

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on 6th May. 1976. at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Mr. K. Harrington
Mr. M. Birmingham	Cllr. P. Hickey
Cllr. M. Brady	Miss M. Lacey
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Cllr. M. Carroll	Cllr. T. Leonard
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. M. McWey
Mr. J. Corcoran	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. A. Meade
Dr. J. Cullen	Deputy C. Murphy
Deputy H. P. Dockrell	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Cllr. J. Durning	Mr. M. Ruane
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. T. Hand, Dr. P. C. Jennings. Cllr. D. Kinsella and Dr. J. McCormick.

In the Chair Mr. D.

O'Flynn, Chairman.

Officers in Attendance:

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

47/76

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Chairman referred to the deaths of (a) Deputy Noel Lemass, (b) Dr. Josephine Clarke and (c) Dr. E. Meenan and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect and tribute to the deceased. They also directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the bereaved families.

48/76 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of 1st April, 1976, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposed by Cllr. P. Hickey, seconded by Mr. K. Harrington, subject to the following amendments:—

- (i) Minute No. 40/76 amended by deleting all the words after "assessing" and the substitution therefore of the following—"elderly patients for admission to these centres".
- (ii) Minute No. 46/76 (d) amended by the substitution of "Commdt. Hyland" for "Mr. J. OLoughlin".

49/76**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Chairman referred to the situation obtaining in the Chapelizod area between the Simon Community and the local Residents' Association and introduced the following report No. 23/1976 from Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager—

" Simon Community

The following notice of motion was considered by the Board at its meeting on the 4th March:—

' That the EHB make available to the Simon Community the hostel at Usher's Island for the care of selected cases by the Community or, alternatively, provide a centrally situated building to the Community for this purpose.'

I was asked to examine and report in due course. I have had a meeting with the Simon Community and I have attended two discussions between the Simon Community and the Chapelizod Residents' Association. The Simon Community informed me that they must vacate the premises in Harcourt Street which they use to house people who require their care and that the purchase of the house at Chapelizod was intended as a group home for these people and they placed emphasis on the fact that for some time past they have been seeking a place in the community where people in their premises in Harcourt Street can live a normal life.

I have discussed with the Simon Community the proposal that the hostel at Usher's Island be made available for the care of selected cases but they have stated that this is not suitable in that it is not in a community setting.

Some of the people residing in Harcourt Street have availed of health services in the past and but for the intervention of the Simon Community the Board might have had to provide services for them in our institutions. I am now informed that they are recovered and that their essential need is housing in relation to which the Board's function would be to provide supportive health and welfare services. The provision of housing itself is primarily a matter for the housing authority and the Board might consider arranging a joint discussion with Dublin Corporation to investigate how best the Board might help the Corporation in meeting the needs of people in such circumstances.

I understand that the Simon Community are now the legal owners of the house in Chapelizod and it is a matter for the Community to decide what to do with that house."

After a discussion to which Dr. Meade, the Chairman and Dr. O'Connell contributed and to which Mr. O'Keeffe replied, it was agreed to note the position.

50/76

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

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

- (a) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Industrial Therapy Centre, Hanbury Lane, on 8th April, 1976— Noted.*
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Old Coombe Day Centre on 8th April. 1976— Noted.*
- (c) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy. on 24th March, 1976—Noted.*
- (d)" *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 14th April, 1976—Noted.*
- (e) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Daneswood Hostel on 15th April. 1976— Noted.*

51/76

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

- (a) *Minutes of Meeting of Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee held on 30th March, 1976—Noted.*
- (b) *Minutes of Meeting of Dublin County Local Health Committee held on 5th April, 1976—Noted.*
- (c) *Minutes of Meeting of Dublin City Local Health Committee held on 21st April, 1976—Noted.*

52/76

QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dockrell, T.D.. it was unanimously agreed that the Chief Executive Officer answer the questions lodged.

The questions and answers are set out hereunder.

(i) *Cllr. P. Hickey:*

" Will the Chief Executive Officer indicate if there is a statutory obligation on the Board to provide adequate dental services for the children attending National Schools in its functional area, and if there has been a falling off in this service in the recent past, with particular reference to the service being provided for the children attending Ballybrack National School?"

Reply:

Under the provisions of Section 67 of the Health Act, 1970, the Board provides dental services for children in respect of defects discovered at child health and school health examinations. The extent to which the service is at any time provided is determined by the availability of finance and staff and by reference to established priorities.

There has been no reduction in the level of routine dental services provided for children in the recent past. In relation to Ballybrack National School treatment for children attending this school is provided at Our Lady's Clinic, Dun Laoghaire, and at the Health Centre, Cabinteely. An additional dental surgery has been in use in the Dun Laoghaire Clinic on three days per week since November, 1975.

The Board was informed in October, 1975 (Report No. 47/1975) of the position regarding the Orthodontic service. In the absence of funds for development to cater for increasing demands it has been necessary to confine this service to cases in which active treatment had already commenced. The position regarding children already on the waiting list and others now presenting will be reviewed in September next.

(ii) *Alderman Alexis FitzGerald:*

" Can arrangements be made to ensure that bedding and other essentials are available on a 24-hour basis for fire and other emergency cases?

A fire took place at 405 Ballyfermot Road in mid-February and apparently no bedding could be obtained at night-time as the relevant officials were off duty."

Reply:

As part of the Public Assistance service the Board may supply bedding and other household items to poor persons who are unable to provide them from their own resources. It has no general authority to replace such items lost as a result of fire or other emergency. The incidence of such emergencies involving families who would be eligible to receive assistance from the Board would not warrant the expense of maintaining a formal seven-day, 24-hour service for this purpose.

The Board's existing arrangements for dealing with the limited number of eligible cases arising are considered adequate taken in conjunction with the response which can reasonably be expected in such circumstances from relatives, neighbours and community organisations.

It was also agreed that in future the answers to questions lodged should be circulated to the members at the meeting.

53/76

BORROWING PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 19/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" Long term borrowing arrangements need to be made for payments of Capital grants to voluntary organisations which have been approved by the Board. The details are:—

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>£</i>
Irish Sisters of Charity, Donnybrook	Provision of day room kitchen, laundry, etc., day centre, Donny brook	6,000
Dublin Central Mission	New infirmary at Clare- mont, Sandymount	22,000
Irish Sisters of Charity. Mill town	Extension of Community Hall for day centre for elderly	8,000
Irish Sisters of Charity. Madonna House	Two family units for children in short term care	25,000
The Poor Servants of Mother of God. Edenmore	Adaptation of convent for use as a pre-school nursery	4,000
Shankill Old Folks Association	Day centre for the elderly	4,500
Irish Sisters of Charity. Seville Place	Reconstruction of pre mises for day centre for the elderly	2,000
Holylands Nursery Committee	Reconstruction and ex tension of premises (balance due)	500
		72,000

I request the approval of the Board to the raising of a loan of £72,000 repayable over a period of 35 years."

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Dr. J. S. Doyle, the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 19/1976 be adopted."

54/76

**JAMES CONNOLLY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD-
REPRESENTATION**

The following report No. 22/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

" With reference to the letter of the 31st March, 1976, from the Department of Health with which was enclosed a copy of a communication of the same date addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, North-Eastern Health Board, the present position is-as follows:—

The Board was established in 1971 and took over from the Eastern Health Board the management of the - Hospital (formerly a Regional Sanatorium) and the function of developing a General Hospital there.

2. There are 15 members of the Board appointed in the following manner

6 by the Eastern Health Board

3 by the Mater Hospital Board

3 by the Jervis Street Hospital Board

3 by the St. Laurence's Hospital Board.

The Establishment Order provides that the Chairman shall be elected by the Board from amongst its members who are members of the Eastern Health Board.

The Minister for Health has now agreed in principle, at the request of the North-Eastern Health Board, to a variation of the Establishment Order to provide for representation of that Health Board on the Hospital Board by two persons of its selection. There is no suggestion in the correspondence that the membership arrangements should be altered in any other way.

Since the development of General Hospital services at Blanchardstown was undertaken the facilities have been availed of by the North-Eastern Health Board for substantial numbers of patients -from the South Meath portion of its area in particular. A Consultant Surgeon operates there regularly and other areas of co-operation have been discussed between the two bodies.

The plan adopted by the Minister for Health for the development of General Hospital services for Dublin and adjoining areas includes, as the members are aware, the provision of six acute Hospitals, of which the James Connolly Hospital is one. The plan envisages also that portion of the North-Eastern Health Board area shall come within the Hospital's catchment area. I understand that this has been approved and adopted as policy by the North-Eastern Health Board and that the request for representation on the Hospital Board follows from that decision.

It will be noted that the views of the four bodies which appoint members to the James Connolly Hospital Board and of that Board are being sought by the Minister. I am advised that the James Connolly Hospital Board has recorded its agreement in principle to the granting of the North-Eastern Health Board of the right to appoint two members."

The members raised no objection to the proposed enlargement of the Hospital Board subject to the Chairman of the Board being elected from the members who were members of the Eastern Health Board representation.

55/76

CONTROL OF SALE OF MEDICAL PREPARATIONS

Press Release from the Department of Health on the above subject having been circulated was noted by the members.

56/76

ADDRESS BY AN TANAISTE AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Tanaiste's address having been circulated was noted.

57/76

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell and seconded by Cllr. M. Carroll:—

" That the Eastern Health Board examine the feasibility of establishing an Emergency Medical Contact Service, which would operate from one of the hospitals, be manned by doctors and which could be availed of by the public by telephone for advice in emergencies where the services of the family doctor might not be immediately available."

Dr. O'Connell explained his reasons for putting down the motion and after a short discussion it was agreed that this matter should be referred for consideration by the Board's committee on emergency services and that Dr. O'Connell and Dr. Meade should be invited to joint the committee to see how the proposal could be incorporated into the overall proposals for Emergency Services.

58/76

CORRESPONDENCE

Policy Statement issued by Comhairie na n-Ospideil in March, 1976, on the subject of consultant appointments having been circulated was noted.

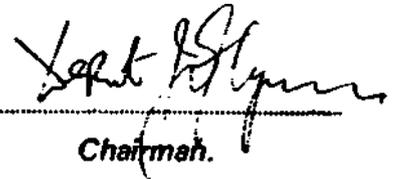
The meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. O. Caoimh', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Chairman.