

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the, Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman. on Thursday, 2nd December, 1976 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow
Cllr. M. Brady
Cllr. O. Browne
Cllr. M. Carroll
Cllr. J. Connolly
Mr. J. Corcoran
Mr. H. Corrigan
Dr. J. Cullen
Prof. J. S. Doyle
Cllr. J. Duming
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
Mr. K. Harrington

Cllr. P. Hickey
Dr. P. C. Jennings
Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass
Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. A. Meade
Deputy C. Murphy
Dr. D. O'Flynn
Mr. M. Ruane
Cllr. J. Sweeney
Dr. J. Walker

Apologies for Non-Attendance:

Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Ald. A. FitzGerald, Cllr. T. Hand, Miss K. Kinsella, Miss M. Lacey, Cllr. T. Leonard and Cllr. McWey.

Cllr. M. Carroll, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh
Mr. J. J. Nolan
Mr. F. Donohue
Mr. T. Keyes
Mr. J. F. Reynolds
Mr. F. Elliott
Mr. F. J. McCullough
Mr. P. J. Swords
Mr. J. Clarke
Prof. Ivor Browne

Chief Executive Officer
D/Chief Executive Officer
Programme Manager
Programme Manager
Finance Officer Planning
& Eval. Officer Admin.
Assistant Admin.
Assistant Admin.
Assistant Chief
Psychiatrist

Mr. K. Quinn
Miss L. O'Kelly
Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. A. J. Duggan
Mr. J. Doyle
Miss K. Dolan

129/76

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on 4th November, 1976, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney.

(a) **Matters arising:**

Arising from the minutes Cllr. Connolly enquired as to what steps had been taken to implement the Board's resolution on better living. Mr. Nolan suggested that a sub-committee might be formed to include the following:

Cllr. M. Carroll, Chairman, Cllr. P. Hickey, Prof. J. S. Doyle, Prof. McCormick, Dr. Mahon, Cllr. Brady, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Kinsella, Mr. M. Ruane, Prof. O'Donnell, Dr. Meade and Dr. Walker. The Committee would endeavour to further the project and would consult and co-operate with the Health Education Bureau to this end. It would also examine and formulate proposals in relation to a particular aspect of the health education which the Board itself could advance through its own officers and at a minimum in 1977.

Dr. Meade enquired what progress had been made with the Health Education Bureau on his motion concerning notices to be displayed in doctor's surgeries, hospitals and clinics. Mr. Elliott informed him of the efforts which had been made to bring this to fruition and stated that he had received a letter that evening by hand from the Health Education Bureau, the contents of which he summarised for the members. Dr. Meade expressed his satisfaction that some action was taking place and suggested that the views of the two medical associations should be sought on the wording and format of the relevant notices.

130/76 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 District Hospital, Baltinglass on 11/11/76—noted.**
- (b) **No. 2 Visiting Committee, meeting held at St. Patrick's Home on 18/11/76.**

Mr. Corrigan enquired as to when the additional two nurses sought for the feeding of babies in St. Patrick's Home would be provided and he was informed by Mr. P. J. Swords that there was a ban on the creation of

additional posts and that the only way the matter could be resolved would be by arranging for the provision of the extra "two nurses from the other staff employed in the home. Mr. Nolan suggested that the members should re-examine their decision of March 1976 to keep the delivery unit in the Home in use instead of closing it and having the babies delivered in the Obstetric Unit in St. James's Hospital. Such closure, as previously recommended to the Board during the discussions on economy measures necessary to meet the Minister's requirements, would free a number of staff and save a considerable amount of money—the recommendation was not adopted at the time because some members felt that it would endanger the maintenance of confidentiality where same was desired by any mother involved.

Prof. J. S. Doyle welcomed the reference in the report which showed a steadily increasing trend in the number of girls from St. Patrick's Home who opted to go to St. James's Hospital for delivery. He considered that it was vitally important as recommended by Dr. Hanratty, Consultant Obstetrician, that the girls involved should be delivered in a first class maternity unit where they would have the finest facilities available. Mrs. Glenn and Dr. Culen agreed with Prof. Doyle while Mrs. Barlow and Mr. Browne held that confidentiality for patients was an essential requirement. Mr. Nolan, in agreeing to discuss the general position with the Mother Provincial of the Order, stated that the Department considered there was no real need to have the delivery unit in St. Patrick's Home and that the monies so saved could be used to better advantage in some other area of service. He also agreed to ascertain, as requested by Drs. Meade and Walker, whether any problem which might exist in relation to feeding of babies could be resolved from within existing resources.

Dr. Walker, Dr. Meade, Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Dr. Mahon and Dr. Cullen also contributed to the debate.

- (c) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Ita's Hospital, on 27/10/76—noted.
- (d) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 9/11/76—noted.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following meetings of local health committees having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) Dublin County Local Health Committee held on 1/11/76 —noted, following Cllr. Durning being advised that all necessary chiropody services for December would be provided.
- (b) Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 23/9/76.

Prof. Doyle drew attention to the motion for the provision of light meals at the voluntary hospitals and stated that this was something in which the Board should not interfere. Mr. Corcoran concurred with this view and the members unanimously agreed that no action should be taken by the Board.

- (c) Wicklow Local Health Committee meeting held on 17/9/76—noted.

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QUESTION

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. Kinsella, it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should answer the question lodged.

Question:

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? Will he state if this is included in the list of projects in the Capital programme for 1977, and if the schedule of accommodation, which has already been prepared, has been agreed with the Department?

Reply:

The provision of a health centre at Ballinteer is a high priority in the Board's Capital Programme, and will be built as soon as the necessary finance is made available by the Minister for Health.

The acquisition of the site at Ballinteer has been approved by the Minister and the Board's Law Agent is attending to the transfer of Title to the Board. The schedule of accom-

modation was submitted to the Department of Health on 31st October, 1975 and the Department's approval is expected shortly."

133/76 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1977

The following report No. 51/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At this time last year the Board approved a priority list of Capital projects to be undertaken in 1976 subject to the necessary funds being made available by the Minister for Health. In February, 1976, as the members will recollect, the Minister received a deputation which represented strongly to him the need for an allocation sufficient at least to enable five fire precaution schemes of particular concern to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The Minister regretted that he was not in a position at the time to allocate any additional funds for the purpose but he undertook to review the position later in the year, if the current financial restrictions could be eased. However, an allocation in respect of these schemes has not been received and, while some improvements have been carried out during the year, the position in their regard is basically as it was twelve- months ago. Substantial grants and loan instalments have, however, been received in respect of on-going projects and in respect of a few of the lesser items on the 1976 priority list.

In the circumstances, the five fire precaution schemes referred to above are retained at the top of the list of Capital projects on which it is hoped to make a start in 1977, as set out hereunder:

<i>New Capital Projects: 1977</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>
1. <i>Legion of Mary Hostels</i> Fire escapes, emergency lighting, extra fire fighting equipment etc. — — —	£	£ 43.000
	43.000	
2. <i>Bru Chaoimhin</i> Fire Alarm System: emergency lighting	49.000	49,000
3. <i>St. Brendan's Hospital</i> Structural works. Lower House —... —	30,000	30.000
4. <i>St. Clare's Home</i> Structural works, rewiring etc.....	26.000	26.000

<i>New Capital Projects: 1977</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>
5. <i>Mount Pleasant Square Hostel</i> Fire alarm and fire escape	£ 12.000	£ 12.000
6. <i>Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum</i> Stand-by generator	11.000	11.000
7. <i>St. Coimcille's Hospital</i> Improvements to maternity unit	30.000	30.000
8. <i>Health Centres</i> Sites acquisition—Coolock, Palmerstown, Blanchardstown, Finglas, Maynooth, Dun- lavin	173.000	173.000
9. <i>Health Centre. Dundrum</i> Extension	15,000	15.000
10 <i>Warrenstown House</i> · Residential centre for emotionally dis- turbed children	100,000	30.000
11 <i>St. Ita's Hospital</i> · Renewal of telephone system	60.000	5,000
12 <i>Central Services</i>		
(i) Re-location of Ambulance Control Unit;	40.000	40.000
(ii) Replacement of Radio Equipment (standardisation on national basis)	50,000	50.000
13 <i>Day Nursery, Tallaght</i> · Grant to Spina Bifida Association	5,000	5.000
14 <i>Donnybrook Day Centre for Aged</i> · Provision of day room and kitchen; laun- dry and bathing facilities	6.000	6.000
15 <i>Cherry Orchard Hospital</i> · Disinfecting Unit	10,000	10.000
16 <i>St. Columcille's Hospital</i> · Mental handicap centre: initial expenses	—	5.000
17 <i>Central Mental Hospital. Dundrum</i> · Replacement of locks		21.000
		561.000

It is proposed to submit the programme to the Department of Health and to request the necessary approvals and capital allocation to enable it to be undertaken in 1977. In relation to the Health Centre sites mentioned I have to add that, with the Minister's agreement, funds received from the sale of lands at Portrane and Cherry Orchard Hospital will be utilised for their purchase as they become available."

Cllr. P. Hickey queried the omission of capital monies for the proposed Health Centre in Ballinteer, the schedule of accommodation for which was awaiting the Minister's sanction and was expected shortly. Mr. Dunne explained to Cllr. Hickey that the acquisition of the site for this Health Centre at Ballinteer was virtually completed and did not need to be included in Report No. 51/1976. Mr. O'Flynn enquired if the amount provided for Warrenstown was sufficient and Mr. Keyes advised him that he felt it would be sufficient for 1977, bearing in mind the many delays which would occur in getting the project working. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Prof. Doyle, Dr. Walker, Dr. Cullen and Mr. Harrington also contributed to the debate following which the following resolution proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Browne was unanimously adopted:—

"Propose that Board adopt the schedule of priorities, as set out in Report No. 51/1976 and of the proposed use of sale of land monies."

134/76 NET EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION 1976

The following Report No. 52/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In Report No. 49A/1976 I informed the Board that the Government had agreed that the allocation of grant under Section 31 of the Health Act, 1976 should be amended to meet increases in expenditure *in* the current year and that a supplementary estimate covering the additional expenditure would be introduced to the Dail for approval in the near future.

I have now been informed by the Secretary of the Department of Health that an additional net expenditure allocation will be made to cover specific unavoidable expenditures, viz., increased rates of welfare allowances, salaries and pension increases. Social Welfare Insurance contribution, capitation rates etc.

The estimated allocation required for this purpose is £1.392.600.

This will not cover increases due to rising prices in 1976, or savings estimated at the beginning of the year which were found to be unrealisable. These are estimated to cost about £1 million. I have been assured that consideration will be given to the extent to which further grant assistance can be provided to offset these additional costs."

On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Connolly it was unanimously agreed to note the report.

135/76 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

The following Report No. 52A/1976 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At meeting held on 2nd September, 1976 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £7.5 million during the quarter ending 31st December, 1976.

As the amount of supplementary health grant payable in December has not yet been determined, it is difficult at this stage to estimate accurately an overdraft requirement in March quarter 1977. In the circumstances, I consider it provident to seek the Minister's approval to temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to a limit of £7.5 million during the three months to 31st March, 1977.

The Board's consent to this course is requested."

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Corrigan the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Board consent to temporary borrowing as outlined in Report No. 52A/1976."

136/76 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Circular 12/76 from the Department of Health setting out increased travelling and subsistence expenses for members of health boards was circulated, as was explanatory memorandum from the Chief Executive Officer. On consideration of the revised travelling and subsistence expenses as outlined, the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Hickey was unanimously adopted:—

'That the Eastern Health Board on consideration of Circular 12/76, dated 24th November, 1976 from the Department of Health, resolves to adopt paragraph 2

(b) and paragraph 4 as the basis for the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances on foot of attending meetings including committee meetings of the Board."

- (b) Letter dated 19th November, 1976 from the Secretary, Kildare County Council notifying that Cllr. G. Doyle had resigned from Kildare County Council thereby creating a vacancy on the Council's representation on the health board and the local health committee. The members noted that Kildare County Council would nominate members to fill these vacancies at its next meeting.
- (c) Letter from the Department off Justice acknowledging receipt of this board's motion regarding the control of dogs and other loose animals was read and noted.

The meeting terminated at 7.35 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O. CAOIMH

Chief Executive Officer.


Signed.
Chairman