motion, on a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn, was unanimously adopted:—

" That Report No. 19/1975 be noted."

44/75 TRAVELLING EXPENSES—REVISION

Circular 1/1975 from the Department of Health having been circulated was considered, after which the following resolution proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney, was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Board adopt the revised rates of Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowances in accordance with the terms of the enclosure attached to the circular 1/75 of 10/2/75 with effect from 1/7/74."

45/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 6th February, 1975, from Alderman A. FitzGerald advising that a voluntary organisation representative on the Dublin City Local Health Committee had been transferred to County Clare and asking the Board to agree to her replacement by Sr. Claude McDonald, Mount Argus Road, Harold's Cross, Dublin, who was also a voluntary social worker. The appointment of Sr. Claude McDonald was unanimously agreed to by resolution proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, seconded by Deputy Dockrell.
- (b) Letter from the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited was read asking the Board to nominate a member to its Company for the coming year. It was unanimously agreed that the existing representative, Cllr. M. Carroll; should be nominated by the Board for the coming year.
- (c) The following letter dated 28th February, 1975, from the Dublin Corporation was read:—

" I desire to inform you that An Coisde Teaghlachais, at its meeting held on the 13th instant, have considered the following resolution:—

'This Committee, having regard to current changes in community health care, resolve to allocate Corporation Dwellings of a suitable nature to persons who are currently in the care of the psychiatric section of the Eastern Health Board, and who are capable of being rehabilitated within the community if given an offer to avail of normal residential accommodation.

This Committee therefore requests the Corporation Officers to enter into discussions with the Eastern Health Board and to report back to the Housing Committee on the need and scale of the Eastern Health Board's requirements.'

and made a request that a report be obtained from your Board regarding this matter.

Perhaps you will let me have at your convenience a report for consideration by An Coisde."

It was agreed that the Programme Managers for Community Care and Special Hospital Care should examine the subject and report back.

- (d) Mr. J. J. Nolan informed the meeting of a letter dated 27/2/1975 from the Board's Architect advising that the old Boardroom on the frontage of James's Street is in an extremely dangerous condition and should be demolished. The relevant extract is as follows:—

" It was agreed by all the Technical Experts that the structural components of this building are now in doubt. These structural components consist of the walling, main beams to staircases, flooring and roof. It is considered that not alone should the building not be re-occupied but that it should be demolished at as early a stage as possible, in order that any possible danger to passers-by on the footpath outside the buildings may be removed. While this wall is one of the more obvious faults in the building, the recent stripping of sections and inspections have also revealed a lack of bonding in certain cases, the complete rotting of the main beams supporting the staircase, while the roof timbers, where possible to expose, have shown a considerable amount of rot."

The Welfare building adjacent to the Boardroom is also in a very poor condition and in view of the high fire risk involved is totally unsuitable for accommodating staff. It would accordingly be necessary for the Board to proceed as quickly as possible to get alternative accommodation preferably in the vicinity.

Dr. Walker and Deputy Dockrell contributed to the ensuing debate, after which the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and seconded by Mr. O'Flynn, was unanimously adopted:—

" That this Board, on consideration of the technical advices tendered re dangerous condition of the old Boardroom and the Welfare building adjoining, agree to the demolition of those buildings as soon as convenient and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised forthwith to procure suitable alternative accommodation for staffs so displaced, further, the Department of Health to be advised immediately of the situation."

46/75

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed, in view of the Easter Holidays, that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday, 10th April, 1975, at 6 p.m.

The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed: *Chairman.*

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 10th April, 1975, at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Brady	Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. T. Leonard
Or. R. Carroll	Dr. J. McCormick
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. M. McWey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. G. Doyle	Cllr. C. Murphy, T.D.
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D.
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Mr. K. Harrington	Dr. J. Walker
air. P. Hickey	

Apologies for Absence:

Mr. J. Corcoran. Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Cllr. T. Hand,
Dr. P. C. Jennings, Miss K. Kinsella.

In the Chair Cllr. P. Hickey, Chairman.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning and Evaluation Officer	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. J. Clarke	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	

47/75 GOOD WISHES

The Chairman advised the members of the illness of Miss K. Kinsella and they directed that their good wishes for her speedy recovery and return to Board duties be conveyed to her. The Chairman also welcomed Dr. J. McCormick on his return from illness.

47/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 6th March, 1975 having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. T. Leonard, seconded by Ald. A. FitzGerald.

Arising from the minutes Dr. Walker drew attention to a misspelling of "Dialysis" on Page 48 of the minutes.

49/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

The Reports of the following Committees having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Baltinglass. on 13th March, 1975: Noted.*
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home. Navan Rd.. on 12th March, 1975: Noted.*
- (c) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, on 19th March. 1975: Noted.*
- (d) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Legion Hostel on 20th March. 1975:*

The question of the fire hazard at this Institution was raised and the following motion was proposed by Dr. A. Meade and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow:—

" That the Board, from its own resources, remove the fire hazards in the Legion of Mary Hostels forthwith."

There was a wide ranging discussion to which the following members contributed: Doctors A. Meade. J. McCormick, J. O'Connell, T.D.; J. Walker, J. S. Doyle, Cllrs. Mrs. Glenn. Mrs. E. Lemass, Ald. A. FitzGerald, Mr. D. O'Flynn and Mr. M. Ruane. In the course of the discussion the Chief Executive Officer referred to previous reports adopted by the Board for the financing of the Health Services in 1975. In these reports it was indicated that the Minister had made an allocation of £23 5m. which in the Minister's opinion was sufficient to maintain on-going services at the level obtaining on 1st December,

1974. As the allocation of £23 5m. did not specifically provide for the elimination of fire hazards, it would be necessary for the Board to specify what services should be cut back to make the necessary funds available. The Chairman drew the attention of the Board to its decision made at the March meeting (Minute 36/75) approving of Capital Works for 1975.

Ald. A. FitzGerald also tabled the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. M. Ruane and unanimously adopted:—

" In view of the existing fire hazards in many of the Board's Institutions, that the Minister be requested to receive a deputation to discuss with him the provision of the requisite monies to have old buildings which have a services fire hazard brought up to the required safety standards."

It was also agreed that a list of the buildings requiring attention and the cost thereof should be submitted to the Board at its next meeting.

50/75

MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were noted:—

- (a) *Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 3rd March, 1975.*
- (b) *Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 20th March, 1975.*
- (c) *Wicklow Local Health Committee meeting held on 21st March, 1975.*

51/75

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON MISUSE OF DRUGS BILL 1973

The following Report was submitted by the Sub-committee:

'The Sub-committee, having adopted the report of its meeting held on 14th March, 1975 and considered the memorandum submitted by Or. Meenan in accordance with a decision made at that meeting, agreed to make the following recommendations to the Board:—

1. That Section 28 of the Bill be amended to ensure that any decisions regarding the provision of medical treatment in hospital or elsewhere for offenders should rest with the medical officer in charge of the hospital or other facility concerned, and that this medical officer should be consulted before any recommendation regarding medical treatment is submitted to the Court.
2. That special provision be made to ensure that persons charged with possession of drugs for illicit supply, i.e., drug " peddlers" or " pushers", are brought to trial speedily and the charges dealt with by the Court within a specific time.
3. That provision be made to empower the Pharmaceutical Society to inspect the premises and appropriate records of its members, and substances stored on such premises.
4. That (a) provision be made for the restriction of Barbiturates to hospital use only except for the treatment of epileptics, for whom special arrangements should be made;

 (b) the use of Methaquatone be prohibited and that Ritalin be subjected to the controls which now apply to Amphetamine.
5. That special provision be made to protect the confidentiality of doctor-patient records and of medical reports to the Court, which should be submitted direct by the Consultant without the intervention of any other agency."

Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 were adopted, but recommendations 4 and 5 gave rise to a wide ranging discussion to which Doctors J. McCormick, A. Meade, J. O'Connell, T.D.; J. Doyle, J. Cullen, J. R. Mahon, Mr. D. O'Flynn, Mr. H. Corrigan, Cllr. M. Brady, Cllr. D. Browne and Mr. K. Harrington contributed. The following amendment to Recommendation 4(a) was proposed by Dr. J. McCormick, seconded by Dr. J. Cullen and unanimously adopted:—

" That Recommendation 4(a) be deleted and the following substituted—' There is growing evidence of barbiturate abuse and that the regulations governing their prescription be strengthened in order to reduce this danger.'"

Recommendation 4(b) was accepted. The following amendment to Recommendation 5 was proposed by Dr. A. Meade and seconded by Dr. J. Cullen and agreed unanimously:— "

That Recommendation 5 of the Report be altered in the following way. by inserting after ' doctor-patient records' the words 'By amending Sections 23. Sub-section (c). Section 24, Sub-section (e) and Section 26. Paragraph (2) of the Bill by the addition of the words 'unless it is a medical record.'"

Subsequently, the following substantive motion proposed by Dr. A. Meade and seconded by Dr. J. Cullen was agreed unanimously:—

"That the Board accepts the recommendations contained in the Sub-committee report of the 1st April, 1975—Misuse of Drugs Bill, 1973. subject to the amendments as passed, viz.:

- (1) That Recommendation 4(a) be deleted and substituted as follows: 'That there is a growing evidence of barbiturates abuse and that the regulations governing their prescription be strengthened in order to reduce this danger.'
- (2) That Recommendation 5 be altered in the following manner by inserting after ' Doctor-patient records' the following words:' by amending Section 23, Sub-section (c). Section 24, Sub-section (e) and Section 26, Paragraph (2) of the Bill by the addition of the words ' unless it is a medical record.' "

52/75

TRAINING AND EMPLOYING OF THE HANDICAPPED

The following Report No. 22/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" I attach for your information the following:—

1. Report of a working party established by the Minister for Health on training and employing the handicapped.
2. Report of special committee established by the Board on workshops.

Report No. 1 contains in pages 60-65 very detailed recommendations and it is of interest to note that the working party estimates that of an estimated 100,000 adult handicapped persons in the country an estimated 15,000 might benefit from preparation and training for work. The working party recommends that the National Rehabilitation Board should, within the broad policies adopted by the Minister for Health, be the main executive agency concerned with the application of rehabilitation policies and should co-ordinate claims from the various bodies seeking support for handicapped services from the European Social Fund: a further recommendation is that An Comhairle Oiliuna (AnCO) should have the main role in the provision of training for the handicapped. The initial responsibility for identifying potentially handicapped persons and putting them on the path to employment will still rest with the Health Board.

The report of the Board's working party (Report No. 2) deals more specifically with psychiatry and the community workshop being built at Glasnevin. The recommendations do not conflict with the recommendations in the national report (Report No. 1). It will be noted that it is recommended that the community workshop at Glasnevin be used initially for psychiatric patients and that the project be managed by a company. This workshop will, in due course, provide for other handicapped groups and it is suggested that the Board might at this stage provide for the appointment of up to twelve directors to permit of the appointment of other persons who might have a special contribution to make to such a project, or who might have an interest in a particular class of handicap.

Members of the Board will be aware that Dublin County Council has leased to the Board, Burton Hall, and it is intended to develop a further community workshop there in conjunction with the industrial estate being developed there. It is suggested that funds from the E.E.C. should be applied towards this development.

It is clear that further community workshops will be needed in the region. Further information is necessary to determine the extent of our needs and the best possible locations of any further workshops. This information will be compiled as quickly as possible and a further report will be placed before the Board.

The implementation of the recommendations of both reports will provide a very worthwhile and necessary addition to the existing services for handicapped persons."

On a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. M. Carroll, the following motion was agreed to unanimously:—
"That the Board adopts Report No. 22/1975."

53/75

PROPOSED SALE OF RESERVOIR SITE AT TONGLAGEE

The following Report No. 20/1975, having been circulated in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, was submitted:—

" Resulting from the re-organisation of water supplies to St. Ita's Hospital, the above reservoir site is no longer required for use by the Eastern Health Board.

The Board's Valuer has assessed a valuation of £8,800 on the site and Dublin County Council have agreed to purchase it for this amount, in order to retain it in public ownership. The nett area of the site is 12 Acres, 3 Roods, 15 Perches and consists of land acquired in various small parcels for the purpose of providing a reservoir by the Joint Committee in 1903 and 1905. The area required by the County Council is shown in heavy outline on the map to be submitted at the meeting.

This report is submitted in conformity with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946. Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of 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 terms specified in the resolution.

if the Board resolves 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 shall 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 Dr. J. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 20/1975 be adopted."

54/75

STAFFING OF WELFARE HOMES

The following Report No. 21/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The Welfare Home at Ballymun is about to be handed over by the Contractor and that at Clonskeagh will be ready shortly. A post of Supervisor for each of these Homes has already been created and it is now necessary to provide for the following further staff for each Home:

- 1 Assistant Supervisor
- 1 Assistant Cook
- 4 Domestic

This is in line with the staffing approved generally by the Department of Health for such Homes throughout the country. The necessary budgetary allocation has been made in the Estimate of revenue expenditure arising from non-capital developments in 1975 approved by the Department. Accordingly, I request the Board's approval to the creation of the above posts."

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J Barlow, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 21/1975 be approved."

55/75

HOUSES AT MAYNOOTH PARK—PROPOSALS

The following Report No. 23/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Two adjoining semi-detached houses, Nos. 52 and 52A Maynooth Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, were purchased by the Board in 1973 for the purpose of providing psychiatric day treatment facilities for the area. Having regard to the attitude, of the local residents to the proposal as expressed to the Board's representatives at special recently convened meetings, it is now quite clear that the provision of any health facility at the above premises would not be acceptable. The Board's representatives made it clear to the residents that the proposed service would be of benefit to people from the area requiring treatment who would otherwise have to travel to St. Loman's Hospital, that the amenities of the area would not suffer by

reason of the establishment of the day centre but that if in the knowledge of these facts the residents still objected to the location of the service in the estate, the Board would not force the issue.

Having regard to the position as outlined above and to the desirability of releasing capital for use in other developments it is proposed, subject to the Board's approval, to dispose of the houses at Maynooth Park. It would be the intention to fix a reserve price which would cover the Board's acquisition and selling costs. The alternative purpose for which the capital released would be used would be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health. However, it is envisaged that it would be used in the development of Psychiatric services in the St. Loman's Hospital catchment area.

The Kildare Local Health Committee has been informed of the position and no objection has been raised to the proposed disposal of the property. The Board's approval in principal to the disposal of houses at 52 and 52A Maynooth Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, is requested.

Statutory report in conformity with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, will be submitted to the Board's May meeting."

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Brady, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Lemwt, the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

" That the Board approves of the proposals as set out in Report No. 23/1975."

56/75

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR TWO YEARS ENDING 31st March, 1973

The above Report was discussed at length, in particular comparative figures for the different hospitals for average weekly costs. Dr. J. McCormick suggested that Visiting Committees should examine how some hospitals were able to work so much more cheaply than others. The Chairman also suggested that local Voluntary Organisations visiting the Board's hospitals should be complimented on their work. The Finance Officer explained to the members the difficulty of comparing one Institution with another because of dissimilar in-patient types, capital debt charges, etc. After a discussion to which Dr. J. McCormick, Cllrs. Mrs. Lemass, C. Murphy, T.D.; J. Connolly and Mr. M. Ruane contributed, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow and seconded by Mr. K. Harrington was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Auditor's Report for years 1971/72 and 1972/73 be noted."

57/75

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 24/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The temporary borrowing, up to a limit of £6,000,000, during the month of March, to which the Board gave its consent at its meeting on 6th ultimo (Minute No. 34/75) was exercised to the extent of £5,336,513, which was the amount of an overdraft on 25th ultimo. An instalment of Grant, amounting to £1,950,000, was received from the Department of Health on the following day. That receipt and other movements on the account resulted in an overdraft of £3,332,756 at the end of the month.

The need for temporary borrowing, whether by overdraft accommodation or a combination of overdraft and other short-term financing, will continue during the coming months. It has been estimated that the maximum amount that will be required will be £6,000,000 before the receipt, at the end of this month, of the next instalment of Department of Health Grant.

It is necessary, therefore, to seek the Board's consent to the temporary borrowing of up to £6,000,000 until 30th instant. A report on the cash out-turn during April and subsequent borrowing requirements will be presented at the next meeting."

After a short discussion following which the Finance Officer outlined the reasons for the high level of overdraft, the Report was unanimously adopted on a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Mr. M. Ruane, as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 24/1975 be adopted."

58/75 INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE 1975

The following Report No. 25/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Since the revenue allocation of £23.5m. for Health Services in 1975 was notified by the Department of Health, the number of items involving expenditure in excess of the amounts provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1975 adopted by the Board at its meeting on 9th January, 1975, have been approved by the Minister. They are:—

<i>Employer/Trade Union National Agreement. 1974</i>		£
Cost of living "threshold" increase (10%) (Final 15th Round adjustment)		1,200,000
Salaries revision from 1st January, 1974: Chief Psychiatrists Clinical Directors, Senior Psychiatrists ..		21,000
Molyneux Home—Increased capitation rates _		6,000
Rehabilitation Training Courses: Revision of Main tenance Allowances _ _ _ _		2,600
Salary Review: Public Analysts _ _ _		2,700
Madonna House: Increased Capitation Rates _		10,000
Approved Schools: Increased Capitation Rates		63,000
Revised travelling and subsistence allowances Board members — _ _ _		2,300
Increased cost of fluoridation _ _ _		8,000
		£1,315,600

The Department has been advised that the allocation for on-going services in 1975 will have to be increased to provide for these increases."

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

" That Report No. 25/1975 be noted."

59/75

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion, proposed by Cllr. J. Connolly, was seconded by Cllr. M. Carroll:—

"That a Sheltered Workshop be provided in the Walkinstown area to cater for handicapped, physical and mental in Walkinstown and neighbouring areas."

Cllr. J. Connolly explained the reasons for his tabling the motion and Mr. Keyes replied, explaining the Board's problem in determining and carrying out a programme in order of priority. It was finally agreed that Mr. Keyes would arrange a meeting with the committee, possibly on Wednesday, 23rd April, 1975, if mutually convenient.

60/75 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter dated 3rd April, 1975 (Circ. 7/75) from the Department of Health was read notifying of the extension of the list of long-term diseases and disabilities in respect of which drugs, medicines and appliances may be supplied free

of charge irrespective of the patient's means. The conditions now being added to the prescribed list are Parkinsonism, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophies and acute leukaemia.

The members unanimously expressed their approval of these additions.

(b) Letter dated 19th March, 1975, from the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, thanking the Chief Executive Officer for

his co-operation in agreeing to nominate Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. P. J. Swords as representatives on the hospital committee. The members expressed their satisfaction at this arrangement and on a proposal by Mr. K. Harrington, seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn, the Board unanimously approved of Mr. Nolan and Mr. Swords

representing the Eastern Health Board on the Royal Hospital Management Committee.

61/75 PHARMACISTS

Mr. D. O'Flynn referred to the progress being made between the Pharmacists and the Minister on the question of an increase in rates for services and said the members should be pleased that what once looked like withdrawal of services was now unlikely to occur. Mr. H. Corrigan informed the meeting that no final decision had yet been made until the Pharmacists meet to consider the Minister's offer.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

EOGHAN O CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed: *Chairman.*

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 May. 1975 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Brady	Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. J. Corcoran	Cllr. M. McWey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell, T.D.	Deputy C. Murphy
Cllr. G. Doyle	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. M. Ruane
Alderman A. FitzGerald	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C.	Dr. J. Walker
Mr. K. Harrington	

Apologies for Absence:

Prof. J. S. Doyle, Cllr. T. Hand, Dr. P. C. Jennings,
Miss K. Kinsella and Dr. J. McCormick.

Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C., Chairman, presided-

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. F. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. K. Quinn
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistant	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	

62/75

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 10th April, 1975, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. T. Leonard. Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Connolly thanked Mr. Keyes for inspecting the Sheltered Workshop at Walkinstown. Mr. Corrigan also endorsed Cllr. Connolly's statement.

63/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

The reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Coiumcille's Hospital on 17th April, 1975.*

These minutes were noted following agreement to a request from Cllr. Carroll that the Eastern Health Board should press the Department of Health for the money needed to develop this hospital.

- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 16th April. 1975—Noted.*

64/75 MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were noted:—

- (a) *Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 7th April. 1975.*

- (b) *Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee meeting held on 25th March. 1975.*

Dr. Walker raised the question of whether these Minutes were properly before the Board, not having been confirmed by the local committee. It was explained to him that it was felt that it was in the best interest of these committees to have their deliberations reported to the Board as early as possible and they could be regarded as reports.

65/75 CAPITAL BUDGET 1975

The following Report No. 27/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"(a) New Works

In my Report No. 14/1975 to the March meeting of the Board details were given of capital monies allocated by the Department for ' new starts ' in the current year. The following is a brief outline of the position regarding these items:—

Work is now well advanced on the reconstruction of St. Kevin's Unit of St. Colman's Hospital to provide long-stay geriatric accommodation.

Tenders have been invited for the new 72-bed unit for mentally handicapped patients at St. Ita's Hospital, the updated cost of which is now estimated to be of the order of £330,000.

Tenders will shortly be invited for the renovating of the female block at St. Ita's Hospital, the revised estimate for which is £80,000.

Our proposals for Warrenstown House reconstruction and two health centres are being discussed with the Department.

(b) Section 65 Grants

A list of capital grants under Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953, amounting to £277,250, was submitted to the Department of Health. In addition, a sum of £63,000 was required for balances which were due in respect of capital grants paid in 1974 but not recouped by the Department. The total amount estimated for the current year was therefore £340,250.

Discussions have taken place between officers of the Board and of the Department regarding the list of proposed grants submitted. It was pointed out by the Department officials that a sum of £150,000 only would be available from capital funds, out of which £63,000 would be allocated to clear the old balances mentioned above. The Department officials agreed to round off the remaining £87,000 to £90,000, and stated that this sum should be divided amongst those voluntary organisations in respect of which proposals had already been approved by the Department of Health.

Having considered the matter with senior officers of the Board, I propose to allocate the funds available as follows:—

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Purpose of Grant</i>	<i>Proposed Allocation</i>
(1) Dun Laoghaire Old Folks Association	Equipment for community centre, Brookfield, Blackrock	£7500
(2) Moume Road Parish Committee	Contribution to building costs, Drimnagh community centre	£7,000
(3) Committee of St. John's House of Rest	Reconstruction work at St. John's House of Rest Merrion Road	£2500
(4) Dublin Central Mission	Hostel and Social Aid Centre. Marlborough Street	£35,000

applications would be reconsidered. In the meantime the Programme Manager, Community Care, had asked the Department of Health for more money for the Home Help Service. After a debate to which Cllrs. Oockrell, Connolly, Brady, Carroll, Doyle, Murphy and Mrs. Lemass and Alderman Fitz-Gerald, Deputy Murphy and Mr. Corrigan contributed, and to which the Programme Manager, Community Care, and the Chief Executive Officer replied, the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, was unanimously adopted:—

" That Report No. 27/1975 be adopted."

66/75 TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 26/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The limit of temporary borrowing, to meet current expenses, to which the Board gave its consent at its meeting on 10th April (Minute No. 57/75) is £6,000,000.

The nett outgoings until 30th June will require a continuance of temporary borrowing. It is estimated that the same upper limit as at present will be needed.

Accordingly, I request the Board's consent to temporary borrowing, up to £6,000,000, until 30th June. 1975."

Cllr. Dockreil asked the Finance Officer for a short explanation of the reasons for the overdraft position and the Finance Officer explained how the situation arose.

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Corrigan, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 26/1975 be adopted."

67/75 INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE 1975

The following Report No. 31/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Since the revenue allocation of £23 - 5m for health services in 1975 was notified by the Department of Health, a number of items involving expenditure in excess of the amounts provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1975 adopted by the Board at its meeting on 9th January. 1975, have been approved

by the Minister. Excess items totalling £1,315,600 were reported to the Board at its meeting on 10th April, 1975. The following items involve the Board in further additional expenditure:—

Increased fees for General Practitioners and Mid-wives, Domiciliary Maternity Scheme _____	
£40,000	
Increased rates of allowances for beneficiaries under the following schemes:—	
Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances_	
£225,000	
Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowances	£4,00
0	
Blind Welfare Allowances.....	£1,000
Grant to meet deficit of Cara Cheshire Home, Phoenix Park	£8,000
Increase in Board's liability for Social Welfare Insurance	£110,000
	£388,000

The Department has been advised that the allocation for on-going services in 1975 will have to be increased to provide for this increased expenditure."

On a proposal by Mr. D. O'Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

" That Report No. 31/1975 be noted."

68/75 REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

It was agreed that this report should be referred back to the June meeting for more detailed consideration.

69/75 DISPENSARY RESIDENCES

The following Report No. 29/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The Board has 25 dispensary residences located as follows:—

County Dublin (6)

Tallaght. Lusk. Oldtown, Kilgobbin, Rathcoole, Lucan.

County Wicklow (8)

Blessington, Aughrim, Arklow, Tinahely, Annamoe, Enniskerry, Kiltegan, Dunganstown.

County Kildare (11J)

Carbury, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Kilcullen, Kildare, Johnstown Bridge, Monasterevan, Newbridge, Kill, Kilcock.

The present position in relation to each of the dispensary residences is as follows:—

Occupied by serving District Medical Officers CO. DUBLIN

— Lusk, Oldtown. KILGOBBIN. CO. WICKLOW —

Blessington. AUGHHRIM, ARKLOW, DUNGANSTOWN. CO.

KILDARE — Carbury, Castledermot. CELBRIDGE.

JOHNSTOWN BRIDGE, NEWBRIDGE.

Occupied by District Medical Officers who have retired

CO. DUBLIN — Rathcoole, Lucan. CO. KILDARE

— Kill, Kilcock.

Occupied by Widows of former District Medical Officers

CO. KILDARE — Monasterevan.

Occupied (on a temporary basis) by a doctor participating in the Choice of Doctor Scheme CO. KILDARE —

Kilcullen.

Vacant

CO. DUBLIN — Taliaght.

CO. WICKLOW — Tinahely, Annamoe, Kiltegan. Enniskerry. CO:

KILDARE — Kildare, Clane.

In my Report No. 4/73 to the Board I recommended that, for the following reasons, the Board retain its ownership of residences:—

- (1) Sites and buildings, for health centres, homes, hostels and auxiliary facilities are costly and difficult to acquire and construct;
- (2) Several of the residences are situated in expanding areas. If the concept of Hostels and group homes presently being developed in the Special Hospital Care Programme proves worthwhile retention of ownership

would expedite the programme and save considerable Capital expenditure. Analogous facilities are likely to be needed in the expansion of the Community Care Programme.

- (3) In certain remote areas the residences may be the only means of ensuring that there is a doctor available for the purposes of the Choice of Doctor Scheme.

Since January, 1973, five serving District Medical Officers have asked that the Board sell the residences to them. Having given these applications careful consideration, I recommend that the residences at Lusk and Dunganstown be sold to the District Medical Officers occupying them. The location of each of these residences is such that they are unlikely to be required in the future as residences for doctors providing the General Practitioner Service or for the provision of any of the Board's services. I am unable, at this stage, to recommend to the Board the sale to the occupying District Medical Officers of the residences at Newbridge, Johnstown Bridge, and Arklow.

In relation to the seven residences which are vacant I recommend as follows:—

Tallaght, Co. Dublin

Use as an adjunct to the temporary health centre to cater for the increasing health and welfare needs of this rapidly developing area.

Annamoe, Co. Wicklow

Adapt for use as a holiday centre for young persons from Dublin and Wicklow. The usage of the Centre will be controlled by a Committee representative of the three associations which will use the Centre, i.e.. the Sunshine Fund, the West Cabra Parish Youth Group and the Bray Youth Council. The Board will be represented by an officer of the Community Care Programme.

Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow, and Clane, Co. Kildare

As the dispensary and residence in each case are under one roof the residences are being used for the holding of General Practitioner sessions. Child Health Clinics and for other health services.

Kildare Town

To be rented, if required, to the doctor appointed to fill the vacancy in the Choice of Doctor Scheme in Kildare Town.

Tinahely, Co. Wicklow

To be rented, on a temporary basis, to the Assistance Officer for the area.

Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

Since it is not required for any of the Board's purposes, the residence to be sold or rented on the open market."

Deputy Murphy enquired if the Dispensary at Annamoe would remain available to the local parish association when required and the Programme Manager advised him that he hoped that anyone who required the accommodation would come forward and request it. On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, the following motion was unanimously agreed to:—

"That the recommendations contained in Report No. 29/1975 be adopted."

70/75

**FIRE PRECAUTIONS—INTERIM
PROPOSALS**

The Chief Executive Officer submitted the following Report No. 30/1975 to which was attached a detailed report from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the situation existing in each of the Board's institutions.

" Following the last meeting of the Board I arranged that the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, would review the position in all institutions where the Board has responsibilities for the provision of adequate fire precautions. His comprehensive report is attached. The position is realistically appraised in the concluding paragraphs of Mr. Nolan's report. Where needs compete for funds allocated by the Minister it would be necessary for the Board to decide on priorities. In practical terms the Board might have to decide between spending monies to improve fire precautions and cutting back expenditure in other areas, e.g.. Child Health, Grants to Voluntary Organisations, domiciliary services such as Home Helps, Meals on Wheels, etc. The position in the lower house at St. Brendan's Hospital was the subject of a Parliamentary question recently and for the information of the Board I quote the Minister's reply.

Question

Mr. H. P. Dockrell asked the Minister for Health if he is aware that the Eastern Health Board has proposed structural work to improve fire escape facilities at St. Brendan's Hospital, Upper Grangegorman, Dublin 7; and if, in view of the fire hazard, he will sanction the proposal immediately.

Reply

Mr. Corish: I presume the Deputy refers to the proposals for fire precautions work at St. Brendan's Hospital which were put forward by the Eastern Health Board as part of a major renovation scheme for the lower house section of the hospital. Because of other priorities it is unlikely that this project, estimated to cost in all £167,000, could proceed this year.

However, to cope with the possible fire hazard the Health Board has submitted proposals for a night patrol service. I accept the principle of this arrangement and I will reply very shortly to the Health Board about the detailed arrangements which can be approved."

Alderman FitzGerald complimented Mr. Nolan and Mr. Keyes on the excellence of their report on the different institutions. After a further discussion to which Mr. Corrigan, Cllr. Sweeney and Cllr. Connolly contributed, it was agreed that the Board should await the arrival of the new Technical Services Officer when a meeting between him and the proposed deputation could be arranged so that the members would be fully briefed on the needs of the situation and the priorities. The following members were elected to form a deputation to the Minister:—

Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Carroll, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. D. Browne, Cllr. Hickey, Dr. Walker and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow.

71 /75

**SEMINAR—WATERFORD. 15-17 MAY, 1975
REVIEW OF THE HEALTH SERVICES**

Letter dated 10th April from the Department of Health was circulated advising that the Minister had arranged to hold a Seminar at the Ardree Hotel, Waterford, from 15th to 17th May inclusive and requesting the Board to nominate not more than three people to attend the Seminar. After a short discussion the members agreed that Cllr. J. Sweeney, Mr. D. O'Flynn and Dr. J. Walker should attend as representatives of the Board

72/75

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion proposed by Mr. D. O'Flynn was seconded by Dr. J. Walker:—

" That a Special Standing Committee of the Board be set up for Child Psychiatric Services."

Mr. O'Flynn outlined the reasons for his motion and the value which such a sub-committee would have. The Chief Executive Officer referred to sub-committee functions in the McKinsey Report which illustrated that developments of this kind in England slowed proceedings and delayed decision making. He did not want to influence the members, only to advise them. Mr. Corcoran thought that the matter should be referred back for deeper consideration. Mr. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, referred to the question of standing sub-committees and informed the members of the existence of a Committee on Mental Handicap which included officers of the Board and consultants from the voluntary groups involved. This Committee was doing very valuable work in the integration of services and instead of setting up another Committee, the Board might consider associating some of the members with the joint Committee. After consideration it was unanimously agreed that the following members should represent the Board on the joint Committee:—

Mr. D. O'Flynn. Mr. M. Bermingham. Dr. J Walker and Mr. M. Ruana. .

73/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Chairman read letter dated 4th April from Dr. B. McCaffrey, Clinical Director, advising that Mr. Colfer, Manager, Fairyhouse Race Course, had invited twelve patients and three of the staff from St. John's Day Centre to a day's racing at Easter. Mr. Hickey commended the Race Course Company for its public spirit and the members directed that their appreciation of the generosity shown by the Company should be conveyed to them.
- (b) Mr. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, referred to a report of March, 1975, from a firm of Management Consultants regarding the future Administrative Structure of the Federation and St. James's. As the report included a reference to a membership quota for the Eastern Health Board in a proposed new Group Board, very careful attention would need to be given by the ten Eastern Health Board representatives on the St. James's Hospital Board to any pending developments in that regard.

- (c) Reference was also made to an article in the *Irish Medical Times* of 11 th April regarding a proposed geriatric service re-organisation. Items in the article had given rise to a considerable amount of unfounded misunderstanding and annoyance among physicians involved in the admission of patients. A meeting has been arranged with the physicians involved at which the actual position would be made clear to all concerned.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 p.m.

CORRECT:

**E. O CAOIMH,
Chief Executive Officer.**

Signed: Chairman.

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 5th June. 1975 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. P. Hickey. P.C.
Mr. M. Birmingham	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. D. Browne	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. J. Corcoran	Cllr. M. McWey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. A. Meade
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Deputy C. Murphy
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. O. O'Flynn
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. T. Hand	Dr. J. Walker
Mr. K. Harrington	

Apologies for Absence:

Miss M. Lacey and Dr. J. McCormick.

Councillor Patrick Hickey, P.C, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. J. Sadlier	Tech. Services Officer	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	

74/75

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the members of the recent bereavements suffered by Mr. P. J. Swords—his mother, Mr. E. Kinsella—his wife, and Dr. L. Murphy—her father. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the persons bereaved.

75/75 TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER

The Chairman introduced Mr. J. Sadlier, the new Technical Services Officer, and the members welcomed him.

76/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 1st May, 1975, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. M. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn.

Arising from the Minutes, Mr. D. O'Flynn informed the members of the very successful Seminar held in Waterford. Each health board was represented as well as many professional organisations. He advised them that the Minister had promised a report on the proceedings, which he was sure would be of tremendous interest to all the members. Also, Cllr. Connolly enquired as to when the Board's deputation would be meeting the Minister regarding fire precautions in the different institutions. Mr. Nolan advised him that the new Technical Services Officer was examining the position as a matter of urgency and as soon as possible a fully documented report would be available so that the members could be fully briefed for their meeting with the Minister.

77/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

The Reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Clonskeagh Hospital on 12th May, 1975—*noted.
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee held at St. Patrick's Home on 18th April, 1975—*noted.
- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Industrial Therapy Unit, Hanbury Lane, on 14th May, 1975.*

Mr. Corrigan urged that a new printing machine should be purchased for the Hanbury Lane Unit and said that he would like to see improved after care facilities being developed for the patients there.

- (d) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin on 29th April, 1975—*noted.
- (e) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. John's House, Seafield Road, on 21st May, 1975—*noted.

- (f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Clare's Home, Glasnevin, on 24th April, 1975.*

Dr. Meade expressed concern about the fire precautions at this institution. He was advised that it was hoped to have a scheme submitted to the Minister before September which would remove any problems. In the meantime the Board utilised the service of a night watchman.

- (g) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at New Welfare Home, Ballygall Road, on 22nd May, 1975.*

The members were unanimous in expressing their pleasure in the very high standard of this new home.

78/75

MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were noted:—

- (a) *Dublin City Meeting held on 30th April, 1975.*
 (b) *Dublin County Meeting held on 5th May, 1975.*

Or. Meade expressed the view that the Board should go ahead with Community Care teams in Kildare and Wicklow and he agreed to put down a resolution to this effect at a future meeting.

79/75

JAMES CONNOLLY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

At this stage in the meeting the Chairman, with the permission of the meeting, gave the members the outline of the situation obtaining at the above hospital in regard to the employment of a non-Irish citizen. He felt that this way the members would be fully informed as to the exact position instead of relying on press reports and rumours.

80/75

DISPOSAL OF HOUSES AT MAYNOOTH

The following report No. 28/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer is submitted:—

"The Board at its April, 1975, meeting adopted Report No. 23/1975, dated 4th April, 1975, recommending the sale of semi-detached houses at 52 and 52A, Maynooth Park. The houses, on a site of approximately one-eighth of an acre, were purchased in fee simple in August, 1973, at a total cost

of £15.605 from Vaughan Builders Ltd., Maynooth, for use as a psychiatric day care facility and the circumstances dictating disposal at this time were outlined in the above-mentioned report.

As members may be aware, certain structural modifications were provided for by the builder at the request of the Board prior to construction. The nett effect of these modifications is that the two houses can be operated as one unit. As a result the Board, in offering the property for sale, has the option of (a) selling the property as one unit, or (b) undoing the above-mentioned modifications and selling each house separately. In the event, as a result of contact established through the good offices of the academic staff of Maynooth College, it has been possible to conclude an arrangement whereby the English Province, Christian Brothers, will purchase the houses as they stand for a sum of £16.750. This arrangement has the advantages from the Board's point of view of (i) facilitating quick sale, and (ii) avoiding further costly structural adaptations. For these reasons sale in accordance with the terms set out above is recommended.

This report is submitted in conformity with 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 date of 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 terms specified in the resolution.

If the Board resolves 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 is to be effected, the property may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be disposed of in the manner set out above."

On a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. McWey, it was resolved unanimously as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 28/1975 be adopted."

81/75

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL OFFICES

The following Report No. 32/1975 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"(a) The Department of Education are making a school available to be operated in association with the Castleknock Child Treatment Centre. The school is located in the Phoenix Park and the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, has recommended the creation of an additional office of full-time Social Worker and one nursing aid for assignment to this school which will cater for disturbed children.

I propose, with the consent of the Board, to seek the sanction of the Minister for Health to the creation of the additional office, which will not be provided until 1976. The cost, which should be included in the 1976 budget, will be approximately £5,500.

(b) The Welfare Home at Ballygall Road is ready for occupation and a Supervisor has been appointed. Other staff already approved will be recruited as required. In this connection it has been established that a male Porter/Caretaker will also be required for portering and other heavy duties and for security purposes. Subject to the Board's agreement to the creation of such a post, for which the rate of remuneration is £36-85 per week, I propose to advise the Department of Health that it will be possible to meet the cost out of the budgetary allocation notified by the Department in letter HSG 330 of 12th March. 1975."

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Sweeney, the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board approve the proposals outlined in Report No. 32/1975."

82/75

CHILDREN'S UNIT. ST. ITA'S HOSPITAL

The following report No. 33/1975 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, has under consideration the dedesignation of the Children's Unit, St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane. This is a residential Unit catering for fifty-three (53) mentally handicapped children in the

moderate/severe/profound range. It is the only Unit for mentally handicapped children under the direct control of the Board. The Unit is attached to St. Ita's Psychiatric Hospital but is located about 200 yards from the nearest building which is part of the St. Ita's Hospital complex. Because it forms part of the Psychiatric Hospital, admissions to the Unit are mad* under procedures laid down in the Mental Treatment Acts. These are clearly defined regulations drawn up to protect the psychiatric patient against unlawful detention. They in no way relate to the mentally handicapped patient, particularly the mentally handicapped child. I propose, with the approval of the Board, to dedesignate the buildings known as the Children's Unit and the surrounding land used as a play area, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

It will be necessary to develop a programme for these children based on programmes in similar institutions. The aim will be to simulate as far as possible within the units the activities of a normal family. The children will need to be divided into smaller, more manageable groups. Staffs will need to be redeployed to provide for house parents. This will involve adjustment of rosters, etc., and will be the subject of discussions with appropriate staff. It is proposed to convert 9 building in the grounds to provide a Social Therapy Department and the Minister has been asked to approve of the appointment of two teachers and two assistants to provide for the education of the children. This school will not be approved by the Department of Education but I consider that the provision of education would be beneficial for at least some of the children. There is a need for a psychologist, a social worker, a speech therapist, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist in the unit. It has always been difficult to get these type of staff in St. Ita's but the heads of the appropriate departments have been asked to see in what way these staffs can be provided from within existing complements even on a part-time basis.

The foregoing is not in any way intended as a reflection on the existing staff in St. Ita's. In fact, this staff has always provided a very loyal and dedicated service at times under most difficult circumstances and without the facilities that are absolutely essential to the efficient running of a service of this type."

Mr. Nolan explained to the members that a full report of the progress made by the committee for the mentally handicapped who were updating the position would be submitted

to the Minister shortly, after which Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, would be in a much better position to complete plans in this field. Mr. Birmingham felt that the Department of Education were not doing enough to assist, as mentally handicapped was more an education problem. After a lengthy discussion to which Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Mr. Ruane, Mr. Birmingham, Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. O'Flynn and Cllr. Connolly contributed, and to which Mr. Keyes replied, the following resolution, on a proposal by Mr. O'Flynn, was seconded by Dr. Jennings and was unanimously adopted:—

"That Report No. 33/1975 be approved and adopted."

83/75

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR THE TALLAGHT AREA

The following report No. 34/1975 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer submitting a report from Professor Ivor Browne, Chief Psychiatrist, was submitted:—

"The Board adopted Report No. 27/1974 of 31st May, 1974. regarding a breakdown of the existing psychiatric catchment area based on St. Loman's Hospital into:

- (a) North Kildare.
- (b) Tallaght.
- (c) The remainder of the existing St. Loman's area.

The existing population of St. Loman's area is estimated at 250,000 people, which is more than double what was intended as the normal catchment area population. In my report to the Board I mentioned that a further communication would be submitted in relation to the proposed staffing of the Tallaght area and I now propose that, subject to the approval of the Board and Comhairle na n-Ospideal, two posts of Consultant Psychiatrist be provided for this particular area.

Tallaght will be a new catchment area and it is essential that we utilise to the full the benefits of our experience in psychiatry in recent times. There will accordingly be a major emphasis on community work, it is proposed that the catchment area will be linked with a Psychiatric Demonstration Unit proposed by Professor Ivor Browne, in the attached report, and that initially the service for the area would be based on the Demonstration Unit under the control of Professor Browne.

This proposal would have the following advantages:

1. Professor Browne himself wishes to remain clinically involved and it would meet this need.
2. It is essential that we develop the concept of community psychiatry in this area and utilise proven practices in psychiatry which are beneficial for patients, and which are efficient and economic.
3. Professor Browne is anxious to link up with the proposed Psychosomatic Unit which the Board has already approved and he is also anxious to examine possibilities of further development in the Psychiatric Service using this Catchment Area as a base.

Some reconstruction work would need to be done to the Unit at Garden Hill and this is likely to be in the region of £10,000 and there would be a revenue running costs in respect of the two Senior Psychiatrists estimated at £16,000 per annum. In the early stages of development the facilities available to the existing St. Loman's Catchment Area would be utilised to the full and it is unlikely that the additional costs arising in the 1976 year would exceed £25,000 per annum. It would not be possible at this stage to know whether the money needed will be made available for this project, but I propose to submit, subject to the approval of the Board, this proposal to the Minister for inclusion in that year's budget.

There is extreme pressure on the resources in this Catchment Area at this time and it is important that alternative arrangements be made for the North Kildare and Tallaght Areas within the next year.

' For some time past it has become apparent that there is a need within the psychiatric service for a special psychiatric treatment unit responsible to and under the personal supervision of the Chief Psychiatrist which would serve as a demonstration and training centre for the development of new techniques and skills and the establishment of standards of treatment and care which would be applied throughout our service.

As you are aware, the area Psychiatric Services have been developing along the general organisational lines set out in the major policy reports accepted by the Board and the Department of Health. For one reason and another the emphasis on particular aspects of the programme has varied

somewhat in different areas. Much useful work has been done and a great deal of valuable experience gained in recent years. The absence of a rigid, stereotyped approach has, in itself, contributed much to this. However, it must be said that while a significant part of our work is now being done outside the hospitals, the emphasis has still tended to be on the treatment of sickness instead of mental health. In other words, what is happening to a large extent is that we are doing in new locations and under greatly improved conditions the same kind of work as we formerly did in, for example, St. Brendan's. Because of this, we have failed to realise the full potential of the new organisational structure and of the teams working within it.

The plan for the re-organisation of the service on a community basis postulated that our area Psychiatric teams working within this new structure would be doing a specific type of mental health work. The continued existence of the large mental hospital, even though its role has altered substantially, has undoubtedly retarded the area teams in developing the new methods needed to get the greatest possible benefits from the new structure. Without underestimating the value of the community work which the area teams are doing, it is clear that under existing conditions this position is unlikely to change.

Now that we are within sight of dividing the nurses into separate teams, of a more effective application of the team principle to the mental health teams in sub-areas and the introduction of a new grade of Community Mental Health Nurse, the implementation of the policy to establish multi-disciplinary medical staff, it seems to me that the time is particularly opportune to proceed with the establishment of a Demonstration Unit.

Broadly the functions of the Demonstration Unit would be to provide a day service related to a particular area—preferably to a new catchment area such as Tallaght—with a small number of beds for in-patient care. In this unit pilot schemes would be developed and implemented under my direct control as Chief Psychiatrist. The work of the unit would include the development of new forms of therapy and their critical evaluation—group methods, family therapy, mental health consultation with other primary health care professionals, teachers, police, etc. Its work would also include crisis intervention and other forms of short-term care and early case-finding.

While the work of the centre would be related closely to a real non-selective area service, its main concern would be with the development of new treatments and programmes and their evaluation with emphasis on better delivery of mental health care.

It is envisaged that the unit would be located in the Garden Hill premises now serving as a Child Treatment Centre. The building will need to be suitably extended to provide for a small number of beds and some other facilities, but for the present admissions could be to St. Loman's.

This unit would require the following staff:—

2 Senior Psychiatrists—this involves the creation of new posts.	
1 Registrar	
1 Clinical Psychologist	All from within existing
1 Social Worker	staff complements.
Nurses	

The work of the unit would be subject to strict ongoing examination and methods of demonstrated value would be applied in the other catchment areas.

The Demonstration unit would function in association with the Psycho-Endocrine and Psychosomatic Units on the Garden Hill Site, and would develop links with the Irish Foundation for Human Development, the entire complex becoming the main Professorial Centre for the Department of Psychiatry.

Finally, the unit would supply an important facility to assist the Eastern Health Board to meet its commitments to train its own mental health staff. The type of re-training envisaged would improve levels of efficiency throughout the mental health service."

After a discussion to which Mr. Ruane, Mr. O'Flynn, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Connolly and Miss Kinsella, Dr. O'Connell, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Mahon, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and Dr. Cullen contributed and to which Mr. Keyes replied, it was unanimously agreed to defer this report to the July meeting, on a proposal by Dr. O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow.

84/75 MISUSE OF DRUGS BILL 1973

The following letter dated 15th May from the Department of Health was submitted:—

" I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to your letter of the 22nd April regarding the Misuse of Drugs Bill 1973 and to state that the contents have been noted.

In relation to item 2 of your letter, the matter involved is one which concerns the functioning of the judicial process and the legal administration system generally and it would not be practicable to make specific provision in the Bill for selective treatment in the case of drug offenders as distinct from other kinds of offenders.

With regard to item 4 of your letter, the controls to be applied to the availability and distribution of the various substances included in the Schedule will be provided for in regulations to be made under Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill and the nature and extent of these controls will be determined in consultation with the various professionals and trade interests, etc., involved in due course.

The provisions of Sections 23 and 26 of the Bill, referred to under item 5, are specifically directed only against persons suspected of unlawfully having controlled drugs or incriminating documents, etc., in their possession. It is extremely unlikely that these powers would be used to confiscate or gain access to medical records unless, for instance, the practitioner concerned were himself suspected of trafficking in drugs. In view of the ease with which drugs can be concealed, etc., it is necessary that the Gardai should have fairly flexible powers to enable them to enforce the law. It would not be practicable to make an exception in the case of medical records since an equally good case could be made for exempting other confidential documents, and to list all the exceptions exhaustively would be both impracticable and self-defeating.

With regard to Sections 24 and 28 of the Bill, the Minister is considering certain suggested changes in conjunction with a number of other proposals for amendment of the Bill at Committee Stage. Details of these amendments will be publicised at the appropriate time."

Dr. Meade expressed the view that the reply was totally unsatisfactory and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Sub-Committee on the Misuse of Drugs Bill, to arrange a meeting with the Department of Health officials to discuss the points made by the Board members more fully.

Mr. O'Flynn mentioned that he would be attending a meeting tomorrow, Friday 6th, with various organisations who were studying this problem and that he would advise those attending the meeting of the Board's views on this subject.

85/75

**TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN LANDS AT OBERSTOWN.
LUSK**

The following report No. 35/1975 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At its monthly meeting on 5th February, 1975, the Board consented to the proposal to transfer the leasehold interest of Mrs. Mary E. Brennan, 30, Crumlin Road, Dublin, in the Board's lands at Oberstown to Mr. Mark Sheeny, 37, Glen view North, Swords, Co. Dublin—minute 22/75 refers.

Notification has been received from Mr. Sheeny's solicitor that his client is now unable to proceed with his intention to take over the land for market gardening and requesting as an alternative the Board's permission to transferring the interest to Mr. Peter O'Brien, 11, Ardbeg Crescent, Coolock, Dublin 5. Mrs. Brennan's solicitor has also formally applied for the Board's consent to this alternative transfer.

The Board's Law Agent has secured satisfactory personal references as to Mr. O'Brien's suitability and as to his ability to meet the rents of £470 per annum. In addition, Mrs. Bierman wtt guarantee the rent for the duration of Mr. O'Brien's ownership. Mr. O'Brien intends to use the property as a residence and for farming purposes.

In accordance with the Law Agent's advice, I proposa to give consent to the transfer of Mrs. Brennan's leasehold interest in the lands to Mr. Peter O'Brien. Mrs. Brennan will be responsible for the Law Agent's costs."

On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Alderman FitzGerald, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 35/1975 be adopted."

86/75

NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) The following motion in the name of Cllr. J. Connolly was seconded by Mr. Corrigan:

" I propose that the Capital Grants be increased by £400 and that this amount be allocated to the Sacred Heart Club for Handicapped, Walkinstown, for material and equipment to keep the handicapped in the Club active"

After a discussion on the motion, Cllr. T. Hand proposed that the following amendment be made to the motion, viz., add the following words " as soon as convenient." The proposer accepted the amendment and on being put as a substantive motion it was unanimously adopted.

(ii) The following motion proposed by Or. Cullen was seconded by Deputy Dr. O'Connell:

"The Eastern Health Board request the Minister for Health, as a matter of urgency, to amend existing legislation so as to enable seriously disturbed or dangerous patients to be removed to secure accommodation within a secure unit."

Dr. Cullen explained the reasons for the motion and it was supported by Dr. O'Connell. After a lengthy discussion to which Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Dr. Meade, Alderman Fitzgerald, Dr. Jennings, Miss Kinsella, Mr. Corcoran and Dr. Cullen contributed, it was agreed to convey the terms of the resolution to the Minister for Health and in the meantime to get legal advice on the problem.

(iii) The following motion, proposed by Dr. Walker, was seconded by Mr. O'Flynn:

"That the Eastern Health Board being composed of persons concerned in the provision of medical and welfare services, establish and organise a Benevolent or Friendly Society, amongst the principal aims of which will be:—

1. The maintenance' of contact with retired or former members of the Eastern Health Board and their families.
2. The establishment of a fund to be managed in such a way as to permit of the provision of realistic assistance to retired or former members of the staff of the Eastern Health Board where such persons are affected by hardship, deprivation, distress or disability."

Dr. Walker outlined the reasons and the hoped for objectives of the motion. The following members contributed to the discussion: Mr. O'Flynn, Dr. O'Connell, Mr. Ruane and Mr. Corrigan, following which the members agreed to a suggestion by the Chief Executive Officer that a working party of about three members should meet the Personnel Officer and discuss the various implications of the motion and the best way of achieving its intentions. The following working party was then selected: Dr. Walker, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and the Chairman, Cllr. P. Hickey.

(iv) The following motion proposed by Dr. O'Connell, seconded by the Chairman, Cllr. Hickey, was unanimously agreed to:

"That all applicants for medical cards receive a copy of the guideline standards for determination of eligibility for a medical card, and that, in addition, these guideline standards be published in the press at regular intervals."

87/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter from Solicitors for the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board dated 15th May, 1975. seeking the Board's consent to transfer of a portion of the hospital property contained in the Corduff area C.P.O. to Dublin Corporation was read. The members agreed unanimously to consent to the request.
- (b) Letter dated 12th May, 1975, from the Western Health Board containing the following resolution re registration of wills and seeking the Board's support in the matter was read:


" That realising the injustices which result from the absence of a Scheme for the compulsory registration of Wills throughout the State, and pending the introduction of legislation to make the registration of such Wffls obligatory, the Western Health Board make arrangements applicable to the Institutions under its care in the Counties of Gatway, Mayo and Roscommon for the keeping of records by the Matron or other designated officer of the respective Institutions of the names of patients who are visited by Solicitors for the purpose of making Wills, the dates of the making of such Wills and the names of the Solicitors engaged."

The members unanimously agreed to support the resolution and to advise the Minister for Justice of its support for this resolution.

The meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.

E. O CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer.



Chairman.

3/7/95

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Annual Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital. Grangegorman, on Thursday, 3rd July. 1975. at 6 p.m.

Present.

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
Cllr. M. Brady
Cllr. M. Carroll
Cllr. J. Connolly
Mr. H. Corrigan
Dr. J. Cullen
Cllr. G. Doyle
Cllr. J. Durning
Ald. A. FitzGerald
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
Cllr. T. Hand
Cllr. P. Hickey. P.C.
Dr. P. C. Jennings

Cllr. D. Kinsella
Miss K. Kinsella
Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. T. Leonard
Dr. J. McCormick
Cllr. M. McWey
Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. A. Meade
Mr. D. O'Flynn
Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Sweeney
Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. K. Harrington and Dr. J. O'Connell. T.D

In the Chair:

Cllr. P. Hickey, Chairman.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Mr. J. Sadlier	Technical Services Officer	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. J. Clarke	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistant	

88/75 CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

The Chairman, at the commencement of the meeting, reviewed the work of the current year and paid a tribute to both the members and the officers for their achievements.

89/75 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. D. O'Flynn was nominated for the position of Chairman by Dr. Meade and seconded by Dr. Jennings and there being no further nominations Mr. O'Flynn was declared elected unanimously. He was congratulated by many of the members who wished him luck in his new position. He then took the chair. He paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. P. Hickey, and the members were unanimous in endorsing the Chairman's remarks.

90/75 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The following candidates were proposed:—

Cllr. M. Carroll —Proposed by Cllr. Hand.
Seconded by Cllr. Duming.

Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C. —Proposed by Cllr. Sweeney.
Seconded by Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass.

A vote was taken, resulting in thirteen votes for Cllr. Carroll and eleven for Cllr. Hickey, with two abstentions. The voting was as follows:

For Cllr. Carroll:

Cllr. M. Brady, Cllr. Carroll, Mr. J. Corcoran, Dr. J. Cullen, Cllr. J. Durning, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. T. Hand, Dr. Jennings, Dr. McCormick, Cllr. McWey, Dr. Meade, Mr. M. Ruane.

For Cllr. Hickey:

Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. G. Doyle, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Kinsella, Miss Kinsella, Miss M. Lacey, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. T. Leonard, Dr. J. Mahon, Cllr. J. Sweeney, Dr. J. Walker.

Councillor Carroll was then elected.

91/75 VISITING COMMITTEES

The constitution of both the hospital groups and the members thereof was examined and the following groupings and members for 1975/6 were agreed:—

VISITING COMMITTEES 1975/76

<i>Hospitals</i>	<i>Members</i>
No. 1 Visiting Committee	
A. Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital — —	Cllr. M. Carroll Miss M. Lacey Dr. J. McCormick
B. St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum _ —	Cllr. J. Sweeney Deputy
C. District Hospital, Wicklow — _ ..	H. P. Dockrell Cllr. D. Kinsella Deputy C.
D. District Hospital, Baltinglass	Murphy Cllr. T. Hand
E. Vergemount Hospital. Clonskeagh — —	Mr. K. Harrington Cllr. J. Durning
F. St Coiumcille's Hospital. Loughlinstown	
G. Welfare Home, Clonskeagh — — —	
No. 2 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Brendan's Psychiatric Hospital	Mr. H. Corrigan Miss K. Kinsella Ald. A.
B. Bru Chaoimhin. Cork St.. Dublin _ _ —	FitzGerald Mr. M. Ruane
C. Old Coombe Day Centre _... _ — —	Cllr. T. Leonard Deputy
D. Industrial Therapy, Hanbury Lane — —	Dr. J. O'Connell Dr. J. Walker Cllr. J. Connolly
E. Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum — —	Cllr. D. Browne
F. Usher's Island (Forensic) _ _ — —	
G. St. Patrick's Home, Dublin 7 — — —	
No. 3 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane	Dr. P. C. Jennings
B. County Hospital, Naas	Cllr. M. Brady Cllr. P. Hickey Mr. D. O'Flynn Mr. M. Birmingham Dr. J. Cullen Cllr. M. McWey Cllr. G. Doyle
C. St. Vincent's Hospital. Athy _.....-	
D. St. Gabriel's Day Centre. Clontarf.....	
E. Cherry Orchard Hospital	
F. St. Brigid's Home. Crooksling	
No. 4 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Mary's Hospital. Phoenix Park	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
B. St. Loman's Psychiatric Hospital. Ballyowen & Aux. Day Centre. Crumlin	Dr. J. S. Doyle Dr. R. Carroll Dr. J. R. Mahon Dr. A. Meade
C. Usher's Island (Child Psychiatry) _ _	Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
D. Legion Hostel, North Brunswick St. —	Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
E. Mount Pleasant, Ranelagh (Psychiatric Day Centre and Hostel) _____ — — —	Mr. J. Corcoran
F. Daneswood. Glasnevin (Psychiatric Hostel) _ _.....-	
G. St. Clare's Home. Glasnevin	
H. Welfare Home. Ballymun	

88/75 CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

The Chairman, at the commencement of the meeting, reviewed the work of the current year and paid a tribute to both the members and the officers for their achievements.

89/75 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. D. O'Flynn was nominated for the position of Chairman by Dr. Meade and seconded by Dr Jennings and there being no further nominations Mr. O'Flynn was declared elected unanimously. He was congratulated by many of the members who wished him luck in his new position. He then took the chair. He paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. P. Hickey, and the members were unanimous in endorsing the Chairman's remarks.

90/75 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The following candidates were proposed:—

Cllr. M. Carroll —Proposed by Cllr. Hand.
Seconded by Cllr. Durning.

Cllr. P. Hickey, P.C. —Proposed by Cllr. Sweeney.
Seconded by Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass.

A vote was taken, resulting in thirteen votes for Cllr. Carroll and eleven for Cllr. Hickey, with two abstentions. The voting was as follows:

For Cllr. Carroll:

Cllr. M. Brady, Cllr. Carroll, Mr. J. Corcoran, Dr. J. Cullen, Cllr. J. Durning, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. T. Hand, Dr. Jennings, Dr. McCormick, Cllr. McWey, Dr. Meade, Mr. M. Ruane.

For Cllr. Hickey:

Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. G. Doyle, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Kinsella, Miss Kinsella, Miss M. Lacey, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. T. Leonard, Dr. J. Mahon, Cllr. J. Sweeney, Dr. J. Walker.

Councillor Carroll was then elected.

91/75 VISITING COMMITTEES

The constitution of both the hospital groups and the members thereof was examined and the following groupings and members for 1975/6 were agreed:—

VISITING COMMITTEES 1975/76

<i>Hospitals</i>	<i>Members</i>
No. 1 Visiting Committee	
A. Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital — —	Cllr. M. Carroll Miss M. Lacey Dr. J. McCormick
B. St. Colman's Hospital. Rathdrum — —	Cllr. J. Sweeney Deputy
C. District Hospital, Wicklow — .. —	H. P. Dockrell Cllr. D. Kinsella Deputy C.
D. District Hospital. Baltinglass — — —	Murphy Cllr. T. Hand
E. Vergemount Hospital. Clonskeagh — —	Mr. K. Harrington Cllr.
F. St. Columcille's Hospital. Loughlinstown	J. Durning
G. Welfare Home. Clonskeagh — — —	
No. 2 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Brendan's Psychiatric Hospital	Mr. H. Corrigan Miss K. Kinsella Ald. A.
B. Bru Chaoimhin. Cork St.. Dublin _ —	FitzGerald Mr. M. Ruane
C. Old Coombe Day Centre _ _ — —	Cllr. T. Leonard Deputy
D. Industrial Therapy. Hanbury Lane — —	Dr. J. O'Connell Dr. J. Walker Cllr. J. Connolly
E. Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum — —	Cllr. D. Browne
F. Usher's Island (Forensic) — — —	
G. St. Patrick's Home, Dublin 7 .__ _	
No. 3 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Ita's Hospital. Portrane	Dr. P. C. Jennings
B. County Hospital, Naas ... _	Cllr. M. Brady Cllr. P. Hickey Mr. D.
C. St. Vincent's Hospital. Athy _	O'Flynn Mr. M.
D. St. Gabriel's Day Centre. Oontarf.....	Birmingham Dr. J. Cullen Cllr. M.
E. Cherry Orchard Hospital	McWey Cllr. G. Doyle
F. St. Brigid's Home. Crooksling	
No. 4 Visiting Committee	
A. St. Mary's Hospital. Phoenix Park	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
B. St. Loman's Psychiatric Hospital. Ballyowen & Aux. Day Centre, Crumlin	Dr. J. S. Doyle Dr. R. Carroll Dr. J. R. Mahon Dr. A. Meade
C. Usher's Island (Child Psychiatry)	Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
D. Legion Hostel, North Brunswick St.	Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
E. Mount Pleasant, Ranelagh (Psychiatric Day Centre and Hostel)	Mr. J. Corcoran
F. Daneswood, Glasnevin (Psychiatric Hostel)	
G. St. Clare's Home. Glasnevin	
H. Welfare Home. Ballymun	

It was agreed that the change-over would be effective as and from September. Cllr. M. Brady suggested to the members that while St. Dymphna's, Carlow, was not in the Eastern Health Board area and was not included in the visiting committee rota, he felt that because of the many Kildare patients in that hospital the current procedure whereby a member of the Board was an invitee to that hospital visiting committee, should be continued. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr. Brady should represent the Board.

During the course of the debate Mr. Ruane expressed the view that the Board members should also be visiting those other institutions which acted as agents for the Board, viz., St. Vincent's, Fairview; Mater Hospital, Child Guidance Clinic, etc. The Chief Executive Officer commended this idea to the Board and it was agreed unanimously that an endeavour should be made to seek permission from this type of hospital/home for periodic visiting by some of the members.

The meeting terminated at 7 p.m.

CORRECT:

**E. O CAOIMH,
*Chief Executive Officer.***

Signed: *Chairman.*

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on Thursday. 3rd July. 1975. at 7 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
 Cllr. M. Brady
 Cllr. M. Carroll
 Cllr. J. Connolly
 Mr. H. Corrigan
 Dr. J. Cullen
 Mr. J. Corcoran
 Cllr. G. Doyle
 Cllr. J. Durning
 Ald. A. FitzGerald
 Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
 Cllr. T. Hand
 Cllr. P. Hickey. P.C.
 Dr. P. C. Jennings

Cllr. D. Kinsella
 Miss K. Kinsella
 Miss M. Lacey
 Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
 Cllr. T. Leonard
 Dr. J. McCormick
 Cllr. M. McWey
 Dr. J. R. Mahon
 Dr. A. Meade
 Mr. D. O'Flynn
 Mr. M. Ruane
 Cllr. J. Sweeney
 Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. K. Harrington and Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D.

Mr D. O'Flynn. Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
Mr. J. Sadlier	Technical Services Officer	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. J. Clarke	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistan	

92/75 **CONDOLENCES**

The Chairman advised the members of the recent deaths of Miss Cahalan, former Matron, St. Mary's Hospital; Miss O'Driscoll, Matron, Vergemount Hospital; Dr. Mary Lamb, St. Ita's Hospital, and also the sister of Councillor M. Brady. The members stood in silence as a tribute and directed that their sympathy should be conveyed to the families of the deceased.

93/75 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 5th June, 1975, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Alderman FitzGerald, seconded by Cllr. Hickey.

Arising from the minutes Cllr. Hickey referred to a statement at the last meeting on a staff problem at James Connolly Memorial Hospital and was pleased to advise the members that all services were now operating smoothly and the Rights Commissioner had investigated the matter.

Dr. Meade enquired if any reply had been received from the Department of Health regarding the reception of a deputation to discuss the Board's views on the Misuse of Drugs Bill, and Mr. Keyes advised that he was awaiting a reply to a letter he had sent. Cllr. Mrs. Lemass enquired as to what progress had been made regarding the setting up of a benevolent association and she was advised that the Personnel Officer would be dealing with this around September.

Dr. Walker raised the question of the non-recognition of a school at St. Ita's Hospital by the Department of Education and Mr. Keyes explained the position and the Board's proposals in this field.

94/75**PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES**

Reports of the following visiting committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:

- (a) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Wicklow, on 12th June, 1975—noted.
- (b) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Newcastle Hospital on 12th June, 1975—noted.
- (c) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Welfare Home, Bray, on 12th June, 1975—noted.
- (d) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane. on 17th June, 1975—noted.

95/75

MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON FIRE HAZARDS

The report of the above Sub-committee held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on the 30th June was submitted, as was a schedule of priorities prepared by the Technical Services Officer. The members approved of the order of priorities recommended by the Technical Services Officer and it was agreed that the reception of a deputation should be sought at once from the Department of Health. Cllr. Brady enquired if the Technical Services Officer would consider the installation of smoke detectors and he was informed that they would be considered after the priorities set out in the schedule had been carried out.

96/75

MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

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

- (a) Dublin County meeting held on 16th June, 1975.
- (b) Dun Laoghaire meeting held on 27th May, 1975.
- (c) Wicklow meeting held on 23rd May, 1975.
- (d) Kildare meeting held on 22nd May, 1975.

97/75

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 36/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The amount of temporary borrowing for the month of May and June that was approved by the Board at its meeting on 1st May (Minute No. 66/75) is £6,000,000: This amount has been found to be insufficient for the reasons set out hereunder. The borrowing is expected to be of the order of £7,500,000 by the end of this month, when the next instalment of Grant is due to be received from the Department of Health.

As previously stated in Report No. 42/1974, substantial arrears of State grants for previous years are still unpaid. In regard to the current year's expenditure the monthly instalments of grant are related to the allocation of £23,500,000, which the Department of Health estimated should be sufficient to finance on-going services at the level obtaining at 1st December, 1974 (Report No. 1/1975). It is now clear in the light of expenditure trends for the current year that the allocation of £23,500,000 will be insufficient. Furthermore, additional

expenditure which was not provided for in the £23,500.C03 includes increases in salaries and wages under the National Pay Agreements, extension of the long-term illness scheme, inflation in excess of the 14% estimated, increased number of persons applying for refunds of the cost of drugs, which includes an increase in chemists' dispensing fees, increases in Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances rates and in the numbers of entitled persons. This has to be met pending a revised allocation as promised in the circular dated 20th November, 1974, and referred to in Report No. 31/1975.

The Department is currently engaged in this revision of the grant that may be paid to the Board to take account of the above factors. In the meantime the Board must meet its increasing costs by continuing to have recourse to temporary borrowing. It is estimated that the amount required to be borrowed to cover the period to 30th September, 1975, will be £8,000,000.

Accordingly, I now request the Board's consent for the revised borrowing of £7,500,000 for the period to 30th June and to the temporary borrowing of up to £8,000,000 as required, during the period of three months to the 30th September."

On a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

" That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 36/1975."

98/75

CREATION OF POSTS

The following Report No. 37/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" In his interim report on the Community Care programme submitted in May, 1974, the Programme Manager referred (Chapter 3) to the organisation recommended by Messrs. McKinsey, accepted by the Minister for Health, and endorsed as a policy by the Health Board under which community care would be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams headed by a Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health. He mentioned that negotiations were proceeding between the Department of Health and the Medical organisations with regard to the post of Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health: the making of three appointments in the first instance, on successful conclusion of the negotiations, was envisaged

The Minister for Health has recently directed the qualifications and particulars of office for the post of Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health. He indicated to the North-Western Health Board that he would have no objection to the transfer to the service of the Eastern Health Board in that capacity of a County Medical Officer who can be released under the new organisational arrangements for that area. It is also now possible, with the consent of the officers concerned, to appoint the County Medical Officers for Wicklow and Kildare to the post of Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health. I propose to proceed accordingly, and the Programme Manager, Community Care, is presently working out the detailed arrangements. The creation of one additional post under the Board is involved."

Dr. Walker stated that he felt that the proposals were premature as the community care areas had not been defined. He queried the proposed transfer of a Medical Officer from the North-Western Health Board to the Eastern Health Board in the capacity of Director of Community Care and felt that this restricted promotional outlets *or existing staff and even if qualified did not mean that he would be a suitable person for the Board's area. After a discussion to which the Chairman, Mr. D. O'Flynn, Dr. Walker, Ald. FitzGerald and Dr. Cullen contributed, the following motion, proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. Carroll, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 37/1975 be adopted insofar as posts in Kildare and Wicklow are concerned. Other matters in this report to be deferred for further examination."

99/75

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR THE TALLAGHT AREA

Report No. 34/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer, which had been submitted at the June meeting with his accompanying report from Prof. Browne, was re-submitted. A further Report from Professor Browne dated 27th June, entitled Garden Hill Mental Health Centre, is submitted hereunder:—

" In the light of questions raised by members of the Board at the June meeting in regard to my proposal for a psychiatric demonstration unit and also having had further discussions with the clinical directors of the psychiatric service, I would suggest that the above may be a more appropriate title for the unit in question. I say this because the development of new forms of psychiatric intervention and their evaluation will form only one aspect of the work of the unit. Basically this

unit will be there to provide an active service. I see its central task as the development of a mental health service for the new catchment area which will have to be created to serve the expanding population of Tallaght. At present the growing population of Tallaght is being dealt with by the psychiatric team based in St. Loman's Hospital. This service is already dealing with the catchment of over 250,000 people and a division of the area is long overdue.

I am proposing therefore that a mental health service for the Tallaght area should be developed from the new centre at Garden Hill but that this service should be quite different from its inception—with an emphasis on mental health rather than mental illness—from the more traditional hospital based psychiatric services which are already in operation in other areas of Dublin.

Another important role I see for the unit, which again was the subject of comment at the Board meeting in June, is the re-training of nursing and other paramedical staff. As the running down of the two large mental hospitals, St. Brendan's and St. Ita's, continues, and as the community psychiatric services expand and develop, there will be a considerable problem in relation to the redeployment of staff. If nurses and other staff whose training and work until now has been mainly concentrated on the treatment of illness in a mental hospital, on a supervision of wards and beds and the care of inpatients, in a dependent situation, are to be moved into a more flexible and therapeutic role in the community, then a major programme of re-training and re-education will have to be undertaken by the Health Board. Looking at this question from a more positive viewpoint, our present position is that almost all active therapy is being carried out by Psychiatrists who numerically form a tiny proportion of the professional manpower available to us. Other disciplines, and this is particularly true of nurses who form the large majority of our working personnel, are still functioning, in the main, in a supportive or caring role. This constitutes an enormous limitation on the therapeutic potential of our psychiatric service as a whole. If we actively educate nurses and other personnel as these become available from the mental hospitals and turn them into true therapists, rehabilitation workers and health educators, the potential is there to develop literally hundreds of skilled therapists who can be actively involved in prevention and mental health work in the community. It is envisaged that the mental health centre at Garden Hill will play a significant part, and to some extent

take a leading role (although all of our community psychiatric facilities, day centres, etc., will also have to be involved) in this major programme of re-education for our psychiatric staff"

Mr. M. Ruane stated that he did not feel happy with the link-up of the Tallaght development with the psychiatric demonstration unit and the Foundation of Human Development. Dr. Mahon felt that the lack of any connection between the current proposal and the unit and the professorial unit was not a good thing. Professor Browne replied to these points raised and after discussion to which Dr. Cullen and Mr. Corcoran contributed, the following resolution, on a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Ald. FitzGerald, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 34/1975 be adopted."

100/75

REVIEW OF CHOICE OF DOCTOR SCHEME

Report No. 38/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted, as was also Report No. 38A/1975 advising the members of new guidelines, which are as follows:

<i>" Category</i>	<i>Current guidelines</i>	<i>Revised guidelines from 1st July. 1975</i>
		£
Single person living with relatives	14-75	16 50
Single person living alone	17*00	1900
Husband and wife	24 50	27-50
Husband, wife and 1 child	26 75	3000
" 2 children	29 00	32 50
" 3 children	31-25	3500
" 4 children	33-50	37-50
.. 5 children	35-75	40 00
.. 6 children	38 00	42 50
For each additional child under 16 years	2 25	2-50
For each child over 16 years with no income and maintained at home by applicant	3 25	3 50
<i>To the income guidelines shown above are added:</i>		
(a) Weekly housing outgoings (rent, rates, ground rent, mortgage charges) in excess of	2-25	2 50

- (b) Exceptional expenses necessarily incurred in travelling to and from work where these create undue hardship.

Persons with no income other than:— (i) Social Welfare (maximum) non-contributory pensions.

- (ii) Old Age (care) Allowance;

Deserted Wife's Allowance;

Infectious Diseases (Maintenance) Allowance;

Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowance —

will automatically qualify for a medical card.

Hardship cases are dealt with individually on their merits."

Cllr. Mrs. Barlow raised the question of the extremely high cost of drugs and felt that this was in part due to over-prescribing. Dr. Jennings stated that the Drug Formulary Report would be a step in the right direction and urged that it be published as quickly as possible. Mr. Dunne informed the meeting that the Minister was setting up a working party to examine the pattern of prescribing in the scheme. After a short debate to which the Chairman, Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass and Cllr. Durning and Dr. Cullen contributed, it was agreed unanimously to note the report

101/75

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion was proposed by Dr. Meade:

"That this Board proceed with the definition of its Community Care areas and the appointment of Directors of Community Care for each of them."

As Dr. Meade, the proposer, was called away to an urgent meeting it was agreed unanimously to defer this motion and include it on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board.

- (b) The following motion, proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Lemass in the absence of Dr. J. O'Connell:

"To propose that the E.H.B. appoint an educational psychologist to serve the needs of the school attendance officers, who are not equipped to cope with many of the problems they encounter."

At the outset the proposer sought the permission of the meeting to delete the word "educational" from the motion and this was agreed to. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn then explained the reasons for her motion and the benefits which would accrue should it be adopted. After a discussion to which Mr. Corcoran, Dr. Cullen, Miss Kinseila, Alderman FitzGerald, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Walker

and the Dublin Medical Officer contributed, it was agreed to refer the motion to the officers for a report.

(c) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Lemass:

" That the E.H.B. make a financial contribution to the operation of St. Joseph's pre-school East Wall."

After a short discussion to which Miss K. Kinsella and Dr. Jennings contributed, it was agreed that the motion should be noted.

102/75

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter dated 17th June, 1975, from Roger Greene & Son, Solicitors, re transfer of patients to Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, was circulated together with the relevant file thereon. After a short discussion it was agreed that Mr. Keyes should press the Minister for Health to have the appropriate amending legislation introduced.

(b) Letter dated 17th June, 1975, from the office of the Minister for Justice acknowledging receipt of decision of the Board to support a resolution from the Western Health Board concerning registration of wills of persons in institutions was read and noted.

(c) Letter dated 16th June from Dun Laoghaire Corporation forwarding the following resolution was read:

" That this Council recommends to the Eastern Health Board that the Medical Officer of this Corporation take weekly samples of sea water at the following bathing places:—

- (1) Blackrock, beside swimming pool;
- (2) Seapoint;
- (3) Sandycove—Scotsman Bay;
- (4) Bulloch Harbour;
- (5) Killiney Beach (Borough Boundary end of beach);

have a full and complete analysis carried out and have each report submitted to this Council."

Dr. O'Donnell advised the members that it had been the practice to take samples of sea water at fortnightly intervals during the summer months at most of the points mentioned in the motion and that, as could be expected, the results vary

considerably. It was agreed that the Dublin Medical Officer would undertake a series of weekly tests to monitor the situation.

The meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O. CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.



Signed Chairman.

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital. Grangegorman, on 7th August. 1975 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Mr. M. Birmingham	Cllr. J. Durning
Cllr. M. Brady	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. P. Hickey
Dr. R. Carroll	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. J. Connolly	Miss K. Kinsella
Mr. J. Corcoran	Miss M. Lacey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. A. Meade
Dr. J. Cullen	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. G. Doyle	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Dr. J. Walker

Apology for Absence:

Ald. A. FitzGerald.

Mr. Dermot O'Flynn presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. J. J. Nolan	<i>DI Chief Executive Officer</i>	Dr. C. F. Warde
Mr. F. J. Donohue	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. F. J. Elliott	<i>Planning & Eval. Officer</i>	Mr. C. Mansfield
Mr. R. N. Lamb	<i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. Sadlier	<i>Technical Services Officer</i>	Miss K. Dolan
Prof. I. Browne	<i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	
Mr. M. Hayden	<i>Management Accountant</i>	
Mr. P. J. Swords	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>	
Mr. F. J. McCullough	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>	

103/75

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd July. 1975, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. P. Hickey. seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly.

104/75

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd July, 1975, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Sweeney, seconded by Miss K. Kinsella.

105/75

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Visiting Committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Colman's Hospital on 17th June, 1975—*noted.
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, on 18th June, 1975—*noted.
- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brigid's Hospital, Crooksling, on 16th July, 1975—*noted.
- (d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 25th June, 1975—*noted.
- (e) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Mary's, Naas, on 25th June, 1975—*noted.

Cllr. Hickey raised the question of the poor kitchen conditions and the D/C.E.O. promised that they would continue to press the Department for funds to improve the situation.

- (f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Mount Pleasant Hostel and Usher's Island on 19th June, 1975—*noted.
- (g) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 10th July, 1975—*noted.

Dr. Meade referred to the unit at Claddagh Green and the lack of facilities for disturbed children. It was agreed to write to the Department of Health and request that the attention of the Henchy Committee should be drawn to the need for a service or location for these seriously disturbed children.

106/75

MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

Minutes of the following Local Health Committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) Dublin County meeting held on the 7th July, 1975—*noted*, subject to the committee being advised that the Board would not agree with its suggestion that the Voluntary Health Insurance Board should be written to regarding the situation arising from pre-existing disabilities in Insurers.

- (b) Dun Laoghaire meeting held on the 24th June, 1975—
noted.

107/75

QUESTIONS

It was moved on a proposal by Deputy Dockrell, seconded by Or. Walker, that the Chief Executive Officer should answer the questions lodged:—

Question (1)—Dr. P. C. Jennings:

" What progress has been made by our representations to the Department of Health to provide full ophthalmic and dental services for eligible patients?"

Answer:

" Representations have been made to the Department of Health and been acknowledged. To extend the dental and ophthalmic services to all eligible persons requires a change in the laws governing health services.

The question is further complicated by the fact that insured persons (non-G.M.S. card holders) enjoy dental and ophthalmic services under the Social Welfare Acts for themselves but not for their dependants. In correspondence arising from resolutions passed by local health committees, the Department of Social Welfare have advised that consideration is being given to bringing these particular services inside the scope of health eligibility provisions."

Question (2)—Dr. P. C. Jennings:

" What progress has been made with our resolution that in assessment for refund under the "hardship clause" medical expenses should be taken into account?"

Answer:

" Section 59(2) of the Health Act, 1970, which deals with the scheme for refund, to eligible persons, of portion of their outlay on medicine is as follows:—

' When a person with limited eligibility, or a person with full eligibility who does not avail himself of the service under sub-section (1), satisfies the chief executive officer of the health board that, in respect of a period and to an amount determined by regulations made by the Minister, he has incurred expenditure on drugs, medicines and medical and surgical appliances which were obtained on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner and were for the treatment of that person or his dependants, the health board shall make arrangements to meet the

balance of the cost, or a proportion thereof (as may be prescribed) of the person's being supplied in respect of that period with such drugs, medicines and medical and surgical appliances.'

Under this section there is no provision for taking into consideration the person's outlay on doctors' fees. Amending legislation would be required. The Board's resolution in November last in this respect was forwarded to the Department of Health but to date the Minister has not indicated if and when amending legislation will be introduced."

Question (3)—Cllr. P. Hickey:

" Will the Chief Executive Officer state the present position regarding the establishment of a Health Centre in Ballinteer, an area in which the provision of such a facility is long overdue?"

Answer:

" A site has been selected at Ballinteer Avenue Shopping Centre for the erection of a Health Centre to serve the Ballinteer area. It is hoped to complete the acquisition of the site by December, 1975.

The schedule of accommodation which had been prepared already is being revised to conform to the schedule agreed with the Department of Health for the permanent Health Centre planned for Tallaght (Millbrook).

The Ballinteer Health Centre is included in the list of projects in the Capital Programme for 1976."

108/75

SUPPLY OF DRUGS UNDER GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Chairman moved that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the above item, which was the subject of Report No. 39/1975, to be discussed. Cllr. J. Sweeney seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed that the matter was of great importance and should be discussed fully. Accordingly, the following Report No. 39/1975 from the D/Chief Executive Officer was submitted, together with Circular 19/75, dated 5th August, 1975, from the Department of Health:

" Department of Health Circular 19/75 of 5th August, 1975, about supply of drugs under General Medical Service is attached. It proposes arrangements for the service following notice to the Minister by the Irish Pharmaceutical Union of cesser of services by their members to medical card holders from this evening on.

Ways and means of giving effect to the various arrangements are being examined by the Board's officers. Up to the minute details will be given to the meeting. It may be expected that arrangements will be on an experimental basis as a start and will be adjusted to suit the actual pattern and distribution of demand that emerges, taking account also of the services of any retail pharmacist that may elect to continue the contractual arrangements.

With regard to the opening of public pharmacies, it is not possible at the moment to state how many pharmacists would be needed but it is estimated that up to thirty may be needed as the scheme develops. The Board's approval to the creation of thirty posts of permanent whole-time pharmacists is hereby requested. The cost in a full year would be £120,000 approx. and for balance of current financial year £40,000, for which there is no provision in the budget but which in the circumstance it may be anticipated the Minister will provide."

Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager, outlined in detail how he proposed to set up centres to enable medical card holders to be refunded immediately the cost of their prescriptions and prescribing fees. In the case of medical card holders who were unable to defray the cost of the prescription, he proposed to devise a system whereby they would bring a bill from the chemist for the prescription to the refund centre, where a cheque would be issued to them on the chemist for the appropriate prescription. He outlined where he proposed to set up twenty-two refund centres, with hours operating from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

He also referred to the appointment of thirty permanent, whole-time pharmacists who would operate the dispensing of prescriptions in substitution for the current scheme. Deputy H. P. Dockrell proposed and Cllr. D. Browne seconded the following resolution:

"That we, the Eastern Health Board, consent to the proposals contained in Report No. 39/1975 and authorise the expenditure of £40,000 in the current financial year in excess of that provided in the Estimate of Expenses for 1975 under the following:—

<i>Service</i>	<i>Purpose of Expenditure</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Health	General Practitioners Service	£40.000
		£40.000"

This proposal was discussed at length, and after discussion to which Cllrs. H. P. Dockrell. T.D., J. Sweeney, D. Browne,

P. Hickey, J. Durning, J. Connolly, Doctors A. Meade, P. C. Jennings, R. Carroll, J. S. Doyle, J. Cullen, J. Walker, Mr. K. Harrington, Mr. M. Birmingham, Mr. H. Corrigan, Miss K. Kinsella and Mr. J. Ruane contributed and to which Mr. J. J. Nolan, D/Chief Executive Officer, replied, it was unanimously agreed that the Report No. 39/1975 would be considered in two parts, i.e., the opening paragraphs and the last paragraph (third paragraph). The members unanimously agreed to endorse the first and second paragraphs, which included the steps being taken by the Programme Manager, Community Care, to deal with the emergency.

In dealing with the third paragraph, the following motion was proposed by Dr. J. Walker, seconded by Mr. K. Harrington:—

"That the putting into effect of the third paragraph of Report No. 39/1975 be deferred until the next meeting of the Eastern Health Board."

A further discussion took place on this motion, and because of the differences of opinion among the members, as to the wisdom of appointing such a large number of permanent pharmacists, the Chairman put the motion to a vote. The motion was carried by 16 votes to 5 and the voting was as follows:—

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
Mr. M. Birmingham	Cllr. D. Browne
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. J. Connolly
Dr. R. Carroll	Mr. J. Corcoran
Mr. H. Corrigan	Deputy H. P. Dockrell
Dr. J. Cullen	Cllr. J. Durning
Cllr. G. Doyle	
Dr. J. S. Doyle	
Mr. K. Harrington	
Cllr. P. Hickey	
Dr. P. C. Jennings	
Miss K. Kinsella	
Miss M. Lacey	
Dr. A. Meade	
Mr. M. Ruane	
Cllr. J. Sweeney	
Dr. J. Walker	

Mr. D. O'Flynn abstained.

109/75 REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

110/75**ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. J. J. Nolan, D/Chief Executive Officer, advised the meeting that he had received, with much regret Dr. Meade's resignation from this Board, and after outlining the type of work involved in the Board and its relationship with the General Hospital Programme he suggested that it might be in the best interest of the Board to elect another Doctor who was a member. Cllr. P. Hickey proposed and Cllr. J. Sweeney seconded Dr. J. Cullen for the vacancy and this was unanimously agreed to.

111/75**FUTURE HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

Letter dated 30th June, 1975, from the Department of Health on the above subject was circulated and the members agreed unanimously that its special hospital committee should be convened to deal with the Department's letter.

112/75**COMHAIRLE NA n-OSPIDEAL—SELECTION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The following letter dated 25th June from the Department of Health was circulated:—

" Membership of Comhairle na nOspideal from 1st January, 1976.

A Chara,

1. I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to the consultations in 1972 on the constitution of Comhairle na nOspideal. The term of appointment of the existing members of Comhairle na nOspideal expires on 31 December, 1975. The Health (Hospital Bodies) Regulations 1972 (S.I. No. 164) provide that the Comhairle shall consist of twenty-three members, including not less than twelve persons who are registered medical practitioners engaged in a consultant capacity in the provision of hospital services. These regulations also provide that during the period ending on 31 December, 1975. all persons appointed to Comhairle na nOspideal shall

be selected for appointment by the Minister. A list of the present members of the Comhairle is attached. (Appendix A.)

2. The Minister is satisfied that the Comhairle since its inception has performed its functions well. He considers that the method of appointment initially adopted is the best way of ensuring a balanced representation of the various interests which need to be reflected in the membership of the body, and that this balance has contributed significantly to the Comhairle's decision making and to the acceptability of its decisions. In the circumstances he proposed to select persons before 31 December, 1975, for appointment to the Comhairle, for a three-year period commencing on 1 January, 1976, in the same way as selections were made the first time.

3. In selecting persons for appointment the Minister would not propose to alter materially the present character of the Comhairle and, in making his selection of individuals for appointment, the Minister would intend to reflect the views of as wide a spectrum of relevant interests as is possible, within the limitation imposed by the size of the Comhairle.

4. The Minister invites you to send to the Department by 1 September, 1975, a list of names of persons willing to act on the Comhairle. which he would take into consideration in making appointments. This letter is being sent to those on the attached list. (Appendix B.)

Mise, le meas,
J. O'DWYER,
Organisation Unit."

After a short discussion the following persons were nominated by the Board as suitable candidates for membership of An Comhairle: Mr. J. J. Nolan, D/Chief Executive Officer, proposed by Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, seconded by Deputy H. P. Dockrell, and Mr. D. O'Flynn proposed Deputy Dockrell, seconded by Dr. J. S. Doyle.

113/75

NEW PARAQUAT CONTROL

A statement from the Government Information Service, setting out changes carried out by the Minister, was circulated. The regulations were welcomed by the members and after a short debate to which Dr. A. Meade, Dr. J. S. Doyle, Mr. K. Harrington and Dr. Walker contributed, it was agreed to recommend to the Minister that all products containing paraquat should be labelled clearly "Poison" and so listed.

114/75

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Motion in the name of Cllr. J. Connolly was deferred to the next meeting at his request.
- (b) The following motion, proposed by Dr. A. Meade, was seconded by Dr. J. Walker—

"That this Board proceed with the definition of its Community Care Areas and the appointment of Directors of Community Care for each of them."

The proposer and seconder both explained their reasons for getting on with the job of defining the Community Care areas, and the appointment of Directors thereto. Miss K. Kinsella also supported their views. Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager, pointed out that financial resources were not available and that while a working party had fixed Community Care areas in other Health Board areas, its proposal could not be readily fitted in to the Dublin area and that he was discussing the difficulties involved with the Department of Health presently. He also indicated other problems concerning the various disciplines which would operate in a Community Care Team. He pointed out that the psychiatric divisions of the area were based on hospital catchment areas, whereas it was felt that the best way to shape Community Care Teams would be on parish groupings. He was, however, proceeding as fast as circumstances allowed with getting the different staffs involved in a Community Care Team together, so that they would be aware of what was involved and their own individual involvement as part of a team.

Cllr. J. Durning enquired as to what were the difficulties in setting up a Community Care Team in Dun Laoghaire and he was informed that 100,000 people was regarded as the optimum size of a Community Care area and that the decision as to what areas should be joined with the Dun Laoghaire Borough was still under consideration. After a debate to which the Chairman, Mr. D. O'Flynn, Mr. M. Ruane and Dr. J. Cullen contributed, it was agreed that the Programme Manager, Community Care, should present, as soon as conveniently possible, his proposals for the setting up of Community Care Teams in the different areas under the Board's jurisdiction.

115/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Mr. J. J. Nolan, D/Chief Executive Officer, referred to the acute shortage of adequate accommodation and skilled care for persons, young and old, with terminal illnesses.

In that regard he was pleased to advise the members that, after recent discussions with the Mother General of the Sisters of Charity and the Superior of Our Lady's Hospice, the Order had agreed to help meet such need, provided they received adequate support from the Board and from the Department to cope with the many difficulties and expenses involved. The members expressed their appreciation of the Order's co-operation and unanimously agreed to provide maximum support to the Order in the work and to press the Department to supply the necessary funds involved.

(b) *6th World Congress on Mental Handicap.*

Mr. J. J. Nolan, D/Chief Executive Officer, informed the members of a letter to the Chairman from the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland who are hosts to the above Congress from 14th to 19th September, 1975, inclusive, and stated that the Association are most anxious that the Congress should be supported by Health Boards in Ireland. The members unanimously approved of sending as many staff as possible, who are involved in this field, to attend the Congress.

- (c) Letter dated 21st July, 1975, from Comhairie na n-Ospideel was read by the D/Chief Executive Officer, in which the Comhairie approved of joint discussions being held between the Health Board, St. Vincent's Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital with a view to the formulation of an agreed policy covering the organisation and future development of surgical services within the general catchment area served by the three hospitals.

Dr. A. Meade and others congratulated Mr. J. J. Nolan on arriving at this stage in the development and it was unanimously agreed to endorse continuance of the discussions.

- (d) Letter dated 14th July, 1975. from the Mid-Western Health Board containing the following motion, adopted by that Board, was read:—

"That the Mid-Western Health Board calls upon the Government to amend the Dentists' Act, 1928, so that dental practice in Ireland may be rationalised through the employment of all forms of ancillary and technical assistance consistent with the maintenance of the necessary standards of prevention, treatment and care."

This motion was noted.

- (e) Letter dated 24th July, 1975. from the Western Health Board containing the following motion was read:—

" That we request that the full cost of supplementary welfare allowances proposed in the Social Welfare (Supplementary Welfare Allowances) Bill, 1975, be met from Central Government Funds and that the Bill be amended accordingly."

This motion was noted.

The meeting terminated at 9.10 p.m.

CORRECT:

J. J. NOLAN,
D/Chief Executive Officer.



Chairman.

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 4th September, 1975, at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Cllr. T. Hand
Mr. M. Birmingham	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. M. Brady	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. J. Corcoran	Dr. J. McCormick
Mr. H. Corrigan	Cllr. M. McWey
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell. T.D.	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. J. Durning	Deputy C. Murphy
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Mr. M. Ruane
	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Dr. J. Cullen, Cllr. P. Hickey, Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass and
Cllr. J. Sweeney.

Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. P. J. Swords
Prof. B. O'Donnel	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. F. J. McCullough
Prof. Ivor Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. Sadlier	Technical Services Officer	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. J. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Mr. P. A. Sheehan
		Miss L. O'Kelly
		Mr. T. Barry
		Miss K. Dolan

116/75 CONDOLENCES

The Chairman referred to the death of the former President and Taoiseach, Mr. Eamon de Valera, during the past week and having paid tribute to him the members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The Chairman also informed the members of the death of Mrs. Lamb, mother of Mr. Lamb, Personnel Officer, and Miss Sharkey, former Matron at St. Brendan's, who died recently. The members again stood in silence as a mark of respect and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the bereaved families.

117/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Alderman FitzGerald.

Arising from the minutes Mr. Corrigan drew the members' attention to the omission of his name from the discussion on new paraquat controls (Min. 113/75) and the Secretary agreed to have same amended.

118/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Visiting Committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

(a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Baltinglass, on 20th August, 1975.*

Deputy C. Murphy enquired as to when a new Assistant Matron might be appointed and he was informed that it was proposed to make provision in the 1976 estimates.

Dr. Doyle was pleased to note that the Board were proceeding with the purchase of an electro-cardiograph machine, that it was important to have personnel trained in the use of this machine and that he was prepared to invite the hospital staff to one of his sessions to illustrate how to use this machine. The report was noted.

(b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting at St. Brendan's Hospital on 6th August, 1975.*

Alderman A. FitzGerald enquired as to the present position of the Board's request for a deputation to the Minister on fire hazards and it was agreed that a report should be prepared for the Board for its next meeting as was a report on the psychiatric nurse in community services. The report was noted.

- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home on 11th August. 1975—Noted.*

119/75

MINUTES OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Local Health Committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *Dublin City Local Health Committee meeting held on 22nd July, 1975.* These minutes were noted, it having been agreed to draw the attention of the Minister for Justice to the numbers of neglected children wandering around the streets of the city.
- (b) *Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee meeting held on 29th July, 1975.* Noted.
- (c) *Wicklow Local Health Committee meeting held on 18th July. 1975.* Noted, Mr. P. J. Swords having advised Deputy Murphy of the current position re hospital services for Arklow.
- (d) *Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 24th July. 1975.* Noted.

7,120/75

REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

The above report having been deferred from the August meeting was now considered. Mr. Corcoran gave the members a brief outline of the factors which motivated the Committee in its approach to the problem and gave the reasons for the various recommendations in the report. He pointed out that there had been a good improvement over the years in this service and in general was operating reasonably well. After a debate to which Dr. Jennings, Mr. Corrigan, Mr. Ruane, Dr. Meade, Dr. Doyle, Cllr. Dockrell, Dr. Walker, Cllr. Duming, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and Mr. D. O'Flynn contributed, the following motion, proposed by Prof. McCormick and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, was unanimously adopted:—

" Propose that this report be adopted and arrangements be made to have a private telephone line to each hospital taking part in the Accident Service, this line to be reserved for emergency use, e.g., summoning additional staff following major crisis."

121/75 BORROWING PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 40/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Long-term borrowing arrangements must be made in respect of payments of Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisations as shown in Report No. 27/1975 to the May 1975 meeting of the Board. The details are as follows:—

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Purpose of Grant</i>	<i>Proposed Allocation</i>
(1) Dun Laoghaira Old Folks Association	Equipment for Community Centre. Brookfield, Blackrock	£7.500
(2) Mourne Road Parish Committee	Contribution to building costs, Drimnagh Community Centre	£7.000
(3) Committee of St John's House of Rest	Reconstruction work at St John's House of Rest. Mention Road	£2.500
(4) Dublin Central Mission	Hostel and Social Aid Centre, Marlborough Street	£35.000
(5) Holylands Nursery Committee	Reconstruction and extension of Holylands House, Churchtown, to provide pre-school nursery and Community facilities	£4,000
(6) Irish Sisters of Charity	Staff accommodation and day care facilities for children. Madonna House	£5,000
(7) St Michael's House	Assessment Unit and Child Development Clinic, Ballymun	£14.000
(8) Foundation for Human Development	Equipment for Psychosomatic Unit at Garden Hill	£15.000
		£90,000

As a sum of £40,000 has been raised already in respect of these grants (see Report No. 3/1975, Board meeting 9th January, 1975) it is proposed now to raise a loan of £50,000 repayable over a period of 35 years.

Provision has been made in the Capital Budget for 1975."

After a short debate the following motion proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Cllr. Dockrell was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 40/1975 be adopted."

122/75 REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 41/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The Finance Officer has reviewed the trend of expenditure and has reported as follows:—

' The final figures of expenditure on Health Services for the nine months period ended on 31st December, 1974, have not yet been determined. However, a realistic estimate of the total gross expenditure for that period on services administered directly by the Board is as follows:—

	£
General Hospital Care Programme	6,067,834
Special Hospital Care Programme	6,298,940
Community Care Programme	6,459,568
Central Services (administration, etc.)	1,692,493
Total	£20,518,835

The allocation approved by the Minister for 1975 was £23 - 5m., which was apportioned as follows:—

<i>Expenditure</i>	£
General Hospital Care Programme	7,472,800
Special Hospital Care Programme	7,812,400
Community Care Programme	8,106,200
Central Services	1,905,600
	£25,297,000
Less Income	1,797,000
	£23,500,000

In report No. 1/1975 it was pointed out that this allocation was less than the amount required for the year as estimated by the Management Team by £2,395,000. The Board adopted the Estimate of Expenditure based on the allocation of £23 - 5m. 'on the clear understanding that, if it prove inadequate, the necessary finances should be made available by the Department of Health.'

Since the adoption of the Estimate of Expenses the Minister has approved of salary and wages adjustments and increased capitation rates and grants to voluntary organisations, provision for which had not been included in the original allocation. Additional expenditure under this head amounting to £1,703,600 has been approved by the Board at April and May meetings. It is now estimated that the following further expenditure will be incurred:—

Increased Capitation Rates:	£
St. Mary's Home for Blind	12,000
Clonturk House	9,000
St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview	21,000
Claremont School for Deaf and St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Schools for Deaf	9,300
Cheshire Homes	14,000
Marino Clinic, Bray	4,000
Mental Handicap Homes	46,800
Our Lady's Hostel, Eccles Street	20,000
Children's Sunshine Home, Foxrock	7,000
Sacred Heart Hospital, Cork	1,220
Aid Mhuire, Dunboyne	2,040
Bessboro Home, Cork	1,220
Grant—Dublin Committee for Travelling People	2,000
Revision of salaries for following grades:	
Inquiry Officers	5,500
Clerical Officers (equal pay)	38,000
Medical Officers (Choice of Doctor Scheme)	75,000
Receptionists	22,900
Assistant Storekeepers	1,500
Psychologists	20,000
Senior Medical Staff	127,000
Attendants, Central Mental Hospital:	
Rent Allowances	22,500
Chiropodists—increased fees	9,500
Maternity Leave	12,000
Rehabilitation Training Courses	4,400
Pension Increases	121,000
Employer Trade Union National Agreement 1975	763,457
	£1,372,337

The estimated total excess expenditure is therefore £3,075,937.

In the seven months to 31st July, 1975, the estimated expenditure incurred by the Board is:

	£
General Hospital Care Programme	4,928,828
Special Hospital Care Programme	5,441,615
Community Care Programme	5,648,331
Central Services	1,559,045
	£17,577,819

On the basis of this expenditure, the estimated expenditure for the year will be in the region of £30-5m. This does not, of course, take into account any further increases which may arise before the end of the year.

The original estimated expenditure of £25,297,000 (based on the Minister's allocation) plus the excess expenditure of £3,075,937 referred to above amount to £28,400,000 approximately, which is less than the figure of £30,500,000 now estimated for the year by £2,100,000.

It will be seen accordingly that the original estimate adopted by the Board was a more realistic assessment of the cost of the services directly financed by the Board than the allocation fixed by the Minister.'

As previously reported, the Minister directed that the level of services which obtained in November, 1974, be maintained during 1975. It is likely that he will in due course give an indication of the availability of finances for 1976. In the meantime the preparation of the Estimates for 1976 is under way and the Budget for the General Hospital Programme will be submitted to the October meeting of the Board."

On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Mr. Ruane, it was agreed to note the report.

123/75

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion proposed by Cllr. J. Connolly was seconded by Mr. Corrigan and after a short debate was agreed to:—

" That the Eastern Health Board recognises the need for a Sheltered Workshop in the Walkinstown area and endorses the work being done by the Sacred Heart Club for Handicapped, Walkinstown, towards that."

(b) The following motion proposed by Alderman FitzGerald was seconded by Cllr. Carroll:—

" In view of the increasing numbers of eligible patients awaiting dental treatment in Dublin City—this back-log has more than doubled in two years to 3,800 (as of the 8th August, 1975) to include all adults, other than expectant mothers—and as it is likely at the moment to take a year to update, I proposed that the Eastern Health Board consider the alternatives present and among them, the extension of the existing scheme to private dentists on a part-time basis and/or the appointment of additional wholtime dental surgeons (permanent or temporary) to adequately cover the existing and likely requirements of the city. This situation is particularly serious as a considerable number of eligible patients have had to get private dental treatment of sizeable cost to themselves, which the Board has no authority to recoup. Also, that the Chief Dental Surgeon give his opinion on the appointment of dental auxiliaries and the necessary up-dating of the Dental Act, 1928, and report on the degree of consultancy dental services available in the city and whether, in his opinion, these are adequate, especially for emergency public health patients."

Alderman FitzGerald explained to the meeting his reasons for putting down the motion and Mr. Donohue explained that each year the Board had employed more dentists in an effort to cope with the situation, including putting on extra sessions at night, and that three years ago he had suggested to the Department of Health that selected cases might be sent to private dentists on a fee basis but no response had been received to the proposal. After a discussion to which Cllr. Brady, Dr. Meade, Cllr. Duming, Mr. Harrington and Mr. O'Flynn contributed, it was agreed unanimously that the position should be the subject of a report by the Programme Manager, Community Care, and the Chief Dental Surgeon.

124/75

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter dated 26th August from the Department of Health advising that consideration was being given presently by the Department to amending the Dentists Act, and that

provision for registration by the Dental Board of ancillary dental staff was among the proposed amendments being considered, was circulated. The letter was noted.

- (b) Letter dated 25th July from the Department of Health regarding new paraquat controls was circulated. The members were not fully satisfied with the reply from the Department as Dr. Meade pointed out i-ai two sachets which had not been mixed with two gallons of water was by itself deadly. After a short debate to which Mr. Harrington, Mr. Corrigan and Mr. O'Flynn contributed, it was agreed to convey these views of the members to the Department to eliminate as far as possible the dangers attached to these preparations.
- (c) Order dated 6th August. 1975. from the Minister for Health was received transferring to the Eastern Health Board the Nurses' Convalescent Home at Kilrock, Howth. for use as a hostel for persons availing themselves of psychiatric services provided by the Board. The members noted the Order.
- (d) Letter dated 22nd July. 1975, advising that the Minister had appointed Dr. J. Cuilen to be a member of the St. James's Hospital Board as a replacement for Dr. Meade, who had resigned, was noted.
- (e) Mr. P. J. Swords referred to the decision of the Board at its last meeting to provide maximum support for the Sisters of Charity in their proposal to erect a unit in their grounds at Harold's Cross to deal with the shortage of beds for persons with terminal illnesses, and advised that he had now received a letter from the Mother Superior, with accompanying plans for this project. He proposed to forward the plans to the Department of Health and asked for the approval of the members to do this. The members unanimously approved of this action

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Purpose of Grant</i>	<i>Proposed Allocation</i>
(5) Holylands Nursery Committee	Reconstruction and extension of Holylands House, Churchtown to provide pre-school nursery and community facilities	£4,000
(6) Irish Sisters of Charity	Staff accommodation and day care facilities for children. Madonna House	£5,000
(7) St. Michael's House	Assessment Unit and child development clinic. Ballymun	£14,000
(8) Foundation for Human Development	Equipment for psychosomatic unit at Garden Hill	£15,000
		£90,000

Item No. 8 was the subject of a previous report (No. 29/1974. submitted to June. 1974, meeting). The Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, have had discussions with representatives of the Foundation, in the course of which information was sought in accordance with the normal requirements for the disbursing of public funds. When this information has been received and examined a further report will be submitted for consideration of the Board.

(c) Completed and On-going Works

In Report No. 14/1975 I also mentioned that the sum of £440,000 which the Department estimated would be required for completed schemes and works in progress was 'considerably less than that estimated by the Board's officers'. Discussions are still continuing regarding this matter and I shall report further when it has been resolved, pending which the structural on-going projects are proceeding."

The Chief Executive Officer explained to the members that the allocations therein would not satisfy the requirements of many of the voluntary organisations but that this was the best that the Board could do in the light of the current financial allocation. However, if money became easier later in the year

125/75

GENERAL .

Dr. Jennings thanked the Chief Executive Officer and the Programme Manager, Community Care, for the information booklet on the Community Care Programme which had been circulated to the G.P.s in the area.

The meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,
Chief Executive Officer.

Chairman.

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 October, 1975 at 6 p.m.

Present:

<p>Cllr. M. Brady Cllr. D. Browne Cllr. M. Carroll Cllr. J. Connolly Mr. H. Corrigan Dr. J. Cullen Cllr. J. Durning Ald. A. FitzGerald Cllr. Mrs. Glenn Cllr. T. Hand Mr. K. Harrington Cllr. P. Hickey</p>	<p>Cllr. D. Kinsella Miss K. Kinsella Miss M. Lacey Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass Cllr. T. Leonard Dr. J. R. Mahon Dr. A. Meade Deputy C. Murphy Mr. D. O'Flynn Mr. M. Ruane Cllr. J. Sweeney Dr. J. Walker</p>
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Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow, Dr. J. S. Doyle, Dr. P. C. Jennings,
Dr. J. McCormick and Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D.

Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

<p>Mr. E. O Caotmh Mr. J. J. Nolan Mr. T. Keyes Mr. F. J. Donohue Prof. B. O'Donnell Mr. J. Reynolds Mr. R. N. Lamb Mr. F. Elliott Mr. J. Sadlier Prof. I. Browne Mr. P. J. Swords Mr. J. Clarke Mr. F. McCullough Dr. B. Pigott</p>	<p><i>Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>D/Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>Programme Manager</i> <i>Programme Manager</i> <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i> <i>Finance Officer</i> <i>Personnel Officer</i> <i>Planning & Eval. Officer</i> <i>Technical Services Officer</i> <i>Chief Psychiatrist</i> <i>Admin. Assistant</i> <i>do. do.</i> <i>do. do.</i> <i>Chief Dental Surgeon</i></p>	<p>Mr. J. Doyle Mr. H. Dunne Mr. T. McManus Mr. A. O'Brien Mr. K. Quinn Miss L. O'Kelly Mr. T. Barry Miss K. Dolan Dr. J. Noel, <i>Geriatrician</i></p>
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126/75

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman advised the meeting of the deaths of Dr. T. Coffey, D.M.O. and member of the Drug Formulary Committee; Dr. Laverty, Psychiatrist, St. Brendan's and Newcastle Hospitals, and the mothers of Dr. Mathews and Dr. B. Pigott, Chief Dental Surgeon. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the families concerned.

127/75

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September meeting having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. M. Carroll, seconded by Mr. M. Ruane.

(a) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Arising from the minutes Miss Kinselia asked for some information on the current position regarding the Home Help service as she understood that it could be terminated shortly due to lack of funds. Mr. J. Doyle explained the situation and said that it is likely that the scheme would have to be severely curtailed shortly unless further finance was forthcoming. Cllr. P. Hickey, having stressed the enormous advantages of the Home Help service, proposed that the Minister be asked to receive a deputation to discuss the situation. Cllr. T. Hand seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to. The deputation elected to wait on the Minister was the Chairman, Mr. D. O'Flynn; Cllr. M. Carroll, Vice-Chairman; Cllr. P. Hickey and Miss K. Kinselia.

128/75

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

(a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Columcille's Hospital on 18th September, 1975.*

After a short discussion about the development of the Maternity Wing and the heating and electrical services, it was agreed to send a deputation to the Minister to impress upon him the urgency of the situation. It was agreed that Cllr. Hand and Cllr. Sweeney should be included in the deputation already formed on the Home Help question.

(b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin on 17th September, 1975.—Noted.*

- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at The Coombe Day Centre on 17th September, 1975.—Noted.*

It was also agreed that a report should be made available inside of three months on the proposed utilisation of the old Guinness Dispensary building.

- (d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, on 25th September, 1975.*

After a short discussion to which the Chairman, Mr. O'Flynn, Cllr. Hickey, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Connolly and Cllr. Brady contributed and to which Mr. Keyes, Mr. Sadlier and Prof. Browne replied, it was agreed to note the report and in the meantime to re-convene the Children's Committee at a convenient date.

- (e) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Mary's Hospital on 4th September, 1975.—Noted.*

129/75

GENERAL HOSPITAL PROGRAMME—REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

The members congratulated the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on this report but decided that in view of its size and the lack of time available to them to study its contents, to defer it to the next meeting.

130/75

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1975

The following Report No. 43/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

The following capital allocations were made for the Special Hospital Care Programme for 1975:—

1. 72-bed unit for mental handicap at St. Ita's Hospital	£60,000
2. Reconstruction of female chronic block. St. Ita's Hospital	£40,000
3. Warrenstown House — residential unit for children	£20,000
	£120,000

This programme is about one month behind schedule due in one case to the death of a contractor who submitted the lowest tender and in a second case to the difficulty of the

selected tenderer in getting a guarantee bond. This will mean that expenditure on above project in this year will be about £40,000 less than the allocated sum.

The capital programme for St. Ita's Hospital includes the reconstruction of the old male and female nurses' homes. These homes have 36 male places and 86 female places. The work required involves complete re-wiring, provision of wash-hand basins in each room, floor coverings and re-decoration, and the total cost would be about £60,000. It would be possible over the next 4-5 months to carry out the necessary work on the male home and to install the wash-hand basins in the female home. This would leave the electric wiring and decoration of the female home to be dealt with in 1976.

I accept that the work on these homes is not the most urgent required but it is the only work that we deal with within the short time available to us and it would cost about £30,000. In addition, the reconstruction of the two homes would enable us to demolish four chalets which are fire hazards and house 47 male staff, and would also release for the development of mental handicap services 25 places occupied by staff. It is essential to have good staff accommodation in St. Ita's to attract staff required.

I recommend the Board's approval to the above proposal. This would be subject to Ministerial sanction."

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board approve of the proposals outlined in Report No. 43/1975."

131/75 TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 44/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The Board at its June meeting approved of the temporary borrowing of up to £8m., as required, during the quarter ending 30 September, 1975.

The Board's bank account continued to be seriously in overdraft during the current year, due mainly to arrears of Health Services Grant. Representatives of the Department of Health, the Department of Finance, the Central Bank and the Associated Banks discussed the funding and liquidity problems of Health Boards, and reached the following agreement:—

1. Grant payments to Health Boards to be made on a bi-monthly basis instead of monthly.
2. A proportion of existing Health Board overdrafts to be converted to term loans.
3. Pending further review, the remainder of the Health Boards' bank indebtedness to be treated as ordinary overdraft, subject to certain conditions.

Since July the Board has received grant payments in bi-monthly instalments, the current instalments being £900,000 in the middle of the month and £950,000 on the last day.

With regard to (2) the term loan method of financing is to be applied to that proportion of the Board's overdraft attributable to unrecouped balances of revenue health expenditure in the period up to 31 March, 1974. The sum in question amounts to £1,552,666. The rate of interest applicable to the term loan will be the AAA 1-3 year rate (currently 11 -25%). The loan will be repaid in 1976 to 1978, and provided for in the Board's Estimates for those years.

With regard to (3) it was agreed as an interim measure that amounts outstanding to banks after completion of the term conversion loan will be treated as ordinary overdrafts, pending a reassessment early in 1976 in the light of (i) audited figures of unrecouped balances in respect of the nine-month period ended 31 December, 1974, and (ii) expenditure trends and bank borrowing in 1975.

A projection of the Board's expenditure based on the current level of health grant receipts, and the incidence of rating authority payments, indicates that if a term loan of £1,552,666 is effected in October, our overdraft will reach the following peaks in the coming three months:—

October 15	£7 -2m.
October 30	..... £7-6m.
November 13	..... £8 0m.
November 27	..... £8 0m.
December 15	..... £8 0m.
December 30	£7-5m.

The Board's allocation is at present being reviewed by the Department of Health, and I have been assured that extra grant will be forthcoming during the coming months. However, as I have no definite information on this point, I consider it would be prudent to assume that overdraft may reach the levels indicated above.

Accordingly, I request the consent of the Board to:

- (a) the raising of a term loan of £1,552,666 with Allied Irish Banks, to be repaid over a three-year period commencing on 1 January, 1976, interest to be charged at AAA 1 -3 year rate;
- (b) the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to £8m. as required during the three months to 31 December, 1975."

After a short discussion the following resolution, on a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Mr. Corrigan, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft and loan as outlined in Report No. 44/1975."

132/75

REVISED TRAINING PROCEDURES FOR PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

The following Report No. 45/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" It has been necessary to revise the system of training psychiatric nurses. This has arisen because the results of An Bord Altranais examination are not satisfactory and this is particularly true when we contrast the results with that of general trained students. The senior nursing staff in the psychiatric service are at present reviewing in a comprehensive way the programme for the next intake of students. The aim will be to ensure that each student gets adequate experience of all areas of the nursing syllabus and it is intended that a copy of this programme will be given to the student before training commences.

In addition, it is intended that students will in the main work a Monday to Friday week but will do the minimum Sunday and night duty required for training. There will be far greater emphasis on assessment of student progress, particularly at ward level, and courses have been arranged during the month of October for Ward Sisters and Charge Nurses to familiarise them with the revised proposals. These students will be recruited on a temporary basis and while the Board will not guarantee jobs on completion of training, permanent posts will, as far as possible, be reserved for those who successfully completed their training.

The purpose of the change is to give the student more time for study in line with opportunities available to 3rd level students. One of the trade unions has agreed with these proposals on a pilot basis on the understanding that there will be no further intake on those conditions without prior agreement with unions representing nurses. The whole system will be reviewed at quarterly intervals and the Board will be kept informed of progress."

After a short discussion to which Mr. Ruane spoke and Mr. Keyes replied, the following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Deputy D. Browne, was unanimously adopted:—

'That Report No. 45/1975 be noted and approved.'

133/75

ADDITIONAL STAFF—NIGHT FIRE/SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The following Report No. 46/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" In course of correspondence with the Department of Health seeking approval to the installation of the Fire Alarm System at the Lower House, St. Brendan's Hospital, as an interim measure to provide a higher degree of fire safety at night in this area, it was proposed to the Department of Health that one Fire Patrol Attendant be put on duty each night on each of the three floors of this building.

In a letter of 15th August, 1975, the Department of Health has conveyed approval to an increase of £5,000 (Five thousand pounds) in the current year for the employment of the following staff who will be required for this purpose:—

5 Porters

I recommend that the Board approve of these additional employments. When the Fire Alarm System has been installed these employments will cease. The estimated cost for 1976 is £16,000 (Sixteen thousand pounds)."

After a short discussion the following motion, proposed by Cllr. Hickey and seconded by Cllr. Carroll, was unanimously adopted:—

" That the Eastern Health Board consents to proposals outlined in Report No. 46/1975."

134/75

DENTAL SERVICES

The following Report No. 47/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" In compliance with the resolution adopted at the August meeting of the Board I submit the following report from Dr. B. Pigott, Chief Dental Officer, endorsed by Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager—

A. DENTAL SERVICES IN DUBLIN

1. The following persons are eligible for dental treatment under the provisions of the Health Act (1970):
 - (a) Children attending national schools.
 - (b) Children under 6 years of age attending Child Welfare Clinics.
 - (c) Persons with full eligibility and their dependants.
2. In the Dublin City, County and Dun Laoghaire area the Health Board has the following facilities for dental treatment:

Dental Clinics at 36 centres, two Mobile Clinics, an arrangement with the Dublin Dental Hospital to treat a limited number of patients and to provide specialist treatments for some of these patients. An arrangement with three dentists in Skerries and Balbriggan who treat eligible patients (in the dentists' surgeries). An arrangement with a number of dentists attached to General Hospitals to treat eligible patients in these Hospitals, and treatment facilities for mentally and physically handicapped persons in a number of schools and institutions.
3. The Board has the equivalent of 48 Wholetime Dental Officers to provide services in the Dublin City, County and Dun Laoghaire area (15/9/75). This number will be increased to 50 in October. Priority in treatment is given to children. This is in accordance with directions issued by the Department of Health and recommendations of the World Health Organisation. Dental Officers are recruited through the Local Appointments Commission and those with special experience or knowledge of preventive dentistry are given extra credit at interviews for posts. Consequently most of those appointed are orientated towards preventive dentistry and the treatment of children.

4. The number of children attending National Schools in the Dublin area is 140,000. To provide an adequate dental service for these children a ratio of one Dentist to 1,500/2,000 school children will be needed. Between 20 and 40 additional dentists will be needed to cater adequately for the children in the area. This does not take into account the number of eligible children under 16 years of age who are attending secondary schools, or children under six years of age attending Child Welfare Clinics, or the expected increase in the number of school children in the area.
5. At present dental treatment for children attending National Schools, children attending Child Welfare Clinics, eligible children under 16 years of age and eligible nursing and expectant mothers are treated at day clinics by Dental Officers. In addition, eligible adults who may require emergency treatment are seen at day clinics. Otherwise eligible adults are treated at evening sessions which are held at 12 centres.

The Dublin Dental Hospital provides a limited service for children and adults, but as this Hospital's main concern is in the teaching field, it is not possible to expand the services provided. Usually the patients treated here are referred from the Board's Clinics. Tuberculosis patients and some other adults are treated in Great Charles Street Clinic. Patients treated in General Hospitals are usually referred by the Board's Dental Officers, having been seen originally in the Board's clinics. As already stated, three private dentists in Skerries/Balbriggan provide treatment for eligible adults.

6. The majority of eligible adults (those over 16 years of age) are treated at evening sessions at present. Up to 1971 these patients were treated at the Dublin Dental Hospital but as the numbers of eligible persons applying for treatment increased, the Hospital was unable to cope with them and there were long waiting lists for treatment in all departments of the Hospital, particularly in the Prosthetic Department (Dentures).

Evening sessions commenced in February, 1971, and it was possible to reduce these lists, and at the end of 1971 the waiting list of eligible patients was in the-region of 250 persons and the waiting period ranging from none to three months. However, although the number of weekly sessions has increased from 23 on the 31/12/72 to 40

on the 1/9/75, the number of applicants for treatment has increased considerably and there has been a corresponding increase in the numbers on the waiting lists.

The following table shows these figures:—

<i>Date</i>	<i>No. on waiting applicants List</i>	<i>No. of for treatment</i>
31/12/72	615	2045 (1972)
31/12/73	1578	4091 (1973)
31/12/74	2137	4572 (1974)
8/8/75	3800	4010 (from 1/1/75 to 8/8/75)

The number who apply for treatment has increased considerably since Medical Cards have become available to young persons over 16 years of age in their own right. The following table shows the age groups of those who applied for treatment between 1/12/74 and 3/5/75:—

<i>Total</i>	<i>Over 60 &</i>	<i>Students under 16</i>	<i>Students over 16</i>	<i>Others</i>
2654	560	246	1141	717
%of total	22%	7%	43%	28%

43% of the applicants were students over 16 years of age, and these formed the largest single group.

7. In the seven months period 1/1/75 to 31/7/75, 3,440 persons applied for treatment and 1,776 persons were treated during this period. Priority in treatment is given to those who are over 60 years of age, or who are handicapped or who are in urgent need of treatment, and consequently the waiting period for these persons is not as long as for others (e.g., students).

However, it can be seen that under the existing arrangements the Board's Dental Staff cannot cope with the demands for treatment. A number of new dental officers will take up duty within the next two months to fill existing posts and it may be possible to increase the number of evening sessions but this will only have a marginal effect on the waiting lists. If arrangements could

be made to have the student population over 16 years of age treated by Private Dentists this would improve the situation considerably, reduce the waiting lists, and could be the commencement of a comprehensive Dental Scheme for adults.

8. Over recent years the approval of the Department of Health has been sought to a scheme for the involvement of Private Dentists in the treatment of certain categories of eligible persons throughout the area. However, approval has not been granted. A sum of £20,000 was included for this purpose in this year's Estimate but was omitted from the Budget allocation in the absence of funds for such development.
9. During the current year the expansion in the School Dental Service has been considerably curtailed. Only four new dental officer posts have been advertised and filled. Provision was made in the original Estimate for a further twelve posts. However, the financial allocation received does not provide for this proposed development.
10. Discussions have taken place between officials of the Department of Health and the Board's Officers, and between the Department Officials and the Irish Dental Association on the treatment of eligible adults. As the discussions between the Department and the Irish Dental Association deal with all aspects of Dental Service and so are likely to be protracted, I recommend that the Board should now request the Department of Health to deal specifically with the eligible student population in its discussions with the Irish Dental Association, and that a scheme for the treatment of this group by Private Dentists be formulated as a matter of urgency.

B. CONSULTANT SERVICES IN DUBLIN

(a) *Oral Surgery Services*

These are provided by (a) the Dublin Hospital, (b) a number of General Hospitals on the staff of which there are oral surgeons, (c) St. Colmcille's Hospital, Loughinstown, (d) the Maxillo Facial Unit—Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

Facilities, however, in these centres are limited and it is at times difficult to get beds for patients who require hospitalisation for treatment. This situation should improve when the Dental Unit in James Connolly Memorial Hospital will be

ready for use at the end of the year. Four beds will be available for dental patients in this Unit.

The Piatt Report on Medical and Dental Staffing (U.K.) recommended a ratio of one Consultant Oral Surgeon per 250,000 persons. The Consultants group of the Irish Dental Association has had discussions with the Department of Health and Comhairie na nOspideal about the recognition and appointment of Dental Consultants to hospitals, but as yet Dental Consultants have no representation on the Comhairie. Until this position is clarified it will not be possible to assess the needs in the Dublin areas.

Mr. K. Harrington did state in Report No. 53/74 that 'probably as many as half (if not more) of the accident cases involving facial injuries are not examined by an oral surgeon while the patient is in hospital.' The position has not changed essentially since then.

(b) *Orthodontic Services*

Consultant Orthodontic Services are available to eligible patients at the Dublin Dental Hospital, the Maxillo Facial Unit, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, and in the Board's clinics where the services of two Consultants are used on a part-time basis—approximately two days per month—to advise dental officers on the necessary treatments.

The Local Appointments Commission has advertised on a number of occasions in recent years for a post as Orthodontist to the Eastern Health Board but it has not been possible to fill this post. Discussions are taking place at present with the Department of Health and the Dublin Dental Hospital on possible modification in the terms of appointment.

During 1974 in the Dublin area 1,200 children were undergoing orthodontic treatment in Health Board clinics but it is estimated that about 4,500 children would need active orthodontic treatment each year. At present there is a waiting list of 1,800 in Health Board clinics but many of these are not yet ready for treatment, and the list is not as formidable as it looks. As services expand more people avail of them, and consequently more children in need of orthodontic treatment are seen. At present most dental officers carry out some orthodontic treatment and have the services of the two consultants to advise, but there are some patients who require complicated treatment which need the services of a consultant. At present these patients are referred to, the Dental Hospital or to the Maxillo Facial Unit in Dr. Steevens' Hospital, but facilities in both these centres are limited. In the period

1/7/74 to 30/6/75 treatment was approved in these hospitals for 92 children. A further 62 were referred but treatment had not commenced at 30/6/75. It can be seen that a relatively small number of children were referred to these hospitals; the majority of patients are treated in Health Board Clinics by Dental Officers. The functions of the Consultant Orthodontist will be to advise dental officers and to deal with patients who have complex orthodontic problems.

The Piatt report recommended that one consultant orthodontist be appointed for every 500,000 persons in England, and one for every 350,000 persons in Scotland. In the Eastern Health Board area as a whole, at least two consultant orthodontists will be needed.

C. THE DENTISTS ACT 1928

There has been no change in the legislation governing the Registration of Dentists since the Act was passed in 1928. In the United Kingdom there have been two Dentists Acts in this period, the 1956 Dentists Act and the 1957 Dentists Act. These Acts brought up to date previous legislation and provided for the training and use of ancillary personnel in Dentistry.

No such provision exists in the Dentists Act 1928. The Dental profession has been requesting the Department of Health to amend the Act since 1956, and the Eastern Health Board at its meeting of November 7th, 1974, passed a resolution requesting the Minister for Health to amend this Act. The Department of Health has informed the Board that consideration is at present being given to amending the Dentists Act. Provision for the registration by the Dental Board of ancillary dental staff is among the proposed amendments being considered."

The members complimented the staff who prepared such an informative report and generally agreed that paragraph 10 was the most urgent part of the report, agreeing fully with the recommendations therein. After a lengthy discussion to which Dr. Meade, Cllr. Hand, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Duming, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Connolly, Deputy Murphy, Mr. Harrington, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass and Chairman Mr. O'Flynn contributed and to which the Chief Dental Surgeon, Dr. Pigott, replied, the following motion, proposed by Dr. A. Meade and seconded by Cllr. T. Hand, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Report No. 47/1975 be noted and approved and that steps be taken forthwith to implement paragraph 10 of the report and that the Minister for Health be requested to supply the necessary funds."

135/75

**GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES—CHOICE OF DOCTOR
SCHEME— PARTNERSHIP— FINGLAS AREA**

The following Report No. 48/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Doctor J. Barnes, 92 Cappagh Road, Finglas, who is a participating doctor in the Board's General Medical Service, has requested permission to take on an assistant with a view to partnership in accordance with the provisions of the Department's circular letter 8/75 dated 9th April, 1975.

Having regard to the number of doctors in Finglas and the continuing housing development there I am satisfied that an additional doctor would improve the service and would give wider choice to eligible persons in the general Finglas area.

The Irish Medical Association and the Medical Union have no objection to Doctor Barnes' proposal.

I recommend that the Board approve of Doctor Barnes' request and that the position be filled in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraphs 21/22 of the Department's circular letter 8/75 dated 9th April, 1975. The relevant extract from this letter is attached."

Extract from Circular 8/75 dated 9th April, 1975. from Department of Health—In relation to right of entry of doctors to the General Medical Service paragraph:—

"21. The creation of a position as partner, or as an additional member of a group practice, or as an assistant with a view to partnership for the purpose of the General Medical Service, will be subject to the approval of the Health Board. In considering any such proposal the Board shall have regard to the total practice of the applicant. Before giving approval the Board must be satisfied:—

- (a) that the creation of the position is preferable to the creation of an additional position which could be filled by open competition in the normal way; and
- (b) that the creation of the position will not result in the admission of a particular person into the General Medical Service while other equally well or better

qualified persons are not given a reasonable chance to compete. Where the Chief Executive Officer proposes to seek the approval of the Board to the creation of a position as a partner, or as an additional member of a group practice, or as an assistant with a view to partnership he shall, before doing so, consult the medical organisations.

22. Where a Health Board agrees to the creation of a partnership or an addition to a group practice or to the recruitment of an assistant with a view to a partnership, the position will be advertised in the normal way, but the doctor or doctors involved or a nominee of the doctor or doctors involved in the proposed taking in of a partner or additional member or assistant will be entitled to sit on the selection board. The selection board shall pay due regard to any objection of this representative to the giving of the post to a particular individual or individuals. If the board considers it desirable it may not recommend any candidate for appointment."

After a short discussion the following resolution, proposed by CHr. Mrs. Glenn, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Board consents to the proposals outlined in Report No. 48/1975."

136/75 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion in the name of Dr. J. Walker was seconded by Cllr. Hickey:—

"That the Secretariat be requested to prepare, each January, a detailed Index (with cross indexing facilities) to the Minutes of Proceedings of Meetings of the Eastern Health Board held during the previous twelve months, and that in respect of the years 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 arrangements be set in train, forthwith, to have the appropriate Indices prepared, printed and made available to members."

Dr. Walker explained his reasons for putting down the motion and was supported by Dr. Meade, Cllr. Hickey and Cllr. Duming. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

137/75 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Copy of speech by Mr. R. Barry, T.D., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, at the opening of an International Symposium on Preventive Cardiology in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, on 12th September, 1975, was circulated and noted.

- (b) Letter from the Irish Nurses' Organisation was read advising of the resignation of Mrs. M. J. Hennessy, Public Health Nurse, from the Kildare Local Health Committee and nominating Miss Johanna Mullane, Public Health Nurse, Celbridge, as a replacement. This was agreed to unanimously.

138/75

GENERAL

- (a) Dr. A. Meade asked the permission of the Chair to raise a matter of importance regarding Directors of Community Care and was granted permission to do so. He urged that the Local Appointments Commission, in dealing with the current competition for Directors of Community Care in other health board areas, should be requested to include the posts for the eight Directors of Community Care in the Eastern Health Board area. The Chief Executive Officer explained that he had written to the Department of Health arising from the Minutes of the 3rd July, 1975, and was awaiting a reply. Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, explained to the meeting that the situation obtaining in the other health board areas was different from that of Dublin on account of geographical factors and the fact that the post of the Dublin Medical Officer currently being advertised contained some conditions which would modify the duties of Directors of Community Care in the Dublin area. He also pointed out that until support staff and office accommodation was available there was little point in appointing Directors of Community Care. Further, it was his intention to have Community Care areas conform with parish boundaries, and as these had been altered lately it necessitated a further look at the areas.

Dr. Meade requested that action should be taken in this field and it was agreed that further information be made available for the next meeting of the Board.

- (b) Cllr. Mrs. E- Lemass pointed out that due to the non-delivery of post at week-ends her agenda was not available to her until the Tuesday before the meeting. It was agreed that agendas would in future be circulated to members on the Thursday preceding the meeting.
- (c) Mr. Corcoran raised the question of the sale of the dispensary residence at Arklow. The Chief Executive Officer, adverting to his report some months ago on the sale of dispensary residences generally (Report No.

29/1975), said that he felt it was unwise to sell premises of this type in urban areas because of the Board's possible requirements for hostel accommodation, etc., but undertook to review the situation in Arklow.

The meeting terminated at 8.30

p.m. CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed: *Chairman.*

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

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

Present:

Councillor Mrs. J. Barlow	Mr. K. Harrington
Councillor M. Brady	Councillor P. Hickey
Councillor D. Browne	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Councillor M. Carroll	Councillor D. Kinsella
Councillor J. Connolly	Miss K. Kinsella
Mr. J. Corcoran	Councillor T. Leonard
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. McCormick
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Councillor G. Doyle	Dr. A. Meade
Councillor J. Duming	Dr. J. O'Connell T.D.
Alderman A. FitzGerald	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Councillor Mrs. Glenn	Mr. M. Ruane
Councillor T. Hand	Councillor J. Sweeney
	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Miss M. Lacey and Councillor Mrs. E. Lemass.

Mr. D. O'Flynn. Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. J. Nclan	<i>D/Chief Executive Officer</i>	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. T. Keyes	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. J. Donohue	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. H. Dunne
Prof. B. O'Donnell	<i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. C. Murphy
Prof. I. Browne	<i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. J. Sadlier	<i>Technical Services Officer</i>	Mr. L. Sweeney
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	<i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. F. Elliot	<i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i>	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. Clarke	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. F.J. McCullough	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr. P. I. Lyons
Mr. P. J. Swords	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. V. Crumlish	<i>Engineering Officer</i>	Mr. E. Butler
Dr. B. Pigott	<i>Chief Dental Officer</i>	Mr. T. Kennedy
		Miss K. Dolan
		Mr. M. O'Connor
		Mr. T. Cahill
		Dr. Marmion

139/75 CONGRATULATIONS

(a) The Chairman informed the members that Cherry Orchard Hospital had been awarded first place in the Bord Failte Gardens competition for the eighth successive year. He presented Mr. V. Crumlsh with the Certificate and asked that the Board's appreciation be conveyed to Mr. T. Barry, head gardener, for his wonderful work.

(b) The Chairman advised the members that Councillor J. Connolly had been selected for the "Man of the Year" award presented by the Rehabilitation Board. He paid tribute to Councillor Connolly's work in local government and in youth organisations. The members endorsed the tribute paid by the Chairman and expressed their pleasure at the recognition given to Councillor Connolly.

140/75 CONDOLENCE

The Chairman announced with regret the death of Mr. V. Kelly, Architect to the Board for the psychiatric service and for the Wicklow area. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect and directed that their sympathy should be conveyed to the late Mr. Kelly's relatives.

141/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October, 1975, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Councillor Hickey, seconded by Councillor Carroll.

(a) Arising from the Minutes Mr. Corcoran drew attention to the fact that it was not recorded in the minutes that he had attended the meeting. The Secretary informed him that he had given him attendance on the roll and that the minutes would be amended accordingly.

142/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

(a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Colman's Hospital on 26/9/1975—noted.*

Councillor Sweeney paid tribute to the staff for their dedication to the patients.

(b) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at The Orchard, Bray, on 16/10/1975—noted.*

(c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home, on 3/10/1975.—noted.*

(d) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Usher's Island (Forensic), on 22/10/1975—noted.*

Dr. Jennings complained of inadequate services for young people and raised questions on the manner of referral of cases to the unit.

Dr. O'Connell felt that the premises were grossly under-utilised and it was agreed that a report should be given to the Board as soon as possible, as to the utilisation of the entire premises. Miss Kinscila and Mr. Ruane also contributed to the debate. Mr. Keyes and Professor Browne replied to the points raised.

(e) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Hanbury Lane on 22/10/1975—noted.*

(f) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 22/10/1975—noted.*

(g) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Leoion Hostel, on 7/10/1975.*

The members were very perturbed that no progress had been made on the provision of fire escape for this hostel and felt that they could not afford to permit the situation to continue for a further winter. The Chief Executive Officer stressed the stringent financial conditions existing and pointed out that the Board would have to decide what services would be curtailed if this work was not done. O'Connell stated that the Finance Officer outlined the current overdraft position. Councillor Browne informed the meeting of correspondence which he had personally with the Minister on this particular subject.

After a lengthy discussion to which Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Meade, Alderman FitzGerald, Dr. O'Connell, Councillor Browne, Dr. Mshon, Dr. McCormick and Councillor M. Carroil contributed, the following resolution was proposed by Dr. O'Connell, seconded by Dr. Meade and unanimously adopted:

"That this Board direct the Chief Executive Officer to make the necessary arrangements to proceed with the provision of fire escapes to eliminate the existing fire hazards at the Morning Star/Regina Coeli Hostels

Before this resolution was put to the meeting Mr. Quinn, at the Chairman's request, read Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970 which deals with limitation on expenditure by Health Boards and the Chief Executive Officer informed the members of the Minister for Health's direction *re* non-availability of funds for projects not already approved in the Board's financial allocation. He also referred to the reluctance of the Board's bankers to make any additional monies available on overdraft.

The following members voted for the motion:

Councillor Mrs. Barlow, Councillor Brady, Councillor Browne, Councillor Carroll, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Corrigan, Dr. Cullen, Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. Harrington, Dr. Jennings, Councillor Kinsella, Councillor T. Leonard, Dr. McCormick, Dr. Mahon, Dr. Meade, Dr. O'Connell, Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Councillor Sweeney, Dr. Walker.

After the foregoing motion was agreed Alderman FitzGerald stated that it was most urgent that a deputation should await on the Minister on the question of providing finances for adequate fire prevention/precautions in the different hospitals under the Board's care and proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Barlow:

"That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman immediately ask the Tanaiste to meet a delegation from the Eastern Health Board concerning vital improvements for fire safety in our institutions."

This motion was agreed to unanimously.

144/75

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees were dealt with as follows:

- (a) Dublin County Meetings held on 1/9/1975 and 6/10/1975—*noted*.
- (b) Dun Laoghaire Meeting held on 30/9/1975—*noted*.
- (c) Wicklow meeting held on 19/9/1975—*noted*.
- (d) Kildare meeting held on 25/9/1975—*noted*.

145/75

QUESTION

On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan: seconded by Alderman FitzGerald it was unanimously agreed that the Chief Executive Officer answer the question lodged

Question—Mr. M. Ruans:

"What progress has been made in the establishment of a register of disabled persons necessary for the planning of service needs and for co-ordinating the placement of individual cases in appropriate day facilities.

The establishment of such a register was recommended in the Report of Sheltered Workshops Sub-Committee Eastern Health Board. April, 1975 and adopted as policy by the Board at a subsequent meeting."

Reply:

The report adopted by the Board provides for the establishment of a register of handicapped persons and this is in accordance with the recommendations in the report of the Working Party on Training and Employing the Handicapped adopted in principle by the Government and now national policy. The Working Party report recommended that this register be under the control of each Director of Community Care. The acting Director of Community Care in the Crumlin pilot area has been in communication with the National Rehabilitation Board with a view to setting up such a register for that area. The National Rehabilitation Board is the body which will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Party report and whatever the Health Board may do will have to conform to whatever guidelines will be laid down by the National Rehabilitation Board.

The Health Board is continuing to use, as a register, the detailed lists of persons in receipt of allowances in respect of disablement, infectious diseases, blind welfare, etc., and it is clear that the bulk of the information for a composite register will ultimately come from these lists.

146/75

GENERAL HOSPITAL PROGRAMME—REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

The above report was considered together with reports from Dr. Flanagan and Dr. Keating, Geriatricians. The members congratulated Mr. Nolan on his report and discussed the problem and the possibility of getting extra beds to meet the requirements of the programme. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr. J. J. Nolan referred to the main points in the programme and advised that he would like to get the four consultant geriatricians together at a later date to meet a

consensus of opinion on priorities and how best to use the resources available to them. After a debate to which Dr. Meade, Dr. Mahon, Dr. McCormick, Councillor M. Carroil, Councillor Sweeney and Councillor Brady contributed, the following resolution proposed by Dr. McCormick and seconded by Mr. Corrigan was unanimously adopted:

"That the October, 1975 report on General Hospitals and Homes for the Aged be noted and approved."

147/75

SPECIAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME—REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

The above report prepared by Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, was welcomed by the members and discussed. Dr. McCormick stated that the works stated therein should be categorised and priorities therefor decided by the Board as a matter of urgency and good management. Mr. Ruane, in congratulating Mr. Keyes on the report, said that it was essential for both patients and staff to decide upon a policy of how St. Brendan's should be utilised and developed. Alderman FitzGerald suggested that consideration might be given to selling portion of St. Brendan's to Dublin Corporation in order to raise capital which would alleviate the Board's problems in many directions. Dr. Jennings queried the lack of mention of psychiatric beds at James Connolly Memorial Hospital and he was informed by Mr. Elliott that proposals for acute psychiatric beds in this hospital are with the Department for well in excess of a year.

After a lengthy debate to which Dr. McCormick, Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. Ruane and Councillor Brady contributed, the following motion proposed by Mr. Ruane and seconded by Mr. Corrigan was unanimously adopted:

"That the November review of the Special Hospital Programme be noted and approved."

Mr. Keyes replied to the various points raised.

148/75

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME—DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY CARE TEAMS

Report No. 42/1975 on the above subject was circulated. The Programme Manager, Mr. Donohue, and his staff were

congratulated on the report and the members felt that at last they were now coming to grips with getting the Community Care Programme implemented in the whole of the Board's area. Dr. McCormick congratulated the Programme Manager on his report and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Meade and adopted unanimously:

"That the Board approves and adopts Report No. 42/1975 —Community Care Programme—Development of Community Care Teams."

Dr. Cullen, Dr. Jennings and Dr. Walker also contributed to the discussion to which Programme Manager and the Chief Executive Officer replied.

149/75 CREATION OF ADDITIONAL POSTS

The following report No. 49/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"Subject to the agreement of the Board I propose to seek the approval of the Minister for Health to the creation of the following additional posts to cater for increased patient accommodation:—

(a) *St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum:*

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| (1) Staff Nurse | 4 posts |
| (2) Attendant | 1 post |

(b) *District Hospital, Baltinglass:*

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| (1) Staff Nurse | 10 posts |
| (2) Attendant | 2 posts |
| (3) Domestic | 4 posts |
| (4) Clerk Typist | 1 post |

(c) *Bru Caoimhin:*

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| (1) Staff Nurse | 9 posts |
| (2) Attendant | 9 posts |
| (3) Domestic | 4 posts |

All the above additional posts were provided for in the 1975 Development Estimate but except for Baltinglass were not covered by the original financial allocation made available by the Department of Health. It will therefore be necessary to seek a supplementary allocation in respect of the remaining two Months of 1975. Full provision will be sought in the 1976 Estimates."

On a proposal by Councillor Carroll seconded by Councillor Sweeney, the following motion was unanimously adopted:

'That the Eastern Health Board approve the proposals outlined in Report No. 49/1975.'

150/75

GENERAL HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The following statement from the Minister for Health relating to the Eastern Health Board area was circulated and noted:

Introductory:

"In June, 1968, the Consultative Council on the General Hospital Services reported to the Minister for Health on future policy on the development of acute hospital services throughout the country. The Council (whose membership was made up of consultants in hospitals in several parts of the country) recommended that the existing system throughout the country whereby specialist services are provided in many hospitals usually staffed by single surgeons and single physicians, should not be continued. They thought that the concentration of specialist facilities in fewer hospitals, better-staffed and offering better facilities, was needed to provide adequate services in the future. The Council proposed concentration of facilities for acute hospital care in twelve centres.

While the general concept of this Council's report was accepted in principle by the then Government and while, from the medical point of view, the recommendations were logical, it became clear in subsequent years that the detailed concept as set out did not have sufficient regard to the practical needs and wishes of the people. The present Minister for Health initiated in 1973 a process of widespread consultation, involving the profession, the local bodies and a new body concerned especially in the development of hospital services (Comhairle na nOspideal) which had been set up in the meantime, to seek a consensus on the future development of the hospital system.

Guidelines:

This process was started by asking Comhairle na nOspideal, the national body representative of the health professions and health administration, to produce guidelines for the development of the future hospital system. These guidelines which were completed in September 1973, modified the earlier recommendations and proposed that:—

- (1) the general aim should be to organise acute hospital services so that the population served would be within a radius of 30 miles of the hospital centre;
- (2) the minimum staff of such an acute hospital should consist of two consultant surgeons and two consultant physicians with other consultant medical personnel and other staff as required by the case-load;
- (3) a minimum scale consultant-staffed hospital conforming to the guidelines should usually serve a population of about 100,000, but where there were special considerations such as low population density, a lower figure would be appropriate, ranging down to 75,000 in exceptional circumstances.

In its introduction to its guidelines, Comhairle na nOspideal stated:—

'Developments in the practice of medicine in hospitals, particularly since the Second World War, have laid increasing emphasis on the contribution of laboratory, radiological and other scientific investigation to patient care and, in addition, have called for the involvement of a number of clinical consultants in dealing with difficult problems of complex disease and injury. The general move in the direction of a shorter working week has also been felt in the hospital service and there is wide recognition of the importance of avoiding the dangerous effects of fatigue on the quality of work of people whose duties involve sustained concentration. All of these developments, coupled with the beneficial tendency towards a greater degree of specialisation by consultants, have pointed towards the need for the organisation of general hospital services on a broader medical and technological base within the hospital and an enlarged population catchment related to the increased capability of the larger hospital. In short, the idea of a single-handed surgeon or physician attempting to provide a twenty-four hour service with the assistance of supporting medical staff and less than adequate laboratory and radiological services is no longer acceptable from the point of view of the patient's best interest.

The Comhairle would, therefore, like to stress the importance, for achieving a high standard of patient care, of ensuring that in as many situations as possible a fully satisfactory hospital organisation is provided. Large hospital centres would be highly desirable in situations where the population would justify this. However the Corribairle, recognising the twin 'difficulties of mountainous terrain and sparse population in

parts of the country, acknowledges the appropriateness of smaller hospitals to cater for such situations. They would emphasise that such smaller hospitals should be within a reasonable distance of a larger hospital centre where some of the more specialised facilities would be available. (Limerick Root jnal Hospital is an example of the scale of such a larger hospital). This should permit patient care problems of special difficulty to be handled on a joint resource basis and should encourage a spirit of mutual assistance on a wide range of activities/

Decision-making based on Guidelines:

The Minister accepted the Comhairle guidelines as a reasonable basis for improving the hospital service and for decisions on the future system. His next step was to move towards decisions on the centres for development in accordance with the guidelines. He considered it important to involve in this all of the new health administrative bodies, set up under the Health Act of 1970. These are the health boards, with their local advisory committees, Comhairle na nOspideal and the regional hospital boards (each of these is concerned with co-ordination of hospital services in the areas of two or moNMwaftii boards). For each health board area, a working group drawn from the health board, the Comhairle and the regional hospital board surveyed the available facilities and considered, in the context of the guidelines, what realistic options existed for future policy. Each of the bodies involved gave its choice as between these options and each county health advisory committee within the health board area had an opportunity to state its opinion. All these views were presented to the Minister.

The Minister welcomed the participation of all these bodies, and the many individuals concerned, in this complex consultative process. He wishes to thank them for the care and attention which they gave to the task. Each body expressed an opinion based on its own particular point of view and, because the interests of the different bodies diverged, there were naturally different opinions. It is significant, however, that generally they accepted the concept of the guidelines and the argument in any case was on a choice between centres of development rather than on a concept of developing in all centres.

In addition to the views put before him through this process, the Minister received representations from many areas. He decided, before coming to any conclusion, to meet deputations from any group which had expressed concern in relation to

its area. In all, 19 such deputations were met. There is significance in the fact that most of these deputations were arguing for a choice of a particular centre as against another one and seemed to accept the guidelines as reasonable.

In deciding on what he should recommend to the Government, the Minister gave great weight to all the views which had been expressed. It seemed to him, however, that he should give particular weight to the decision reached in each case by the health board. The health board, under the Health Act of 1970, was set up to organise health services within a specific area and, in most cases, it is the body charged with the administration of the entire hospital system or the greater part of it. Its constitution is made up of persons appointed by the County and County Borough Councils (who form a majority), persons elected by the health professions and a minority appointed by the Minister. The health boards were designed as broadly based bodies intended to have a view on the requirements for the area they serve as a whole. Clearly the view of the health board on the future hospital system could not lightly be disregarded by the Minister.

The following paragraphs set out the Government's decisions on the future development of the hospital system, based on recommendations made by the Minister following consideration of the views mentioned above.

Eastern Health Board area (Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow):

Following the presentation of a special report by Comhairle na nOispideal the Government's decision in relation to the Dublin area was announced in October, 1974. It provides for three major general hospitals on the north side of Dublin city (the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, the James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, and a new hospital which it is proposed should be located at Beaumont) and three similar hospitals on the south city side (St. James's Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, and a new hospital in the vicinity of Newlands Cross). Consultation with the interests involved are proceeding to work out the details of a programme to implement this decision.

The decision to establish these major hospitals in Dublin will affect the whole of the area of the Eastern Health Board. In the evolution of the plans for the Dublin hospital system regard will be had to the needs of Wicklow and Kildare. The Minister received representations from local interests in favour of the development of a hospital at Arklow but could not consider this proposal in the light of the guidelines.

ADDENDUM

The Meath County Health Advisory Committee has recommended Navan as a more suitable site than Dundalk for the general hospital (again, it is significant that they sought a choice and *not* development at both centres). Navan has at present a county hospital with a regional orthopaedic unit on the same site. The Minister arranged for these also to be visited by senior officers of the Department. The County Hospital proper is considered unsuitable for development as a major general hospital. Geographically, Navan is less suitable than Dundalk as a hospital centre. Accordingly, the Minister could not see how he could be justified in accepting the recommendation of the Meath Advisory Committee that he should chose the former rather than the latter as a centre for a general hospital.

The Orthopaedic unit at Navan is modem and the Minister considers that this unit should be retained as the regional orthopaedic unit and would be developed for that purpose, working in conjunction with the hospitals at Drogheda and Cavan. It is also significant that the North Eastern Health Board have approached the Department with a view to involvement in the Board of the James Connolly Memorial Hoepitel, Bianchardetown. They envisage that hospital serving a considerable part of the population of Meath. The Minister favours this development.

The Government have already accepted as part of the Dublin Hospital Plan that James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown would be developed as a general hospital to cater for North-West Dublin and areas in South Co. Meath. Pending this development, which will take some years to complete, Navan Co. Hospital will continue its present role."

151/75

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion in the name of Councillor Sweeney was seconded by Councillor M. Carroll.

"Following a resolution passed at the Wicklow Local Health Committee we request this Board to ask the Department of Health to provide capital for a hospital for the town of Arklow."

Councillor Sweeney indicated the reasons why Arklow should have a hospital, the area being highly industrialised and the nearest hospital available was St. Columcille's approximately 36 miles away

Mr. Corcoran felt that if an efficient transport service for patients was available, that it would be better because of the scarcity of resources, to have a hospital available which would contain an adequate range of facilities, instead of two hospitals with poor facilities.

As sufficient information was not available to the members on the merits of the proposal it was agreed to defer the motion to the next meeting.

152/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Statement issued by the Minister for Health on the 9th October on the first meeting of the working party on prescribing and dispensing in the G. M. Service having been circulated was noted.
- (b) Letter dated 30th October from the Department of Health in reply to representations made by the Board on improvements in the dental services having been circulated was noted.
- (c) Letter dated 7th October from the Minister for Justice replying to the members' concern about the incidence of begging by children was read and noted.
- (d) Letter dated 30th September, 1975 from the Dublin

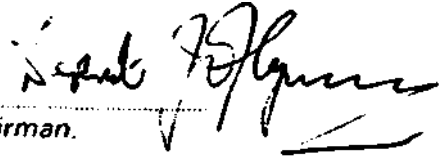
Corporation containing the following resolution was read: That the City Council recommend to the Minister for Health and the Eastern Health Board that a service be provided to collect from Chemists' Shops unused dangerous Drugs and Tablets returned by the public as no collections have been carried out for one year." It was agreed that this question should be examined with 3 view to meeting the Corporation's wishes.

- (e) Copy of Press Release dated 6th October, 1975 from the Department of Health advising that additional funds would be made available in the current year to maintain essential health services, including home help service, was read and noted.

The meeting terminated at 9.10 p.m.

CORRECT:

EOGHAN O CAOIMH,
CNeF
Executive
Officer.
Signed..


Chairman.

4/12/75

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 4th December, 1975, at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Ald. A. FitzGerald
Mr. M. Birmingham	Cllr T.Hand
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. P. Hickey
Cllr. D. Browne	Dr. P. C Jennings
air. M. Carroll	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Dr. R. Carroll	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Mr. J. Corcoran	Cllr. T. Leonard
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Dr. A. Meade
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Deputy C. Murphy
Cllr. G. Doyle	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Durning	Cllr. J. Sweeney
	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Mr. K. Harrington and Miss M. Lacey.

Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. C. Murphy
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. A. O'Brien
Prof. I. Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. C. D. McElree
Mr. J. A. Sadlier	Technical Services Officer	Mr. B. Garvey
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. J. Clarke	Administrative Assistant	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant	
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Administrative Assistant	

153/75 ILLNESS OF MEMBER

The Chairman advised the Board that Miss M. Lacey was at present convalescent after a serious illness and the members directed that their best wishes for a speedy recovery should be conveyed to her.

154/75 CONDOLENCES

The Chairman announced with regret the deaths of Mr. Toby Breslin, veteran of the War of Independence and staff member; Mr. P. Finnerty, another staff member; Mrs. V. McDonagh, mother of Miss T. McDonagh, Chief Catering Officer, and Mrs. Doyle, mother of Miss K. Doyle, an officer of the Board. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect and directed that their sympathy should be conveyed to the bereaved families.

155/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November, 1975, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

(a) Arising from the minutes the Chairman informed the members that he had sent a letter to the Minister requesting the reception of a deputation in connection with fire hazards in the Board's institutions, that the letter had been also signed by the Vice-Chairman, and to date he had received no reply.

(b) The Chairman advised the meeting that he had a letter from "Toiko", the Board's workshop on the Glasnevin Industrial Estate, inviting him and the Vice-Chairman to visit the premises. He told the members that he would discuss the matter with the Vice-Chairman and that one of them would go.

156/75 PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Wicklow, on 20th November, 1975.—Noted.*
- (b) *No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital on 20th November, 1975.*

Mr. Ruane deplored the fact that one of the newspapers carried a report on overcrowding at this hospital before the members had considered the report. Cllr. Carroll and

Deputy Murphy did not agree with the proposed transfers to St. Brendan's and St. Ita's. Mr. Keyes explained that it was extremely important to relieve the overcrowding at Newcastle and that he would take into consideration the views expressed by the members.

- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 19th November, 1975.*

The members noted this report and were very pleased to hear that the representatives of the Royal College of Psychiatrists were very impressed at the quality of the tutorial courses involving all members of the staff in one of the hospitals and at the wide range of facilities available for the treatment of patients, etc., i.e., workshops, day centres, community nursing, hostels, etc.

- (d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. John's Day Centre on 12th November, 1975.—Noted.*
- (e) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Welfare Home, Ballymun. on 4th November, 1975.—Noted.*
- (f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Clare's Home, Ballymun, on 4th November, 1975.—Noted.*

157/75

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

Minutes of the following local health committees were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *Dublin City meeting held on 29th October. 1975. — Noted.*
- (b) *Dublin County meeting held on 3rd November, 1975.— Noted.*

158/75

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME — REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS — BUDGET 1976

The above report was submitted by Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, and discussed. Mr. Donohue explained to the members that the financial information in the report was only an indication of what he felt he would need at the minimum to continue the present level of services. Members asked questions on apparent deficiencies in the Health Acts in relation to the Community Care pro-

gramme services and Mr. Donohue outlined the reasons for treating the types of cases referred to and that he had been in communication with the Department of Health seeking clarification of the many anomalies. The Chief Executive Officer informed the meeting that he hoped to get the members' agreement to hold a meeting on the following Thursday, 11th December, to review the 1975 financial allocation and its expected outcome. The members agreed to this suggestion. After discussion to which Dr. Walker, Dr. Meade, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Doyle, Cllr. Hickey, Deputy Murphy, Deputy Dockrell, Mrs. Kinsella, Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Hand, Cllr. Duming, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Corcoran and Cllr. Mrs. Lemass contributed and to which the Programme Manager replied, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan was unanimously adopted:—

"That the review of developments for 1975 in the Community Care programme be noted."

159/75

MISUSE OF DRUGS BILL 1975

Minute No. 51/75 set out the Board's recommendations on the above Bill and these were submitted to the Minister for Health in April, 1975. Subsequently a list of proposed amendments by the Minister for Health was circulated on the 14th November and these have now been considered by the Sub-Committee appointed to study the Bill. The following is the report (No. 53/1975) of the Sub-Committee:—

" I attach copy of letter of 22nd April to the Secretary, Department of Health, containing a list of suggested amendments to the above Bill adopted at meeting of the Board held on 10th April, 1975. A list of amendments proposed by the Minister for Health was circulated on 14th November and these have now been considered by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board to study this Bill. The following is the report of the Sub-Committee:—

1. The Sub-Committee wish to protest to the Minister at the inadequacy of the time given to study the amendments. There was a clear understanding that sufficient time between circulation of the amendments and the actual committee stage of the Bill in the Dail would be allowed. The amendments were received on 17th November and the committee stage started on 26th November and the Sub-Committee did not have an opportunity to make recommendations to the Board before the committee stage began.

2. The Sub-Committee is satisfied recommendation No. 1 in letter of 22nd April has been met in full in the amendments.
3. The Sub-Committee has noted that recommendation No. 2 is a matter for the Minister for Justice. It wishes to stress the importance of implementing this recommendation and it is noted that the Co-ordinating Committee on Drug Abuse has taken certain action relating to this matter.
4. The recommendation No. 3 has been met in full.
5. The Minister has indicated that he will have due regard to recommendation 4 (a) when making regulations under Section 5 of the BUI. However, he has pointed out that there is no medical consensus on the matter.
6. The Minister has stated that the widest possible consultation has taken place on the matters referred to in recommendation 4 (b) and that no specific evidence has been made available to support this recommendation. It has been suggested that the Minister would give more details of the consultation referred to. It appeared to the Sub-Committee that the Minister was following the pattern' adopted elsewhere and that circumstances in this launuy nngiix viiium a umcicii approach.
7. Recommendation 5 (a) relates to amendments of Sections 23/24 and 26 of the Bill. It has been noted that it is proposed to amend Section 24 to provide that an authorised person may not copy documents but that the right to inspect still stands. The Sub-Committee is not satisfied that this amendment is adequate but considers that the Minister should implement recommendation 5 (a) and recommends this to the Board. It recognises the difficulty in Section 24 but considers that this difficulty might be overcome by permitting an authorised person to impound a document without right of inspection should the possessor of such document declare it to be a medical record. Arrangements could then be made for inspection by an authorised medical officer with the patient's consent by means of a Court Order.

The Sub-Committee has noted that doctors are obliged to keep a register under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1934, that the Gardai have a legal right to inspect such register and does not understand the necessity to have access to a medical record.

8. Recommendation 5 (b) has been met in full

The Sub-Committee recommends the approval of the Board to the foregoing."

" I am directed by the Chief Executive Officer to inform you that at their meeting on 10th April, 1975, the members of the Eastern Health Board unanimously adopted the following recommendations following consideration of the report of a Sub-Committee which had been set up to advise on the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Bill, 1973:—

1. That Section 28 of the Bill be amended to ensure that any decisions regarding the provision of medical treatment in hospital or elsewhere for offenders should rest with the medical officer in charge of the hospital or other facility concerned, and that this medical officer should be consulted before any recommendation regarding medical treatment is submitted to the Court.
2. That special provision be made to ensure that persons charged with possession of drugs for illicit supply, i.e., drug "peddlers" or "pushers", are brought to trial speedily and the charges dealt with by the Court within a specific time.
3. That provision be made to empower the Pharmaceutical Society to inspect the premises and appropriate records of its members, and substances stored on such premises.
4. (a) That there is growing evidence of barbiturates abuse and that the regulations governing their prescription be strengthened in order to reduce this danger.

(b) That the use of Methaqualene be prohibited and that Ritalin be subjected to the controls which now apply to the amphetamines.
5. That special provision be made to protect the confidentiality

(a) of doctor/patient records by amending Section 23, Sub-Section (1) (c)." Section 24, Sub-Section (1) (e), and Section 26, Sub-Section (2) by the addition of the words "unless it is a medical record", and

(b) of medical reports to the Court, which should be submitted direct by the Consultant without the intervention of any other agency.

These recommendations are submitted for the consideration of the Minister. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee on Drug Abuse "

After a short discussion the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Mr. Ruane, was unanimously adopted:—

" That Report No. 53/1975 be adopted."

160/75

USHER'S ISLAND CENTRE

The following report No. 50/1975 from Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, was considered:—

"The Usher's Island building was originally designed as a replacement for the casuals department which was located in Griffith Barracks, the Board being under pressure from the Army Authorities to vacate their premises. Following its completion it was decided to re-allocate the premises to the psychiatric services as there was an urgent need to provide services for the growing number of drug abusers. During the summer of 1971 the building was used as temporary accommodation for refugees from the North. It was finally adapted and handed to the Forensic Psychiatric Service in January, 1972. The cost of the building was £97,000 and was financed on the basis of 50% Hospital Trust Fund Grant and 50% Loan from the Local Loans Fund. The night shelter in the rear of the building was adapted at the request of Jervis Street Hospital to provide backup accommodation for their Detoxification Unit. The cost of this adaptation was £7,153. The Detoxification Unit was only recently opened, its completion having been delayed for technical reasons. The Authorities of Jervis Street Hospital have now indicated that while they do not require this facility immediately, they are re-examining their long-term requirements. The constant fluctuation in the drug scene makes it difficult to make precise long-term plans.

Meanwhile, the Forensic Service is requesting the use of this Unit as a residential halfway house for discharged prisoners. Subject to additional staff being made available it is proposed to meet this request. The need for this type of service has been stressed by the Clinical Director, Dr. L. Daly, who has indicated that many discharged prisoners fall foul of the law and who has strongly urged that the necessary staff be made available for this purpose.

The main building is now fully occupied and provides accommodation for

1. The Forensic Service Day Programme and O.P.D.
2. Administrative Headquarters, Child Psychiatric Service.
3. St. Loman's Day Centre.
4. Psychiatric Case Register Staff Centre.

1. *The Forensic Service.*

This Centre was originally opened for drug abusers but since then its scope has been broadened to include all forms of behavioural disorder. Referrals come from many sources including the Courts, the Welfare Section of the Department of Justice, Central Mental Hospital and other psychiatric facilities. The attendance figures for the past three years are as follows: 1972—1,253; 1973—1,075; 1974—3,299; 1975 (to November—2,352). These comprise both out-patients and day patients. A day programme is provided for approximately 10-15 patients. These patients are admitted to the programme following medical assessment. Previously, larger numbers were admitted but because of disruptive behaviour experience taught that a smaller number was more amenable to therapy. The activities consist of individual counselling, woodwork, arts and crafts, group psychotherapy, recreation and job finding. Particular success has been encountered in this field and last year 89 patients were placed in gainful employment. The object of the programme is to teach the socially inadequate to cope with the pressures in their environment. In addition to this service, a rapidly developing aspect of the centre is the number of battered wife cases that are being referred by the Courts. To date 60 cases have been treated and many of these return for further treatment. It must be appreciated that this is particularly onerous work with individual interviews lasting 2-3 hours in the assessment stage. Follow-up treatment is then provided and this can be of indeterminate length. It must be emphasised that this particular aspect is of assistance in preventing further marital violence. The facility is also availed of by the Courts when seeking psychiatric assessments of prisoners on remand. This has resulted in closer liaison between the Department of Justice and the Usher's Island facility, to the ultimate benefit of the patient. Approximately five assessments are done per week. These assessments again can occupy up to 2-3 hours of a Consultant's time.

The Forensic Service in Usher's Island is staffed by one Consultant Psychiatrist, one Psychiatrist (both also operate in the Special Care Unit, Dundrum), one Nurse, one Attendant and one Social Worker. The cost of staffing and running this Centre is approximately £30,000. This cost includes the salaries of medical, paramedical and administrative staff who also have functions and responsibilities outside of Usher's Island. Administrative services for the various activities are provided by one Section Officer (part-time) and one Clerk/Typist, one Porter and one Domestic. The activities at Usher's Island were included in the Board's application to the E.E.C. Social Fund. The application was accepted and a figure in

excess of £8,000 was allocated in respect of the Usher's Island activities.

2. *Child Psychiatric Service.*

Dr. P. McCarthy, Clinical Director, occupies a suite of three offices in the building. This is the administrative headquarters of his service and is staffed by one Assistant Section Officer and one Clerk/Typist. In addition, this service has regular case presentations in the lecture room and on occasions conducts experimental programmes in the building such as the recent programme for stuttering children.

3. *St. Loman's Day Hospital.*

The upper floor of the building is completely occupied by the St. Loman's Day Hospital. This facility caters for 20 patients at present and will eventually have approximately 30 patients participating in its activities. Currently, this Unit is staffed by one Nurse and one Attendant under the direction of a Registrar from St. Loman's.

4. *Psychiatric Case Register Data Collecting Centre.*

The availability of one room at Usher's Island has enabled the Board to re-focus two Case Register Staff who were formerly based in the building at Rialto Gate which is owned by the St. James's Hospital Board. This space may, however, be required for a Psychologist when one becomes available.

A recent development at Usher's Island has been a series of talks with officials from AnCO concerning the providing of psychiatric services to the training centre in Ballyfermot and the possibility of AnCO providing a programme at Usher's Island for developing basic skills in patients who would be considered capable of responding to this type of programme. The officials concerned expect a fruitful outcome to their present discussions."

After a discussion the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Ruane, was unanimously adopted:—

" That Report No. 50/1975 be noted."

161/75

NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL—OVERCROWDING AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

The following Report No. 52/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" The above hospital, which has a bed complement of 76, has since 1966 been coping with all admissions arising from the operation of the Psychiatric Service in Co. Wicklow. In the early stages a large number of long-stay patients were transferred there from St. Brendan's and St. Ita's Hospitals and of these a large proportion were rehabilitated and returned home, where their continuing needs were catered for by the community service. One of the consequences of the establishment of a service in Co. Wicklow has been the reduction from 360 to less than 100 in the number of Co. Wicklow patients remaining in the Dublin Psychiatric Hospitals.

Within the past few years the position has been reached where not only is it not possible to repatriate more Wicklow patients but the hospital is unable to cope satisfactorily with its present number. The build-up of this problem is the result of a combination of circumstances including:—

- (i) The presence in the hospital of a residue of long-stay patients transferred from Dublin who will require residential care on a continuing basis.
- (ii) Addition to (i) above of long-stay patients arising from the operation of the day-to-day service.
- (iii) Unavailability of beds at St. Colman's Hospital and, generally, the absence of residential places for the confused aged and mentally handicapped.

The result of this build-up is twofold:

- (a) The hospital is overcrowded and 100 patients are accommodated in two wards designed to accommodate 74.
- (b) It is not possible to segregate and provide for the distinct requirements of
 - (i) 20 acute short-stay patients,
 - (ii) 20 mentally handicapped patients,
 - (iii) 20 geriatric patients,
 - (iv) 40 patients coming within other categories.

The nett effect of the above overcrowding and lack of separate accommodation is that the hospital is becoming less acceptable to the public. This is understandable if one considers that under present arrangements a young short-term patient may have to be placed next to a patient with bizarre manner or appearance.

There is no single solution to the problem. Generally speaking the extension and improvement of psychiatric and geriatric advice and treatment services at community level should reduce the demand on beds. Specifically,

- (i) *In the short-term* this problem can best be dealt with by maximum exploitation of existing bed resources. The former Dispensary Residence at Enniskerry will shortly be ready for use as a hostel for former patients (not necessarily of Newcastle or of any psychiatric hospital) who no longer require a nursing service. This hostel will provide approximately 12 places and it is expected that redeployment of persons within the framework of (a) St Coiman's Hospital, (b) Newcastle Hospital, (c) The Orchard Welfare Home, Bray, and (d) Enniskerry, in accordance with need should effect an improvement. The Director of Community Care and Medical Superintendent are at present examining the various possibilities under this heading. The possibility of transferring a limited number of mentally handicapped and psycho-geriatric patients to Dublin Hospitals is also being investigated.
- (is) While arrangements at (i) above, if satisfactorily concluded, could go a long way towards solving the immediate problem, it is expected that *until such time as separate and adequate residential facilities are provided* elsewhere for mentally handicapped, geriatric and socially handicapped patients, the latter categories will continue to be referred to Newcastle and in the absence of an alternative, cannot reasonably be refused admission. Approximately 20 persons could be provided with accommodation on the ground floor of the main hospital building. The cost of upgrading this area to render it suitable for use as an admission unit was in May of this year estimated to cost £23,000. Present thinking favours its use for long-stay quiet patients who would not require the same degree of nursing or support services and the above estimate would have to be re-examined in this light. It must be emphasised, however, that this building is not regarded by the Board's professional advisers or by the Department of Health as being suitable for dormitory purposes, and its short-term use is now being proposed only as an interim measure and in the context of the present economic situation.
- (iii) Long-term requirements will, of course., depend upon developments in the specialities of Geriatrics and Mental

Handicap. The Geriatric Service is at present being developed in Co. Wickiow and the part-time services of a geriatrician are now available. A 200-bed residential centre for adult mentally handicapped patients is planned for St. Colmcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, and when this becomes a reality it should relieve the situation at Newcastle. Long-term residential requirements will continue under review and at the present juncture the only thing which can be stated with certainty is that any additional, long-term residential requirements would necessitate the provision of new buildings rather than the conversion of existing buildings. The position will be further reviewed when the revenue and capital allocations for 1976 are known."

After a short discussion it was agreed to note the report on a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. D. Kinsella.

162/75

FIRE PRECAUTIONS, LOWER HOUSE, ST. BRENDAN'S HOSPITAL

The following Reports No. 51/1975 from the Chief Executive Officer and 51 A/1975 from the Technical Services Officer were submitted:—

"In accordance with the Board's decision at its last meeting, tenders have been invited for fire escapes for the hostel operated by the Legion of Mary.

At its meeting in October last, the Board consented to a proposal to create five additional employments of Porters for the purpose of providing a night fire patrol for the Lower House, St. Brendan's Hospital. The provision of the night patrol, which was estimated to cost £16,000 in a full year, was intended as an interim measure pending Departmental approval to proceed with the installation of the Fire Alarm System and structural works in the Lower House.

The Technical Services Officer has been examining the manner in which the proposed employments might best be deployed to meet the fire risk. He has advised that the patrol suggestion suffers from certain limitations and considers that the Board would obtain better value for money by allocating the £16,000 for structural works and equipment instead.

The Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Corporation, has been asked for his views on the alternative proposal. His report has not yet come to hand but it is understood that he favours this approach.

Subject to the Chief Fire Officer's advice, it is proposed to adopt the Technical Services Officer's recommendation."

"Report No. 51A/1975:

Fire has to be recognised as a potential hazard of great magnitude and particularly in relation to hospitals, homes and hostels where incapacitated, frail and sick people are living. In the event of an outbreak of fire, all patients/residents have to be evacuated to a safe place in the minimum time and this can only be done if there is a carefully worked out plan prepared in advance. This evacuation exercise is much assisted by early detection and alarm, well trained staff prepared by regular demonstrations and instructions, high fire resistant structures provided with adequate smoke doors, proper and well placed stairways, sufficient exits, etc.

The Dublin Health Authority recognised the potential hazard of fire and appointed the only serving Chartered Engineer, Mr. P. O'Flaherty, to the Fire Prevention and Safety Function in a wholtime capacity. Since his appointment to this work, Mr. O'Flaherty has concentrated his efforts on ensuring that all the Board's premises, particularly residential institutions, are free from obvious sources of fire and adequately provided for to minimise the effects of *an* actual outbreak. He conducts regular lectures, film shows and carries out simulated evacuation demonstrations and equipment exhibitions. In the past year he has carried out inspections in every institution and has given over 60 lectures involving the showing of three appropriate films and held numerous meetings with Matrons and senior staff. In addition, he examines all proposals for new buildings to make sure that the necessary fire prevention and protection precautions are included for. He works in close co-operation with the Chief Fire Officer of each Local Authority area and liaises with them, as the statutory authority, on the adequacy of our arrangements.

From the beginning of next year I am re-assigning Mr. Noel Keogh, Engineering Officer, Wicklow, to fire duties under Mr. O'Flaherty. This will not create a new post as East and West Wicklow will be allocated to their adjoining Engineering Groups. It will, however, make better use of the present staff complement and will further strengthen this vital fire area.

The Fire Sub-Committee of the Board agreed to a four-stage phased approach towards the elimination of the most hazardous fire situations existing in a number of institutions as per schedule of priorities; these works to be carried out immediately funds were made available. While the proposed

phased works will remedy the most serious deficiencies, most of the Board's premises are quite old and it would be wrong to assume that premises not included for attention are in ideal fire order.

Full conformity with the most modern requirements towards achieving ideal fire standards would involve substantial capital expenditure. *Even if available, all this money would be for nothing if the basic essentials of staff awareness and training in emergencies were missing.* Inherent in this is the principle that prevention is better than cure. Because of the particular circumstances at St. Ita's (remoteness from nearest fire brigade and concentration of patient population) the hospital has its own fire tender manned by members of the staff under the direction of the Hospital Fire Warden and his assistant; there is also a radio link with Ambulance Control in James's Street. There is also a Fire Warden in St. Brendan's but because of the hospital's location the need for a separate fire tender is not required. St. Brigid's, Crooksling, also have a radio link with James's Street because of a possibility of a breakdown of the telephone lines in this isolated location.

To consolidate the overall position I propose the setting up of a fire committee in each residential institution. Membership of these committees would include the senior medical, nursing and administrative personnel together with representatives of ward and other staffs. The Board's Chief Fire Officer, or his assistant, would chair meetings of these committees, which would be concerned with the following matters:—

1. Appraisal of fire prevention and safety situations.
2. Approval of Fire Orders.
3. Issuing of fire instructions as appropriate.
4. Arranging drills, lectures, exhibitions, etc.

It is also proposed to issue a standard report form for completion on the regular inspection and checking of all fire prevention and detection equipment by nominated members of the Board's staff.

Because of the specialised nature of the subject, it is considered that questions on fire raised by members of Visiting Committees in the absence of the Fire Officer should be deferred until he is present."

After a short discussion to which Mr. Ruane and Dr. Walker contributed and to which Mr. Sadlier replied, the following motion proposed by Mr. Ruane and seconded by Mr. Corrigan was unanimously adopted:—

" That the Board consents to the proposals outlined in Report No. 51/1975 and notes the proposals in Report No. 51A/1975."

163/75

NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. D. Kinsella:

" Following a resolution passed at the Wicklow local health committee we request this Board to ask the Department of Health to provide capital for a hospital for the town of Arklow."

After a discussion to which Cllr. Carroll, Dr. Doyle, Cllr. Brady, Mr. Corcoran and Miss Kinsella contributed and to which Mr. J. J. Nolan replied, the proposer, with the consent of the meeting, agreed to amend his motion to read as follows:

" Following a resolution passed at the Wicklow local health committee we request this Board to ask the Department of Health to provide capital for a hospital for the town of Arklow of size and service capacity adequate to the normal needs of South Wicklow."

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. As a substantive motion it was again carried unanimously.

(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. Kinsella:

" Propose that a report be submitted on the emergency services available for the Arklow area in the event of a major accident there, if a hospital fails to be provided."

It was unanimously agreed to refer this motion to the Emergency Services Committee.

(Hi) The following motion was submitted by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Lemass:

"That the Eastern Health Board make provision in the 1976 Estimates for £40,000 for the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, to enable the hospital to erect a laboratory for which the Hospital is contributing up to 50% of the cost."

While the members felt that the motion was deserving of support, it was felt that it would be inundated with requests from all the voluntary hospitals for similar aid. After Mr. Nolan had outlined the present position regarding finance, the

proposer agreed to delete the words "Eastern Health Board" from the motion and substitute therefor "Department of Health". The amended motion was carried unanimously and when put before the meeting as a substantive motion was also carried. Mr. Corcoran, Miss Kinselia and Dr. Doyle contributed to the debate, as well as the proposer and seconder.

(iv) The following motion proposed by Dr. A. Meade was seconded by Dr. P. C. Jennings:

"That each participating doctor in the G.M.S. be given a monthly report of his visiting and prescribing pattern—as agreed between the profession and the Department of Health—After a short discussion it was agreed to note the motion.

164/75

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 14th December from Department of Agriculture on the control of rabies was circulated and noted.
- (b) Letter dated 20th November, 1975, from the Mid-Western Health Board advising that that Board had adopted the following resolution was circulated:

" That the Mid-Western Health Board calls upon the appropriate Ministers to drop the preference for 'competent knowledge of Irish' from the procedures of the Local Appointments Commission in the selection for professional and technical appointments in non-Gaeltacht areas."

It was agreed to note the letter.

- (c) Letter dated 10th November, 1975, from the Dublin County Council requesting that the Board administer public assistance in the County Council area for a further period of two years from 1st January, 1976, was circulated. The Board consented to the request.
- (d) Letter dated 4th November, 1975, from the Southern Health Board containing the following resolution was circulated and noted:—

"That the Minister for Health be requested to amend the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1948 so as to promote the more effective ascertainment and control of such diseases in present-day conditions."

- (e) Letter dated 14th November, 1975, from the Medical Union nominating Dr. Bardey Sheehan. 21 Summerhill, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. J. Sheehan on the Dun Laoghaire local health committee was read. The members consented to the appointment of Dr. Bartley Sheehan.

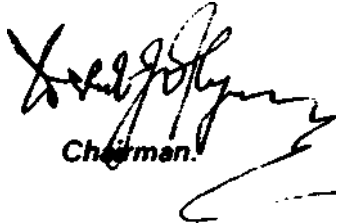
The meeting terminated at 9.10 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed:



Chairman.

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Special Meeting of Committee of the Whole House of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital, on Thursday. 11th December, 1975. at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Mr. K. Harrington
Cllr. M. Brady	Cllr. P. Hickey
Cllr. D. Browne	air. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Miss K. Kinsella
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Mr. J. Corcoran	Dr. A. Meade
Mr. H. Corrigan	Deputy C. Murphy
Dr. J. Cullen	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Duming	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Dr. J. S. Doyle, Miss M. Lacey and Dr. J. McCormick.

Mr. D. O'Flynn, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. J. Nolan	<i>D/Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. F. Williams
Mr. F. Donohue	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. M. Murray-Hayden
Mr. T. Keyes	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. Sadlier	<i>Technical Services Officer</i>	Mr. P. J. Swords
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	<i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. C. D. McElree
Mr. R. N. Lamb	<i>Personnel Officer</i>	Mr. C. Murphy
Mr. F. Elliott	<i>Planning & Eval. Officer</i>	Mr. F. McCullough
Prof. I. Browne	<i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	Mr. J. Clarke
		Miss N. Greene
		Miss C. Doran

165/75 REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE 1975

The following report from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In this report the trends of the Board's expenditure in 1975 and the implications for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 1976 are reviewed under the following headings:—

Revenue Expenditure

Capital Expenditure

Cash How

Revenue Expenditure

1. At the estimates meeting held in January, 1975, the Board considered the revenue estimate of expenses which had been prepared by the management team. It was pointed out that while the net expenditure for the year estimated by the management team amounted to £25,897,000, the allocation approved by the Minister for Health was £23,500,000, which would result in an estimated shortfall (at 1974 costs) of £2,397,000.
2. The Board adopted a Revenue Budget based on the Minister's allocation in the following terms:—

'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.'
3. In a letter dated 24th November, 1975, the Department of Health has conveyed the Minister's approval to an additional net expenditure allocation of £6·2m., bringing the total approved level of net health expenditure for 1975 to £29·7m. The letter states:

'This represents the final allocation figure for 1975, and covers the cost of all the services funded *directly* by the Board. The allocation includes provision for price increases during 1975 and additional pay costs arising from round increases and all pay awards approved during the year up to and including the date of this letter.

The Minister for Finance also referred to the very great difficulties facing the Government in making provision for

additional financial assistance for public services and to the need to tighten control of Government expenditure so as to avoid any further increases during the remainder of the year. The Minister requests that health boards will now take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that expenditure is confined within the limits of the approved revised allocation.'

I must point out that the revised allocation was received far too late in the year to carry out the Minister's instructions regarding curtailment of expenditure. With eleven-twelfths of the year already expired, it would not be possible to take any practical steps in the final month of the year to ensure that the expenditure is confined within the limits of an allocation which is deficient by an estimated £1m.

It was stressed by the Department that, in fixing the allocation of £23.5m., the Minister did not intend that the Board should cut back on the existing level of services. The services, therefore, continued as far as possible at the 1974 level, with a limited amount of development, which was approved by the Minister.

Even though the services were retained at their existing level, they did not remain static. An increasing number of persons applied for such services as long-term illness scheme, limited eligibility medicines scheme, disabled persons' allowances, handicapped children's allowances and home helps. In a letter dated 18 December, 1974, I drew the Department's attention to the effect that such trends in our expenditure would have on the Board's budget. The prognostications made in that letter have been amply fulfilled by events during the past eleven months. It must be accepted, therefore, that it was unrealistic of the Department to believe that services could be continued at existing levels and at the same time be held to the Minister's allocation. The estimate prepared in detail by the Board's officers, based on their close working knowledge of service requirements, although almost £2-4m. higher than the Minister's allocation, has proved to be considerably short of the expenditure outturn now estimated, due in the main to increasing remuneration costs and the inflationary tendencies which continued during the year. In the Minister's allocation, allowance was made for price increases at a rate of 14% per annum covering the 21 months period from 1 April, 1974, to 31 December, 1975. This represents an increase of 26% over the whole period.

An examination of consumer price index returns from the Central Statistics Office shows an increase over the period of April, 1974, to August, 1975, of 31.6%. The increase to 31 December, 1975, is likely to be in the range 33 to 36 per cent.

The Finance Officer has reviewed the expenditure and income for the year and, on the basis of the latest figures available, estimates that the net health expenditure will be in the region of £30.7m. The revised allocation is, therefore, £1m. less than our requirements for the year.

8. The following table compares the original budget with the revised net expenditure.

EXPENDITURE	Budget 1975	Revised Estimate 1975	Increase
	£	£	£
General Hospital Care	7,472,300	9,147,200	1,374,900
Special Hospital Care	7,812,400	10,442,000	2,329,600
Community Care	8,108,200	9,988,900	1,362,700
Central Services	1,905,600	2,941,300	1,035,700
Total Estimated Expenditure	25,297,000	32,319,300	7,222,300
	1,797,000	1,316,000	193,000
Estimated net health Expenditure	23,500,000	30,703,300	7,203,300

The principal factors contributing to the increased expenditure were:

	Amount	Percentage of Total
	£	%
Salaries and Wages increases	2,922,000	43
Price increases on costs of supplies	1,338,000	20
Increased overdraft interest	680,000	10
increased costs and demands for medicines, etc.:		
"Refund" Scheme	£196,000	
Long-term Illnesses	£194,000	
Medical Appliances	£87,000	
	477,000	7

Disabled Persons allowances.....	177	11/12/1975
		428,000
Increased Capitation rates	—	6 4
		312,000
Increased payments to St. Michael's House for maintenance of mentally handicapped persons	— —	3
		2 2
		2 1
		210,000
Home Help services	— . ~ ~	
		130,000
Pension increases	— —	
		121,000
Social Welfare Insurance (Employers' cont.)	_ _ _ _ _	
		110,000
Developments approved by Minister		92,000
Total		___ 6,820,000 100

Capital Expenditure

10. A Capital Budget for 1975 of £770,000 was approved by the Minister for Health on 11th February, 1975. The details were as follows:—

	£
Completed schemes	_ 165,000
Ongoing schemes	_ 125,000
Minor capital works	— 150,000
"New starts"	___ „_ 240,000
Section 65 capital grants	_ 90,000

Total ___ £770,000

11. The amount of £290,000 provided for completed and ongoing schemes was a considerable under-estimation of our requirements for these purposes, and on 20th February, 1975, the Department of Health was informed that the probable cost would be £935,488. The total expenditure on all projects is now estimated at £1,048,536. The Department of Health, however, have informed me that the total amount available for capital purposes in the year is £485,461, and not £770,000 as originally approved by the Minister.
12. There will be an estimated debit of £1,228,126 on capital expenditure at the end of the year, calculated as follows:—

Due at 31st December, 1974, in respect of completed and ongoing projects	—	£665,051
Estimated expenditure to 31/12/1975	„	1,048,536
		£1,713,587
Income from grants and loan instalments	_	485,461
Estimated debit balance at 31st December, 1975	—	£1,228,126

13. In the circumstances expenditure of £1,228,126 will by the end of the current year have accumulated in the bank overdraft.
14. It is estimated that, in addition, expenditure in respect of works in progress will amount to £515,200 during 1976. The projects concerned are listed in Appendix I.
15. In view of the situation outlined above, rigorous examination of the proposals of the Programme Managers and Technical Services Officer in regard to new projects in 1976 has been carried out with them and a priority list has been drawn up. The projects concerned are as follows:—

PROJECT DETAILS	Estimated Expenditure 1976
1. <i>Legion of Mary Hostels</i> Fire escapes, emergency lighting, extra fire fighting equipment, etc.	£37,000
2. <i>Bru Chaoimhin</i> Fire Alarm System: emergency lighting.....	£41,000
3. <i>St. Brendan's Hospital</i> Structural works. Lower House	£25,000
4. <i>St. Clare's Home</i> Structural works, re-wiring, etc	£22,000
5. <i>Mount Pleasant Square Hostel</i> Fire alarm and fire escape	£10,000
6. <i>Health Centre, Tallaght</i> Initial payments	£60,000

PROJECT DETAILS	<i>Estimated Expenditure 1976</i>
7. <i>Health Centre. Coolock</i> Site acquisition — — —	£20,000
8. <i>St. Columcille's Hospital</i> Improvements to maternity unit —	£30,000
9. <i>St. Ita's Hospital</i> Renewal of telephone system: pay ment on account — — —	£5,000
10. <i>St. Columcille's Hospital</i> Mental handicap centre: initial ex penses — — — —	£5,000
11. <i>Unit for Sociopathic Children</i> Initial expenses — — —	£5,000
12. <i>Central Services</i>	
(i) Re-location of Ambulance Con trol Unit — — —	£25,000
(ii) Replacement of Radio Equipment (Standardisation on national basis) „ — — — — —	£20,000
13. <i>Dublin Central Mission</i> Hostel and Social Aid Centre —.	£5,000
14. <i>Holylands Nursery Committee</i> Reconstruction and extension of premises — — — —	£500
15. <i>Donnybrook Day Centre for Aged</i> Provision of day room and kitchen; laundry and bathing facilities —	£6,000
16. <i>Dublin Central Mission</i> New Infirmary at Claremont, Sandy- mount — — — —	£22,500
17. <i>Irish Sisters of Charity, Milhown</i> Extension to Community Hall to provide a Day Centre for elderly	£10,000
18. <i>Irish Sisters of Charity, Madonna House</i> Provision of two-family units for children in short-term care —	£25,000
	£374,000

16. The ability to carry out any new works in 1976 is dependent on provision by the Department of Health of the necessary funds, bearing in mind the existing commitments referred to above. The sanction of the Minister for Health will be required for the individual projects set out above. It will be noted that the list of new projects for 1976 gives first priority to the five fire precaution works identified by the Technical Services Offices as being the most immediate.

Cash Flow

17. During the year the Board's bank balance was continually in overdraft, rising more or less steadily from £4m. at the beginning of the year to over £9m. on 27th November, 1975. A statement showing the daily balances from January to November is attached to this report.
18. The Board has one general bank account, against which are charged payments on both revenue and capital accounts. The following factors caused the increasing level of overdraft:—
 - (i) At the beginning of the year almost £4m. was due from the Department for Health Grant instalments in respect of the years to 31 December, 1974.
 - (ii) An amount of about £1m. was due in respect of loan instalments and Hospitals Trust Grants for capital expenditure.
 - (iii) Although the Health Grant is now being received in fortnightly instalments, the inadequacy of the allocation has resulted in the net payments throughout the year being at a higher level than the grant instalments.
 - (iv) The entire Health Grant is not paid within the year, an amount of 5% being retained until accounts have been audited. In an allocation of £29.7m. the retention amounts to £1,485,000.
 - (v) The rating authorities did not pay instalment contributions promptly each month.
 - (vi) Income from loan instalments and Hospitals Trust Grants did not meet our requirements for approved capital works.

The overdraft on 31 December, 1975, is estimated to be £3 8m., calculated as follows:

	£
Overdraft at 31 December, 1974	3.953.521
Add Uncashed cheques	1.384,238
	5337.759
Payments for year (including Public Assistance and capital payments)	35.689,204
	41.026,963
<i>Less Income</i>	£
Health Services grant (including £1 9m. in respect of 1974)	27,035,000
Rating Authorities' Contributions and Public Demands	4.391,147
Other Receipts	2,096,000
Loan Instalments and Trust Grants	485.461
Capital receipts for Sales of Land, etc.	64,200

	34,071,808
Balance at 31 December, 1975	6.955.155
Less estimated uncashed cheques	2,000.000
Estimated overdraft at 31 December, 1975	4355,155
	Say — 4.955,000

Interest on overdraft for the nine months to 30 September, 1975, amounted to £591,000). The total interest payable for the year is estimated to be in the region of £800,000. It will be seen, therefore, that bank interest is absorbing a very sizeable portion of the Board's allocation.

Revenue Allocation for 1976

21. It is expected that the Board will soon be notified of its allocation for 1976. While members are aware generally of the present difficult economic situation I consider it relevant to quote what the Minister for Finance had specifically to say in regard to revenue expenditure when introducing his Budget in June last

' It is in relation to non-capital expenditure, however, that the over-rapid rate of growth is particularly worrying. It is this that gives rise to budget deficits on current account which have to be met by borrowing.

Moreover, non-capital expenditure is mainly used to defray the costs of on-going services, which, though often laudable, do not create lasting assets of a productive nature. A large part of this expenditure is devoted to social services such as health, housing and social welfare payments. The demand for such services is so high and their cost so sensitive to the effects of inflation that it is essential to ensure that they and, indeed, all other non-capital expenditure are kept under constant review.

The Government intend, therefore, to adopt a policy of moderation in regard to non-capital expenditure generally in order to conserve scarce resources for productive purposes. The naive notion that all can be provided by State if enough clamour is generated will have to be replaced by a patient realisation that nothing more can be provided until extra resources become available. Desirable improvements or extensions of existing services, or the introduction of new services, will have to be shelved until the present economic difficulties have been overcome and resources once more become available to meet additional costs. . . .

As a further measure to control the excessive growth of non-capital expenditures, strict observance of budgetary limits will be insisted upon. This will mean in the case of open-ended grant schemes, for example, that when the annual budgetary allocation has been exhausted further expenditure will, in general, be deferred to the next budget period.'

**APPENDIX I CAPITAL
WORKS: On-going projects**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Project Detail</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>
		1976
		£
<i>General Hospital Programme</i>		
St. Clare's Home	Supply and erect lift shaft	1,000
St. Patrick's Home	Telephone/Fire alarm system	3,000
St. Colman's Hospital	86-Bed Unit	38,000
St. Colman's Hospital	Alterations to St. Kevin's Unit	20,000
St. Vincent's Athy	Provision of Convent, Home and Mortuary	4,000
District Hospital, Baltinglass	30-Bed Unit	10,000
Regina Coeli Hostels	Improvements	1,250
1 James's Street	Installation of R/T equipment	3.150
<i>Special Hospital Programme</i>		
St. Brendan's Hospital	Steam mains	11,000
St Ita's Hospital	Heating services, etc.	50,000
St. Ita's Hospital	72-Bed Unit	120,000
St Ita's Hospital	Female Chronic Block	70,000
Ballyfermot	Day Nursery and Child Psychiatric Clinic	40,000
730/732 Sth. Cir. Road	Purchase and alterations	2.000
Warrenstown House		35,000
<i>Community Care Programme</i>		
Welfare Home, Ballymun	40-Bed Home	3,000
Welfare Home, Bray	40-Bed Home	18,000
Arklow	Health Centre	60,000
Dundrum	Extension. Health Centre	25,000
North Strand	Health Centre	300
Ballymun	Health Centre	500
		£515,200

DEBIT BALANCE AT BANK. DAILY, 2nd JANUARY TO
31st DECEMBER, 1975

2 Jan.	£4,067,734	3 Feb.	£3,531,116	3 Mar.	£3,652,432	1 Apr.	£3,580,825
3	4,027,638	4	3,721,546	4	3,768,420	2	3,765,788
6	4,123,238	5	3,835,001	5	3,903,822	3	3,807,863
7	4,509,389	6	4,053,254	6	4,089,002	4	3,951,968
8	4,604,536	7	4,208,204	7	3,979,088	7	4,082,476
9	4,762,427	10	4,328,972	10	4,208,829	8	4,202,602
10	4,863,996	11	4,454,083	11	4,329,906	9	4,290,295
13	4,884,180	12	4,541,887	12	4,420,025	10	4,380,222
14	4,088,657	13	4,684,914	13	4,488,351	11	4,430,141
15	4,169,173	14	4,776,013	14	4,528,080	14	4,551,836
16	4,308,720	17	4,938,038	18	4,802,634	15	4,636,481
17	4,382,589	18	4,988,506	19	4,903,782	16	4,776,951
20	4,489,438	19	5,108,489	20	5,008,887	17	4,829,633
21	4,573,124	20	5,218,403	21	5,174,559	18	5,039,485
22	4,642,211	21	5,253,200	24	5,248,066	21	5,147,156
23	4,769,131	24	5,306,882	25	5,336,514	22	5,240,750
24	4,884,058	25	5,402,902	26	3,484,623	23	5,307,191
27	4,904,200	26	5,435,378	27	3,332,757	24	5,444,101
28	4,979,283	27	3,443,954			25	5,547,219
29	5,009,216	28	3,513,632			28	5,663,900
30	3,367,828					29	5,732,800
31	3,488,340					30	3,990,859
1 May	£4,157,557	3 Jun.	£5,088,792	1 Jul.	£5,483,696	1 Aug.	£6,188,272
2	4,235,158	4	5,269,188	2	5,852,468	5	6,441,817
5	4,168,621	5	5,488,138	3	5,985,127	6	6,600,763
6	4,246,515	6	5,589,496	4	6,129,381	7	6,728,520
7	4,320,482	9	5,739,527	7	6,304,121	8	6,913,901
8	4,388,302	10	5,874,085	8	6,474,809	11	7,082,635
9	4,582,995	11	6,064,705	9	6,335,853	12	7,246,990
12	4,840,224	12	6,151,670	10	6,484,744	13	7,253,301
13	5,034,961	13	6,227,808	11	6,600,358	14	7,345,482
14	5,137,097	16	6,351,319	14	6,741,320	15	6,481,328
15	5,280,124	17	6,465,312	15	6,579,876	18	6,524,357
16	5,345,256	18	6,572,252	16	5,878,174	19	6,666,125
19	5,882,986	19	6,788,189	17	5,965,261	20	6,761,303
20	5,651,196	20	6,873,528	18	5,904,724	21	6,818,926
21	5,784,962	23	6,954,852	21	6,070,914	22	6,898,037
22	5,903,927	24	7,032,944	22	6,182,322	25	7,032,549
23	6,008,403	25	7,126,832	23	6,251,198	26	7,129,596
26	6,019,361	26	7,289,182	24	6,374,266	27	7,208,182
27	6,149,611	27	5,332,238	25	6,475,758	28	7,307,351
28	6,219,638	30	5,376,566	26	6,605,865	29	6,462,049
29	6,341,466			29	6,710,306		
30	4,894,614			30	6,785,194		
				31	6,014,580		

1 Sep.	£6,654,876	1 Oct.	£7,144,628	1 Nov.	£7,687,473	Dec.
2	6,580,598	2	7,212,005	3	7,844,085	
3	6,844,383	3	7,502,391	4	8,058,646	
4	6,871,388	6	7,396,591	5	8,189,988	
5	7,005,613	7	7,525,025	6	8,354,843	
8	7,178,327	8	7,651,067	7	8,551,898	
9	7,307,189	9	7,888,761	10	8,414,941	
10	7,395,525	10	7,747,525	11	8,434,044	
11	7,456,470	13	7,925,973	12	8,605,690	
12	7,541,467	14	8,018,113	13	8,725,193	
15	7,839,892	15	7,178,806	14	8,785,290	
16	7,036,020	16	7,284,398	17	7,974,012	
17	7,143,582	17	7,438,861	18	8,080,186	
18	7,320,298	20	7,598,036	19	8,187,083	
19	7,420,252	21	7,712,904	20	8,518,929	
22	7,550,838	22	7,800,753	21	8,548,119	
23	7,645,197	23	7,934,083	24	8,703,477	
24	7,732,880	24	8,027,883	25	8,816,343	
25	7,768,813	27	8,172,038	26	9,111,077	
26	7,796,490	28	8,304,936	27	9,270,611	
29	7,955,470	29	8,433,078	28	5,392,793*	
30	7,034,263	30	8,516,487			
		31	7,837,973			

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the members agreed to consider the report, paragraph by paragraph, requesting elucidation from the Finance Officer and the Programme Managers where necessary.

The Finance Officer pointed out that his revised estimate of expenditure for the year, which exceeded the revised allocation by £1m., did not include provision for pay rises for psychiatric nurses, public health nurses and certain other grades, the sanctions for which had just been received. These had not yet been fully costed, but an estimate of their cost was £330,000, making the total shortfall £1 -3m.

There followed a detailed discussion to which Cllr. Hickey, Mr. Ruane, Dr. Meade, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Cullen, Miss Kinsella, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Carroll, Deputy Murphy, Deputy Dockrell, Dr. Walker, Cllr. Sweeney, Cllr. Duming, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Corrigan contributed.

The Chief Executive Officer, Programme Managers and Finance Officer, replied to various points raised.

The members considered that they had been placed in a difficult situation in the light of the Minister's direction in November, 1974 (Minute C774 refers) that the then existing services be maintained at the levels then current.

Many members expressed particular concern about the effect that delayed funding of both Capital and Revenue Accounts was having on the Board's overdraft. It was considered that the extremely high sum being paid on overdraft interest could be more beneficially applied to the improvement of health services. Or. Cullen suggested that overdraft interest should not be paid out of the Board's allocation, but funded separately by the Department.

At the conclusion of the debate the Board unanimously adopted the following motions:—

- (1) Proposed by Cllr. P. Hickey and seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan:

"Propose that the Department of Health be requested to pay 100% of the Health Grant in each year in respect of expenditure incurred in that year."

- (2) Proposed by Cllr. J. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. P. Hickey:

"That this Board cannot accept the final allocation of funds by the Minister in respect of 1975 in view of the situation outlined by the Finance Officer."

The meeting ended at 8 o'clock.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.



Signed: Chairman.

