

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 Aid. 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, Aid. 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.

Aid. 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.*