

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. J. Nolan', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chairman.