

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:

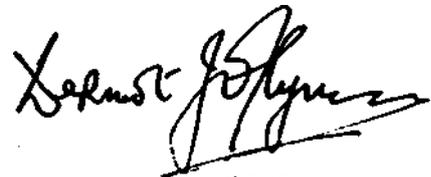
" That realising the injustices which result from the absence of a Scheme for the compulsory registration of Wills throughout the State, and pending the introduction of legislation to make the registration of such Wffls obligatory, the Western Health Board make arrangements applicable to the Institutions under its care in the Counties of Galway, 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.

3/7/75