

## 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 April. 1976. at 6 p.m.*

*Present:*

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. M. Birmingham      | Councillor D. Kinsella    |
| Councillor M. Brady    | Miss K. Kinsella          |
| Councillor D. Browne   | Miss M. Lacey             |
| Councillor M. Carroll  | Councillor Mrs. E. Lemass |
| Councillor J. Connolly | Councillor T. Leonard     |
| Mr. J. Corcoran        | Dr. J. McCormick          |
| Mr. H. Corrigan        | Dr. J. R. Mahon           |
| Dr. J. Cullen          | Dr. A. Meade              |
| Deputy H. P. Dockrell  | Deputy C. Murphy          |
| Councillor G. Doyle    | Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell   |
| Councillor J. Durning  | Mr. D. O'Flynn            |
| Alderman A. FrtzGerald | Mr. M. Ruane              |
| Councilor Mrs. Glenn   | Councillor J. Sweeney     |
| Mr. K. Harrington      | Dr. J. Walker             |
| Councillor P. Hicfey   |                           |

*Apologies:*

Councillor T. Hand and Dr. P. C. Jennings

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

*Officers in Attendance:*

|                    |  |                   |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Mr. E. O Caoimh    | <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>           | Mr. P. J. Swords  |
| Mr. F. Donohue     | <i>Programme Manager</i>                 | Mr. J. Clarke     |
| Mr. T. P. Keyes    | <i>Programme Manager</i>                 | Mr. F. McCullough |
| Prof. B. O'Donnell | <i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>            | Mr. J. Doyle      |
| Mr. J. Sadlier     | <i>Technical Services Officer</i>        | Mr. K. Quinn      |
| Mr. R. N. Lamb     | <i>Personnel Officer</i>                 | Miss L. O'Kelly   |
| Mr. J. F. Reynolds | <i>Finance Officer</i>                   | Mr. T. Barry      |
| Mr. F. Elliott     | <i>Planning &amp; Evaluation Officer</i> | Mr. A. O'Brien    |
|                    |  | Miss K. Dolan     |

38/76

**WELCOME**

The Chairman at the outset of the meeting congratulated Miss Lacey on her recovery from her recent illness and welcomed her back to the Board meetings. The members unanimously endorsed the Chairman's welcome.

39/76

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of meeting of the 4th March, 1976, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Sweeney.

**(a) Matters arising:**

Councillor Connolly enquired if any further information was available concerning the death of the infant referred to in the minutes. He was informed that the matter was still *sub judice*.

40/76

**PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES**

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

**(a) No. 1 Visiting Committee Meeting held at:****(i) An Lar and****(ii) The Orchard, Bray, on 18/3/1376.**

(i) Councillor Murphy suggested that more space might be made available at An Lar, to develop the work of the Centre, which was of very high standard. He felt that a Sheltered Workshop should be developed there and eventually a further one to serve south Wicklow area. Mr. Ruane felt that the Geriatrician should be used in assessing' all patients for admission to this Centre.

**(ii) The Orchard, Bray—Noted.****(b) No. 2 Visiting Committee Meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin, Cork Street on 10/3/1376—Noted.****(c) No. 3 Visiting Committee Meeting held at St. Ita's Hospital, on 18/2/1976.**

Dr. J. O'Connell referred to the visit last year of the accreditation team from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and proposed that in order to avoid possible downgrading of the hospital that the principle extra facilities considered necessary by the team (referred to on page 3 of the report) should be implemented. This was unanimously agreed to.

- (d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee Meeting held at the County Hospital, Naas. on 29/1/1976— Noted.*

41/76

**PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES**

- (a) Minutes of meeting of Dublin County Local Health Committee held on 1st March, 1976—Noted.
- (b) Minutes of meeting of Kildare County Local Health Committee held on 22/1/1976—Noted.
- (c) Minutes of meeting of Wicklow County Local Health Committee held on 16/1/1976—Noted.

42/76

**QUESTION**

On a proposal by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Alderman FitzGerald, it was unanimously resolved that the Chief Executive Officer should answer the question put.

**Question:**

Councillor P. Hickey to ask:

"Will the Chief Executive Officer state the present position regarding the establishment of a Health Centre in Ballinteer. Can an assurance be given that the provision of this long overdue facility for the people of the area is not being held up by the Department of Health, and that there is no change of mind regarding the site in the shopping complex?"

**Reply:**

The Board has approved of the provision of a Health Centre to serve the Ballinteer/Dundrum area. The Health Centre is one of the high priority projects in the Board's Capital Programme and will be commenced as soon as funds for the purpose are made available by the Minister for Health.

The Department of Health has approved of the acquisition of the site which is in the Ballinteer shopping complex.

43/76

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The following Report No. 17/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The Health Board, at its ordinary monthly meeting in March, 1976, decided to set up a Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The decision was made under the powers vested in the Board by Section 8 of the Health Act, 1970. (Article 59—Standing Orders).

Following the precedent of the former Dublin Health Authority, the Committee could be a Committee of the Whole House and the quorum would thus be nine members (Article 60). No question of delegation of any function of the Board to the Committee has arisen (Article 59). The matter of comital to it of business "by order of the Board" may, unless the Board should decide otherwise, be reviewed in some months time in the light of experience. Article 18 (Standing Orders) absence of a quorum and postponment of unfinished business to the next ordinary meeting will apply.

It is suggested that subject to review not later than twelve months after its first meeting the Finance and General Purposes Committee should meet once every two months—preferably on the third Thursday.

The Committee shall appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Article 63).

Notices of motion recommending or involving expenditure may be considered by the Committee, subject to transmission to each member of the Board and to compliance by the mover with Article 32 of Standing Orders—motions must be received by the Chief Executive Officer at least 8 clear days before a meeting.

I consider that the foregoing suggestions be adopted in the first instance to enable the Committee to start functioning and adjustments could be made where found desirable as the business of the Committee develops."

After a short discussion the following motion proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Carroll was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consents to the proposals outlined in Report No. 17/1976 and that meetings be held on the last Thursday of every second month at 6 p.m."

44/76

**G.M.S.—CHOICE OF DOCTOR SCHEME—ENGAGEMENT OF ASSISTANT WITH A VIEW TO PARTNERSHIP**

The following Report No. 18/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Doctor B. V. Pippet, Church Hill, Wicklow is participating in the Board's General Practitioner Service. He has a large list of eligible persons and his centres of practice are at Church Hill, Wicklow and Main Street Rathdrum. In his letter of the 27th January, 1976, he has expressed his wish to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership. Doctor Pippet has the largest panel of eligible persons in Co. Wicklow and his panel is made up of persons in Wicklow Town and from the extensive area between Wicklow Town, Newcastle, Roundwood, Annamoe, Laragh and Rathdrum (and south of the latter). There is no resident doctor in this area outside of Wicklow Town. Doctor Pippet is also in the course of providing a two doctor surgery in Wicklow (in place of the one doctor surgery he has at present). In the circumstances I consider that an additional doctor would improve the service and give wider choice to eligible persons.

In accordance with paragraph 21/22 of the circular letter 8/75 dated 9th April, 1975, issued by the Department of Health, the Irish Medical Association and the Medical Union were asked for their observations on Doctor Pippet's request. In letters dated 15th and 10th March, 1976, the Medical Union and the Irish Medical Association respectively stated that they had no objection to Doctor Pippet's proposal.

I recommend that, subject to the approval of the Board, applications be invited in the usual manner and that an Assistant for Doctor Pippet be selected 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 as follows:—

- '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 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 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 motion proposed by Deputy Murphy and seconded by Councillor Sweeney was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board hereby consents to the proposals outlined in Report No. 18/1976."

45/76

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion in the name of Dr. P. C. Jennings was, at his request proposed by Councillor Durning and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Glenn:—

'That while the provision of Day Nurseries is laudable, this should be regarded only as a temporary expedient and regulations should be enacted to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the detriment of their duties to their children and the home.'

Some members were in favour of deferring this motion but as Dr. Jennings in a letter informed the members that he was anxious to have it discussed and get the views of the members, a debate ensued. The following members contributed to the debate—Dr. McCormick, Dr. O'Connell, Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Mr. Ruane, Miss K. Kinsella and Councillor Durning, following which the motion was defeated by 27 votes to 2. The voting was as follows:—

**FOR: Councillor Durning and Councillor Mrs. Glenn.**

**AGAINST: Mr. Birmingham, Councillor Brady, Councillor Browne, Councillor Carroll, Councillor Connolly, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Corrigan, Dr. Cullen, Deputy Dockrell, Councillor Doyle, Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. Harrington, Councillor Hickey, Councillor Kinsella, Miss Kinsella, Miss Lacey, Mrs. Lemass, Councillor Leonard, Dr. McCormick, Dr. Mahon, Dr. Meade, Deputy Murphy, Deputy Dr. O'Connell, Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. Ruane, Councillor Sweeney, and Dr. Walker.**

**(b) and (c) The following motions proposed by Dr. Meade were seconded by Councillor Carroll**

**(b) "That this Board issue to:**

- (a) All participating doctors in its area;**
- (b) All consultants who are in the Board's employment either in a whole-time or a part-time capacity**

**a letter asking them to display notices for patients and to exercise maximum economy in prescribing drugs and appliances under the Health Acts."**

**(c) 'That this Board prepare and deliver to each:—**

- (a) Participating doctor in the G.M.S. in its area;**
- (b) To each hospital and clinic in its area;**

**for prominent display in all Patient Waiting Areas, notices which can be read at 20 feet to this effect:—**

#### **NOTICE TO ALL PATIENTS**

**The increasing costs of drugs and medicines and the present economic situation may result in cut backs in essential services later this year unless you co-operate in the following ways:—**

- 1. Ask your doctor to prescribe only necessary drugs and medicines.**
- 2. Wait until you have used nearly all the medicines given to you before asking for more.**
- 3. When you are on continuous medication ask your doctor to give you a month's supply of all your necessary drugs at the one time—unless otherwise directed.**

4. Please see your doctor and collect your medicines from your Pharmacist during normal hours—unless it is an emergency.

Signed: on behalf of the Eastern  
Health Board."

The members were unanimous in congratulating Dr. Meade on the idea behind his proposals but felt that the notice to be issued could be open to misinterpretation.

It was also felt that patients should not be in the position of telling the doctor what prescription should be given to them. The following members contributed to the debate—Deputy Dockrell, Deputy Dr. O'Connell, Councillor Murphy, Dr. McCormick, Miss Kinsella, Councillor Brady, Dr. Walker, Mr. Corrigan, Mr. Ruane, Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Mahon, Alderman FitzGerald, Dr. Cullen, Miss Lacey, Mr. Corcoran, Councillor Connolly, Mr. Harrington, Councillor Carroll, and Councillor Sweeney.

Dr. Meade then referred to the various points made in the debate and agreed to amend his first motion by the deletion of the words "display notices for patients and". He also accepted the substitution of "medicines" for the word "drugs" on the second part of his motion (c). He also agreed to add the words "the format to be designed by the Board's officers in consultation with the Health Education Bureau should they consider this desirable."

The motions as amended then read as follows:

(b) "That this Board issue to:

- (a) All participating doctors in its area;
- (b) All consultants who are in the Board's employment either in a whole-time or a part-time capacity.

a letter asking them to exercise maximum economy in prescribing medicines and appliances under the Health Acts."

(c) 'That this Board prepare and deliver to each:—

- (a) Participating doctor in the G.M.S. in its area;
- (b) To each hospital and clinic in its area;

for prominent display in all Patient Waiting Areas. Notices, which can be read at 20 feet to this effect, the format to be decided by the Board's officers in consultation with the Health Education Bureau, should they consider this desirable."

The motions as amended were agreed to unanimously. Before the debate terminated the Secretary read a letter from the Medical Union dated 9th March, 1976, stating that its Council was of opinion that it would be inappropriate for them to interfere with the prescribing pattern of doctors.

46/76

## CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 12th February, from the Irish Dental Association conveying copy of its motion to the Minister, having been circulated, was noted.
- (b) Letter dated 24th February, 1976 from the Department of Health referring to the Board's motion on V.A.T. and agreeing that the figure of £500,000 referred to by the proposer of the Board's motion was, on re-examination, and discussion found to be approximately correct and that the views of the Minister for Finance when available would be notified to the Board. Letters from the North Western Health Board, the Mid-Western Health Board and Midland Health Board, notifying their Board's agreement with the resolution, were also read.
- (c) Letter dated 3rd March, 1976, from Dr. T. Egan, Consultant Psychiatrist, tendering his resignation from the Wicklow Local Health Committee, was read. It was then agreed that Dr. M. Rahill should be appointed in his place.
- (d) Letter from the Secretary, Kildare Local Health Committee dated 24/3/76 advising that Mr. J. O'Loughlin had resigned from that Committee was read. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. M. A. Birmingham, B.Sc, should be appointed to fill the vacancy.

The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. OCAOIMH.

*Chief Executive Officer.*

Signed

*Chairman.*