

## 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 3rd March, 1977 at 6 p.m.*

*Present:*

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow  
Cllr. D. Browne  
Cllr. M. Carroll  
Cllr. J. Connolly  
Mr. J. Corcoran  
Mr. H. Corrigan  
Dr. J. Cullen  
Deputy H. P. Dockrell  
Cllr. A. Groome  
Prof. J. S. Doyle  
Cllr. J. Durning  
Ald. A. FitzGerald  
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn  
Mr. K. Harrington  
Cllr. P. Hickey

Dr. P. C. Jennings  
Cllr. D. Kinsella  
Miss K. Kinsella  
Miss M. Lacey  
Cllr Mrs. E. Lemass  
air. T. Leonard  
Prof. J. McCormick  
Dr. J. R. Mahon  
Dr. A. Meade  
Deputy C. Murphy  
Mr. D. O'Flynn  
Mr. M. Ruane  
Cllr. J. Sweeney  
Dr. J. Walker

*Apologies for Absence:*

Cllr. M. Brady  
Cllr. M. McWey

Mr. M. Birmingham  
Cllr. T. Hand

In the Chair—Cllr. M. Carroll, Chairman

*Officers in Attendance:*

Mr. E. O. Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer
Mr. F. Donohue	Programme Manager
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer Planning
Mr. F. Elliott	& Eval. Officer Technical
Mr. J. Sadlier	Services Officer
Mr. P. J. Swords	Administrative Assistant
Mr. J. Clarke	Administrative Assistant
Mr. F. McCullough	Administrative Assistant
Prof. I. Browne	Chief Psychiatrist Dublin
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Medical Officer

Mr. K. Quinn  
Mr. M. Cummins  
Mr. J. Doyle  
Mr. H. Dunne  
Mr. J. A. Duggan  
Mr. T. Barry  
Miss K. Dolan  
Mr. P. I. Lyons  
Mr. A. O'Brien

**25/77 CONDOLENCES**

- The Chairman informed the members of the recent deaths of
- (a) the father of Dr. V. Molony, Director of Mental Handicap St. Ita's Hospital;
  - (b) the mother of Miss N. McCarthy, Matron of St. James's Hospital;
  - (c) Miss E. Power, Matron, St. Clare's Home and
  - (d) the wife of Mr. Roger Miley a member of the Wicklow Local Health Committee.

The members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect to the deceased and directed that their deepest sympathy should be conveyed to the bereaved families.

**26/77 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) Minutes of Monthly meeting held on the 3rd February, 1977, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. J. Sweeney.
- (b) Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 3rd February, 1977, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr. J. Walker, seconded by Mr. M. Ruane.

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**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 Wicklow Hospital on 17/2/1977—noted.
- (b) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin and St. Laurence OToole Centre, on 16/2/1977—noted.
- (c) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. John's House, Day Centre, on 16/2/1977—noted.

During the discussion on the report of this committee the Chief Executive Officer informed the members that the Chief Executive Officers of the eight health boards had a meeting with Mr. B. Carr, Chairman of the Health Education Bureau who agreed that Mr. Grant the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Bureau would accept an invitation to attend the first meeting of the Board's own Health Committee on better

living, (Cllr. Hickey's motion). Dr. Meade enquired about what progress was being made on the notice for doctors surgeries etc.. and he was informed that there was some small disagreement among the members of the Health Education Bureau as to possible misinterpretations of the notice. Dr. Walker referred to the Board's decision requesting representation on the Bureau and stated that this matter should be followed up again. The report was noted.

- (d) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Mount Pleasant Day Centre and Usher's Island Centre on 8/2/1977—noted.

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#### PROCEEDINGS 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 19/1/1977—

Cllr. Browne referred to item 5 (b) on these minutes and suggested that Professor B. O'Donnell should be involved in the small committee which the Minister had set up to consider possible brain damage arising from the administration to children of the three-in-one injections including whooping cough. Cllr. Connolly deplored the drop in immunisations which had occurred since extensive publicity was given to this problem but Professor O'Donnell informed the Board of the current statistics and stated that the fall was not an occasion for worry yet. The Minutes were noted.

- (b) Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 17/1/1977—noted
- (c) Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 7/2/1977—noted.
- (d) Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 25/1/1977—noted.

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#### QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Mr. Harrington it was unanimously agreed that the Chief Executive Officer answer the questions lodged.

Question (1) Cllr. J. Connolly:

"Will the Manager give the Eastern Health Board's defini-

tion of 'Manual' and 'Non-Manual' as regards benefits to those under the present Health Act."

*Reply:*

The term "manual labour" is first used in connection with health services following the introduction of the Health Services Regulations, 1974. These Regulations were amended in 1976 to provide for a new limit of £3,000. There is no statutory definition for the term "manual labour". The Regulations prescribe that a person insured under the Social Welfare Acts and employed otherwise than by way of "manual labour" at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £3,000 a year shall not be entitled to avail of hospital or maternity services under the Health Act.

The distinction between employments which are manual and those which are non-manual was made formerly by the Department of Social Welfare for the purposes of insurance under the Social Welfare Acts. With the abolition of the income level for the purposes of insurance under the Social Welfare Acts in 1973, the distinction between the two types of employment is now made only to determine "limited" eligibility for hospital and maternity services under the Health Act. The responsibility for deciding whether an employment is manual or non-manual rests with Health Boards.

The Department of Health suggested to Health Boards that a standard approach to the classification of employments should be adopted and that Health Boards should come to consensus decision on appropriate classifications. In advising Health Boards on this matter the Department stated:—

"In classifying an employment it is necessary to take account of the real and substantial character of the employment, bearing in mind that the involvement of a certain amount of physical labour need not necessarily warrant a 'manual' classification. Generally speaking, when the manual content is equal to or predominates over the other aspects of the work, the employment should be regarded as manual. In most cases, the nature of the work performed will readily determine whether the employment should be classified as manual or non-manual".

A working party drawn from all the Health Boards is at present examining the nature of the various employments with a view to drawing up a comprehensive list of em-

ployments, classified into manual and non-manual occupations. This list will be the basis of the standard to be used by all the Health Boards. In the meantime the Eastern Health Board has in operation a set of guidelines used by the officers involved in determining eligibility for hospital services.

Question (2) Cllr. J. Connolly:

"Will the Manager say if the Eastern Health Board have any plans to assist young people who have no fixed abode and are at present sleeping rough in the City."

*Reply:*

The Board supports financially a number of hostels, provided by voluntary organisations, which cater for homeless young persons. These include, Los Angles Hostel at Conyngham Road, Sarsfield House at Ballyfermot (both for boys), Trudder House, Newtownmountkennedy (for children of travelling people) and Sherrard House, Upr. Sherrard Street (for girls). These cater for approximately 50 young people. The Board also supports some other specialised facilities provided for girls at High Park Convent and the Convent, Sean McDermott Street.

The Task Force on Child Care Services in its Interim Reports to the Minister for Health made the following recommendation, *inter alia*;

"Additional hostel accommodation should be provided in Dublin for 30 homeless boys aged from 14 years upwards".

The Department of Health has discussed with the Board and other organisations how the recommendations in the Interim Report might be implemented.

In the meantime officers of the Board are in continuing communication with voluntary bodies operating in this field and the recommendations in Report F. & G.P. 3/1977 include one for the provision of a hostel to house 20 boys which it is envisaged will be operated by one such body.

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#### COMMISSIONING OF NEW UNITS AND JOB CREATION PROGRAMME

The Board considered Report No. F. & G.P. 2/1977 which had been considered at the earlier meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The Secretary advised them of the unanimous decision of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which was as follows:—

"That this Finance and General Purposes Committee noted and approved Report No. F. & G.P. 2/1977."

Dr. Walker congratulated the officers on the amount of work which they put into producing all the information furnished and asked for a breakdown of the numbers proposed under item 7 to 10 and items 18 and 30 and the Programme Managers Mr. Donohue and Mr. Keyes furnished the necessary information.

Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. Connolly, Dr. Jennings and Mr. Ruane contributed to the discussion following which the following motion proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board fully endorse the resolution of the F. & G.P. Committee on this report."

#### 31/77 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1977

The Board examined Report No. F. & G.P. 3/1977 which was circulated and had been considered at the earlier meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The members also had a copy of the letter of the 1st March from the Department of Health setting out the capital allocation for major works in 1977. This letter had also been circulated at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Dr. Cullen, Mr. Ruane and Cllr. Hickey contributed to the debate following which the following resolution proposed by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Eastern Health Board fully endorse the resolutions passed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee."

#### 32/77 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

Report No. 4/1977 which had been circulated together with supplementary Report No. 4A/1977 hereunder which contained details of additional funds from the Department subsequent to the circulation of Report No. 4/1977, was considered:—

**TEMPORARY BORROWING** Since the issue of Report 4/1977 on 24th February, 1977 a letter dated 23rd February, 1977 has been received from the Department of Health conveying the approval of the Minister to the raising of a term loan to cover arrears of Health Grant due to 31st December, 1974. The amount in question is £1,470,327, and I am advised that the quarterly payment of principal and interest on this sum over a three-year period would amount to £150,000. Sufficient provision has been made in the Minister's allocation for 1977.

The receipt of a term loan of £1,470,327 will have the effect of reducing peak overdraft requirements during the three months to 30th June, 1977 to £1 million.

I request the consent of the Board to— (i) the obtaining of a term loan of £1,470,327 from Allied Irish Banks to be repaid over a three-year period commencing on 1st January, 1977, interest to be at AAA 1-3 year rate;

(ii) the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to £1 million as required during the period to 30th June, 1977.

**E. O. Caoimh,  
Chief Executive Officer."**

The Finance Officer explained to the members what had happened as a result of the Department's action. The members having considered the report, unanimously resolved as follows, on a proposal by Mr. Corrigan seconded by Miss Lacey:—

That this Board consent to the proposals outlined in Report No. 4A/1977."

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**NOTICE OF NOTION**

(i) The following motion in the name of Deputy C. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. P. Hickey:—

"That the Eastern Health Board endeavour to increase the number of dental personnel and to improve the dental facilities in Co. Wicklow."

The motion was agreed to.

(ii) The following motion in the name of Cllr. J. Connolly was seconded by Cllr. J. Duming:—

"That a report be prepared and placed before the Board as regards the estate of the patient (name and address supplied) formerly a patient of St. Loman's Hospital for 9 years and who died tragically recently."

Cllr. Connolly explained to the members that he had a report from Mr. Keyes giving him the necessary information and the members agreed to note the motion.

(Hi) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. J. Ourning:—

"That plans be made available immediately to assist young people who are sleeping rough in the City during the present winter conditions."

In view of the motion No. (iv) hereunder, which had been proposed by Aid. A. FitzGerald, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. O. Browne, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Cllr. Mrs. Lemass, Cllr. T. Leonard and Aid. Or. J. O'Connell, T.D., it was agreed to discuss both together.—

(iv) "In view of the growing plight of children sleeping rough in Dublin City (highlighted in the attached Dublin Corporation Report by the Community & Environmental Department), that this Board consider the need to provide accommodation and assistance to a growing number of these children (who by no means are all travellers) and reconvene the Children's Committee, augmented if necessary by additional Board members".

CHr. ConnoHy gave his reasons for putting down the motion and Cllr. Mrs. Lemass explained the reasons for her group putting down their motion. After a short debate the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. E. Lemass and seconded by Dr. Cullen and was unanimously adopted:—

That a special committee be set up consisting of members of Eastern Health Board and Dublin Corporation to seek ways and means of coping with the problem of children sleeping rough in the Dublin area."

It was then decided that the committee should consist of five persons and the following were elected to the committee—Miss Kinsella, Dr. Cullen, Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Ruane and Cllr. Duming. It was agreed that the Committee would be assisted and advised by Dr. P. McCarthy.

(v) The following motion proposed by Mr. Corrigan was seconded by Mr. Ruane:—

"That the Eastern Health Board deplores the delay in implementing its unanimous resolution supported by six other health boards of January 1976 regarding value-added tax on general medical prescriptions and request the Minister to resolve the matter speedily with special reference to exemption No. 6 of the Value-Added Tax Act."

Mr. Corrigan referred to the previous history of the subject and it was unanimously agreed that the matter should be taken up again with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 2nd March 1977 from the Department of Health was read advising that the period of office of the two Programme Manager representatives of the Eastern Health Board on the St. James's Hospital Board, Mr. Keyes and Mr. Donohue, would lapse on 31st March, 1977. The members unanimously agreed to the reappointment of Mr. Donohue and Mr. Keyes to the St. James's Hospital Board, for a period of three years.
- (b) Letter dated 23rd February from the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd., was read pointing out that the Board were entitled to a representative at the Annual Meeting of the Company and asking for the nomination. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. M. Carroll should continue to act in that capacity.
- (c) Letter dated 24th February, 1977 from the Minister for Health was read stating that the Minister cannot agree to exclude expenditure on Central Mental Hospital from the levels of expenditure as may be specified by the Minister in respect of the Board for the purpose of Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970. The letter was noted.

The meeting terminated at 8 o'clock.

CORRECT.

E. O CAOIMH,  
*Chief Executive Officer.*

Signed..

*Chairman*