

## 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.*

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**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.

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**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
	<b>£1,372,337</b>

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
	<b>£17,577,819</b>

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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

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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.*