

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 14th April. 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
Cllr. A. Groome
Dr. J. S. Doyle
Cllr. J. Durning
Ald. A. FitzGerald
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn
Cllr. T. Hand

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

Cllr. M. Carroll, Chairman, presided.

Apologies for Absence: Dr. A.

Meade and Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh
Mr. J. J. Nolan
Mr. F. J. Donohue
Mr. J. Reynolds
Mr. R. N. Lamb
Mr. F. Elliott
Mr. T. Sadlier
Mr. F. McCullough
Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. P. J. Swords
Prof. Ivor Browne

Chief Executive Officer
D/Chief Executive Officer
Programme Manager
Finance Officer
Personnel Officer
Planning & Eval. Officer
Technical Services Officer
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Chief Psychiatrist

Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. H. Dunne
Miss K. Dolan
Miss E. Larkin
Mr. B. Garvey
Mr. M. Cummins

35/77

VOTES OF THANKS

(a) The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. V. Molony, Director of Mental Handicap and the staff of the Unit for the mentally handicapped at St. Ita's Hospital for their organisation of the recently held National Indoor Games Finals held at St. Ita's on 2nd April, 1977. Cllr. Connolly also contributed and the members requested that their thanks be conveyed to Dr. Molony and the staff at St. Ita's.

(b) A statement by the Chairman concerning the presentation of a cheque in the sum of £1.556 to the OUT AND ABOUT Association by Mrs. V. Iremonger, wife of the Irish Ambassador to Luxembourg, on behalf of the International Bazaar of Luxembourg, was read and circulated. Cllr. Carroll paid a tribute to the work of the OUT AND ABOUT Association which was endorsed by Mr. O'Flynn, as a member of the No. 3 Visiting Committee, and by Mr. Ruane. It was agreed to furnish a copy of the statement to other Health Boards.

(c) Mr. Nolan Deputy Chief Executive Officer, informed the members of the work being done by the Friends of the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, in the raising of funds for the development of an Occupational Therapy Unit and Physiotherapy Unit at the Hospital which would be of invaluable benefit to the aged and the incapacitated. The Chairman proposed that a vote of thanks be conveyed to Mrs. Patricia Ross and her companions. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Ruane and unanimously agreed.

36/77

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 3/3/1977**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 3rd March, 1977, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Corrigan.

37/77

MATTERS ARISING

Arising from the Minutes of the No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. John's House Day Centre on the 18th March, 1977, Mr. O'Flynn observed that while the minutes were recorded as noted he wished again to draw the attention of the members to the particular mention of violence, abuse of alcohol and other problems affecting society made by the Committee.

38/77

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FINANCE
AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 3/3/1977**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd March, 1977, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Duming.

Arising from these minutes the following motion was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. H. Corrigan:—

"That in order to expediate construction as well as to employ maximum available manpower and financial resources in 1977, the plans and design team approved for MiKbrook Health Centre should also be employed for the centres proposed at Coolock, Ballinteer, Blanchardstown and Finglas."

39/77

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

At the request of Cllr. Mrs. Glenn it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow her to raise the matter of the cheap fuel scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn expressed concern about the whole basis of this scheme and suggested that it would be replaced by an energy voucher system. Cllr. Mrs. Barlow suggested that for so long as the existing scheme is in operation the fuel should be delivered free to the beneficiaries' homes. It was unanimously agreed that the whole question of the cheap fuel scheme should be reviewed./.

40/77

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 Newcastle Hospital on 17/2/1977.

Mr. Ruane expressed the opinion that an additional unit of the size referred to would be inadequate to meet the requirements of the hospital and that consideration should be given to the construction of a 20 bed unit in consultation with the staff. The report was noted.

The Chairman expressed regret at the death of Mr Kelly who was Treasurer of St. Colman's Walk Committee. He paid tribute to the work of this Committee. Cllr. Sweeney endorsed the Chairman's remarks. The report was noted.

(c) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brendan's Hospital, on 23/3/1977.

It was agreed to take this report in conjunction with Item No. 7 on the agenda (Report No. 10/1977), which reads as follows:—

"Report No. 10/1977.

Development of the Mental Health Services

Review of the 1972 Report. (Minute C.8/72 of 22/6/1972 refers)

The Programme Manager has requested a review and updating of the above report for consideration by the Management Team and the Board later this year. In the interim I submit a report on St. Brendan's Hospital from Professor Ivor Browne, which I have discussed with the Programme Manager who has approved of it in principle. The financing of the building and ancillary works referred to in Professor Browne's Report (when costed) will be considered in the overall allocation of the £165,000 for institutional improvements as notified in the Department's letter of 30/3/1977 (HSG 489).

E. O. CAOIMH,
Chief Executive Officer.

St. Brendan's Hospital

Whilst the Board has succeeded in some respects in implementing the policies adopted in the report "Development of the Mental Health Services (1972); economic circumstances have recently led to a slowing down of development of services, and to postponement of necessary improvements and upgrading of certain areas of St. Brendan's Hospital.

The economic situation, which has led to considerable unemployment, and redundancies, together with the pressures of the Dublin area's progressively increasing population, has resulted in an increase in the numbers of patients receiving in-patient care.

Another factor which may well have contributed to this increased demand for hospital beds, is the recent stand-still in Development of Community Care Services, particularly in relation to services for the elderly and deprived.

All of this has resulted in placing severe strains upon Mental Hospital beds, particularly in St. Brendan's Hospital.

It could be fairly argued that these pressures would have been much more severe, were it not for the range of Community Psychiatric Services which have already been provided over the past few years.

In the context of this situation, and having regard to the increasing dissatisfaction—particularly on the part of the psychiatric nursing staff and their unions—at conditions in the older building on the west side of St. Brendan's. I have reviewed the entire position; and, in the light of various options open to the Board, I feel satisfied that effective measures can be undertaken without delay to bring about the necessary improvements.

In relation to St. Brendan's, the Board should now apply the strategy of upgrading selectively certain portions of the existing buildings, whilst at the same time proceeding to establish with all possible urgency further day centres, work shops, hostels and group homes. The establishment of these further residential and day facilities, the fact that new admission units will become available during the present year at St. Vincent's, Elm Park, and St. Vincent's, Fairview, and the prospect of an admission unit becoming available at the James Connolly Memorial Hospital, will enable us to reorganise the functional divisions within St. Brendan's Hospital. The establishment of these separate divisions has now become possible by reason of the stage of development which has been reached in the Psychiatric Service of the Eastern Health Board as a whole, and it is now possible to define those categories of patients for whom services cannot be reduplicated in each catchment area. Accommodation at St. Brendan's should therefore be regarded as a second line support service to the geographically based district services.

In setting up the appropriate services for these categories of patients we will, in the process, be dealing effectively with most of the remaining problems in St. Brendan's Hospital. What is now proposed therefore is that a range of separate services, each under the direction of a specific consultant psychiatrist, will deal with clearly defined categories of patients, on the basis outlined hereunder

1. *Psycho-geriatric Service:*

We proceed with the development of two psycho-geriatric admission units for males and females respectively using all of the accommodation in the Lower House as a medium and long-stay back-up. This will allow all elderly patients seeking admission to St. Brendan's to be admitted directly to the East side of the road.

2. *Special facilities for homeless and vagrant persons:*

To provide a unit within St. Brendan's to deal with this category of patient, in association with the development of appropriate support services for this group in the Community Care Programme. Unit 23A will be adapted for this purpose.

3. *Severely disturbed patients:*

To provide a self-contained series of graded units for all disturbed patients who require security. These units will be provided by adapting the present units O, P, Q, and R and the Operant Unit. The present Operant Unit will be transferred to Kilrock House in Howth.

4. *Back-up admission facility for medium-stay patients who cannot appropriately be accommodated in catchment area acute admission units.*

The new units 3A and 3B, will be reorganised and up-graded as regards staff to serve this purpose.

5. *Mental Handicap:*

Establish Mental Handicap units in Unit 24 (located near the Broadstone) to accommodate all the primarily mental handicapped patients, approximately 60 in number still remaining in St. Brendan's.

6. *Rehabilitation of long-stay patients:*

To develop further the existing programme of acquisition of hostels and work centres for dealing with this category of patient and to provide separate accommodation in the hospital for the care of the residue of these patients who cannot be discharged and rehabilitated.

If the measures outlined are to succeed, and they will require to be completed before next winter, the Board will need to expand its existing range of non-institutional day and residential facilities in the community. The short-term requirements which should be implemented during 1977, under this heading are:

- (a) *Day Centre for Finglas Area;*
- (b) *Immediate provision of a further 50 places in hostels and group homes.*

IVOR W. BROWNE.

Chief Psychiatrist"

Alderman A. FitzGerald deplored the conditions under which patients are maintained in Wards No. 2, 7 and 8 and urged their closure at the earliest possible date. His remarks were endorsed by Cllr. Browne. Mr. Ruane supported the proposal to provide for the category of patient concerned by up-grading wards O, P, Q and R subject to the incorporation of facilities for out-door recreation in the scheme. He stressed the importance of the amendment of legislation to permit of the speedy transfer of dangerous patients to the Central Mental Hospital for such period as was found necessary and the lack of response to the representations of the Board in this matter over a period of years. Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Duming, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Dr. Jennings and Dr. Cullen contributed to the discussion.

The Report No. 10/1977 was adopted on the proposal of Alderman FitzGerald, seconded by Mr. Corrigan. The following resolution proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow was unanimously adopted:—

'To propose that the Minister for Justice be made aware of the dangerous situation which can arise where delay occurs in procuring a committal order. That he be requested to take the necessary action to remedy the situation urgently.'

- (d) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy on 2/3/1977—The report was noted.
- (e) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at Daneswood Hostel on 16/3/1977.

Dr. Mahon endorsed the Board's progressive attitude in providing this type of hostel accommodation. He stated, however, that Daneswood is somewhat overcrowded and there is consequent need for a suitable premises in the Finglas area. Dr. Mahon's recommendation that a Day Centre be provided in Finglas was supported by Mr. Ruane and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow. The report was noted.

41/77

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 7/3/1977.

Cllr. Connolly referred to Item 4 (a) of these minutes and was informed that a full report was in course of preparation.

- (b) Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 20/1/1977—noted.

42/77

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The following report No. 6/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Review of Capital Expenditure 1976:

In 1976 the Minister for Health did not make a specific allocation for capital works to the Eastern Health Board. As I stated in Report No. 15/1976 which I submitted to the Board at the meeting held in March, 1976 a total of £10m. for ongoing works by all health boards was allocated. Provision was not made for new works in 1976.

The Board's estimated capital requirements for 1976 for completed and ongoing works was:—

	£
Estimated Dr. Balance on 31 December, 1975	1,228,126
Estimated expenditure 1976	515,200
Total	£1,743,326

The actual out-turn at the 31st December was:—

	£
Dr. Balance at 31 December, 1975	846,995
Expenditure 1976	808,420
	1,655,415
Less loan instalments, grants and other receipts	
— — — — — 1,038,033	
Dr. Balance at 31 December, 1976	617,382

The major works included in the expenditure of £808,420 were:

72-Bed Unit, St. Ita's Hospital	256,698
Heating Services, St. Ita's Hospital	13,355
Female Chronic Block, St Ita's Hospital	36,137
Day Nursery & Child Clinic, Ballyfermot	37,334
Arklow Health Centre	35,104
Reconstruction, St. Colman's Hospital	35,717
30-Bed Unit, District Hospital Baltinglass	30,958
	£545,303

Capital Programme 1977:

The Board's requirements for 1977 are as follows:—

Completed and ongoing works:—

	£	£
Dr. Balance at 31 December, 1976	617,382	
Estimated expenditure 1977	571,693	1,169,075
New Works		600,000
Minor Capital Schemes		270,000
		2,059,075

The Minister's approval to the expenditure of £600,000 on new works and £270,000 on minor capital schemes was conveyed in the Department's letter of 1st March, 1977, which was circulated at the March meeting (F. & G. P. Report 3/1977 refers). The Department's letter detailed the

new works approved. The allocation of £270,000 for minor capital schemes will be applied to the works scheduled in Appendix B of Report No. F. & G. P. 3/1977."

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

43/1977

SPECIAL JOB CREATION CENTRE

The following reports Nos. 9/1977 and 9A/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer were submitted:—

"Report No. 9/1977:

Special Job Creation Programme (Report F. & G. P. 2/77 refers).

A. By letter dated 30/3/77 the Minister approved of a number of the proposals set out in the appendix to F. & G. P. Report No. 2/77. The text of the Minister's letter is as follows:—

- "1. I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to previous correspondence regarding the special non-capital public expenditure allocation made available for Health by the Government in 1977 in connection with job creation programmes and to the proposals submitted by you to the Department for consideration.
2. I am to let you know that the Minister has approved of the making available to each health board of an extra financial allocation for—
 - (a) implementing certain projects selected from the lists submitted by your board for consideration, and
 - (b) carrying out a special scheme of employment which is referred to in greater detail at paragraph 4 below.
3. I am to say that approvals will issue shortly to selected lists of proposals arising under the different programmes and under the central services sector. In taking his decisions the Minister paid particular regard to the proposals which your Board considered to merit a high priority rating. The total estimated cost for your Board of the agreed proposals in 1977 and in a full year is as follows:—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Estimated Cost in 1977</i>	<i>Estimated Full Year Cost</i>
(a) Community Care ...	270,000	470,000
(b) General Hospital and Long-stay institutions	50,000	75,000
(c) Psychiatric Hospitals	110,000	215,000
(d) Central Services	10,000	20,000
Totals	440,000	780,000

4. An allocation of £165,000 will be made to your board to be expended on schemes of renovations and improvements at institutions (including clinics). It may be expended as regards choice of project and locations at the discretion of the board, it is suggested for the board's consideration that the schemes might include the improvement of accommodation and facilities and maintenance of grounds. The employments would be temporary within the present year. In deciding on locations particular attention might be given to the easing of local unemployment problems. The funds would be utilised so as to ensure that the maximum possible amount of employment is afforded, whether directly or by the employment of local contractors. It is requested that this programme be given urgent consideration in order that employment opportunities are made available with as little delay as possible. The Department should be informed of the programme decided on by your Board by 30 April at the latest. The report should include information as to the numbers to be employed and the spread of the allocation over the different institutions and clinics.
 5. The additional financial allocations mentioned in paragraph 3 and 4 will be taken into account in the specifying by the Minister of approved expenditure levels in pursuance of Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970."
- B. Of the total allocation of £605,000, £440,000 is to cover the overall (Pay and non-Pay) cost of some 179 jobs

specifically approved by the Minister and the balance of £165,060 is to be spent on institutional improvements and renovations.

Details of the jobs specifically approved for each of the Programmes are listed in the appendix to this Report.

- C. The approval of the Minister for Health had previously been received to the creation of 3 posts of Ambulance Supervisor but their recruitment was deferred pending clarification of the financial provision (one each for Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare). Approval is awaited to the creation of 1 post of Section Officer, 1 post of Clerical Officer and 1 post of Engineering Technician, which are included in the Board's submission under the Job Creation Programme. Further advices from the Department are awaited in regard to the Technical, Central and Dental Services.

I propose, however to arrange for the filling of the 3 posts of Ambulance Supervisor at once and to fill the posts of Section Officer, Clerical Officer and Engineering Technician on an immediate short-term basis in anticipation of the Minister's approval so that the necessary urgent preparatory work can be undertaken in connection with the commissioning of new units and the capital programme.

In addition, the approval of the Board is sought to the creation of 1 employment of Electrician and 1 employment of Fitter in the St. Brendan's Engineering Base area, subject to the approval of the Minister for Health. These additional employments will be largely Financed by savings in the level of overtime, which has been a feature of the working arrangements in this area.

I recommend that the Board formally approves of all the staff complements contained in this Report, pursuant to Section 14 of the Health Act. 1970."

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

<i>Approval No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number of Posts Approved</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
CCI	Assistant Supervisor Welfare Home	3	
CC2	Director Community Care	4	
C.C3	Public Health Nurse	14	
C.C4	General Trained Nurses	6	Subject to further discussion.
C.C5	1 Trainee Public Health Nurse	10	
C.C6	Assistant Section Officer	7	
C.C7	Clerk-Typists	7	For community care teams.
C.C8	Porter/Cleaner	6	
C.C9	Homomakers	20	
CCIO	Occupational Therapists	3	
C.C.11 C.C.12	Child Care Workers Cooks (part-time)	8 4	To be employed by grant aided voluntary organisations.
C.C.13	Senior Dental Officer	1	
CC.14	Dental Attendant	1	
C.C15 C.C16 CC17	Social Worker Trainee Social Worker Clerk-Typists	8, 8, 6	Development of child care services.
C.C.18	Analytical Chemist	1,1,1 2 1	for laboratory services.
C.C19	Laboratory Technician		
C.C20 C.C21	Clerk-Typist Clerical Officers		
C.C22	Clerk-Typist		
C.C23	Tutors in Child Care	2	
C.C24	Senior Assist Medical Officers	6	hold pro-tem.

SPECIAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME

Approval No.	Description of proposal	Description of posts approved	
		Grades	Number
12	Improvement of Staff/Patient ratio at Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum.	Attendants	10
27	Provision of Day Centre, Raheny.	Occ. Therapist Psychiatric Nurses Receptionist	1 3 1
28	Provision of Additional Hostels.	Supervisors Domestics	2 2
29	Provision of Day Centre at Kilcock.	Occ. Therapist Psychiatric Nurses Receptionist	1 3 1

GENERAL HOSPITALS CARE PROGRAMME

Description of proposal	Description of posts approved	
	Grades	Number
Additional Staff for St. Colman's Rathdrum.	Ward Sister Nurses Attendants	1 4 1
Additional Staff for Bru Chaoimhin.	Nurses	4
Additional staff for St. Vincent's, Athy.	Nurses	2
Additional staff for St. Clare's, Ballymun.	Nurses	2
Additional physiotherapy staff for general hospitals and homes.	Physiotherapists	2
Additional staff for ambulance service. 1	Chief Ambulance Officer Mechanic	1 1

NOTE: *Expenditure Allocation*

It has been emphasised by the Department that the non capital expenditure on the programmes as set out above should not exceed the amounts set out in paragraph 3 of the Department's letter quoted above (30/3/77). The maximum amounts cover both pay and non-pay at price levels applicable throughout 1977."

Report No. 9A/1977.

SPECIAL JOB-CREATION PROGRAMME

(Report F. & G. P. 2/1977 refers).

Further to report 9/1977 already circulated listing new posts sanctioned by the Minister for Health approval has been received for the creation of additional posts as follows:—

Child Psychiatric Services:

Consultant Psychiatrist	1
Senior Psychologist	1
Assistant Chief Nursing Officer	1
	3

Mental Handicap Services, St. Ita's:

Psychologist	1
Occupational Therapist	1
Assistant Chief Nursing Officer	1
Charge Nurses	2
Deputy Charge Nurses	4
Nurses	3
Receptionist	1
Domestics	6
Child Care Worker	1 (part-time)
	Total 23

Centred Services:

Section Officer	1
Assistant Section Officer	3
	27

These posts are covered by the allocation of £440,000 in respect of pay and non-pay in 1977 referred to in Report 9/1977.

In relation to the opening of new units completed or due for completion during the year as set out in Report F. & G.P. 2/1977 the Minister has approved of the creation of posts as follows:—

72-Bed Mental Handicap Unit, St. has Hospital:

Senior Psychiatrist	1
Assistant -Chief Nursing Officer	1
Charge Nurses	3
Deputy Charge Nurses	8
Psychiatric Nurses	14
Trainee Psychiatric Nurses	12
S.ENs.	6
Domestics	6
Clerical Officer	1
Electrician	1
Carpenter	1
Labourer	1
	61

Hostel, South Circular Road:

Supervisor	1
Assistant Supervisor	1
	63

Workshop for Autistic Children. Milltown:

Manager	12
Supervisors	66

Dental Clinics at Arklow. Cabra, Darndale. Baldoyle, Malahide, Ballyfermot, Rathfamham:

Dental Surgeons	8
Dental Attendants	8
Receptionists (Arklow)	1
Cleaner/Caretaker (Arklow)	1 (part-time)
	84

An allocation of £129.500 for 1977 in respect of these posts has been approved by the Minister.

The total number of new posts covered by the approval received from the Department of Health in respect of the commissioning of new units this year and the special job creation programme is 282. The posts of Electrician and Fitter for the St. Brendan's Hospital Engineering base referred to in Report 9/1977 bring the number to 284.

However, as 38 of the persons to be recruited will be employed by grant aided voluntary organisations the additional staff complements arising from Report 9/1977 and this Report 9A/1977 amount to 246 of which I now recommend that the Board approves."

Professor J. S. Doyle referred to the maintenance of the grounds at Cherry Orchard Hospital and suggested that restoration of their previous condition might be undertaken as part of the special job creation programme. Dr. Walker made a similar suggestion in relation to the Health Centre at Old County Road.

Cllr. Groome requested that his dissatisfaction be recorded in relation to the decisions of the Department of Health about additional posts of Dental Officer which did not include one for Co. Kildare.

The adoption of the Reports Nos. 9/1977 and 9A/1977 was proposed by Cllr. T. Hand seconded by Professor J. Doyle and unanimously agreed.

44/77

GENERAL PRACTITIONER SCHEME—APPLICATION TO EMPLOY AN ASSISTANT

The following Report No. 7/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Application by Doctor J. McMahon. Doctor Number 62340, to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership.

Doctor J. McMahon, 21 Newlands Road, Cjondalkin, Co. Dublin, is participating in the Board's General Practitioner Service. He has a large list of eligible persons and his centre of practice is at 353 Ballyfermot Road, Dublin 10. In his letter of the 10th February, 1977, Doctor McMahon has expressed his wish to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership. Although there are fifteen other doctors providing the general practitioner service in the Ballyfermot area, the average number of eligible persons per doctor is high. 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 McMahon's request. In letters dated 23rd and 25th February, 1977 the Irish Medical Association and the Medical Union respectively stated that they had no objection to Doctor McMahon'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 McMahon 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 of 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'."

The following motion was proposed by Or. Jennings and seconded by Cllr. Groome and unanimously adopted:—

"That Report No. 7/1977 be adopted."

45/77

GENERAL PRACTITIONER SCHEME—APPLICATION TO EMPLOY AN ASSISTANT

The following Report No. 8/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Application by Doctor Daniel O'Connell, Doctor Number 64637. to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership.

Doctor Daniel O'Connell, 'Mountain View', Atngarvan Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, is participating in the Board's General Practitioner Service. He has a large list of eligible persons and his centre of practice is at 'Mountain View', AtKgarvan Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. In his letter of the 7th February, 1977, Doctor O'Connell has expressed his wish to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership. There are two other doctors providing the general practitioner service in the Newbridge area and each has a large panel of patients. In the circumstances I consider that *an* additional doctor would give, to eligible persons, a wider choice of doctor.

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 O'Connell's request. In letters dated 21st and 22nd March, 1977 the Medical Union and the Irish Medical Association respectively stated that they had no objection to Doctor O'Connell'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 O'Connell 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 of 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'."

On a proposal by Dr. Jennings and seconded by Professor Ooyle the following motion was unanimously adopted:—

'That Report No. 8/1977 be adopted."

46/77

LETTING OF GARDEN HILL SITE (Minute 69/69 refers)

The following Report No. 12/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In 1970 the Dublin Health Authority leased a small plot of ground at Garden Hill near the KHMairiham boundary of the then St. Kevin's Hospital, to University College Dublin (Department of Psychiatry). The letting was on a temporary convenience basis to enable the setting up of an endocrine clinical research unit and the term has since been extended to 1980.

The Endocrine Unit has developed significantly since 1970 both on a research and on a service basis. An initial staff of twenty-three has expanded to forty-two persons of whom more than half are highly trained and specialist graduates. It is now apparent that further developments should be undertaken to provide for necessary expansion in relation to patient service and to specialised laboratory activity and research.

On such development involves the revision at this stage of the control and management structure of the Unit to allow for the vesting in due course of the Unit in a separate Institute. Representation at supervisory and policy making levels would be provided in such an Institute for the Eastern Health Board, the Medical Schools and related involved interests.

It is felt that regard to it will be necessary, as an initial measure, to amend the assignment from University College Dublin to the Irish Foundation for Human Development of the existing temporary convenience letting. The matter has been the subject of discussions with the College Authorities who would be agreeable to the lease assignment now proposed.

It should be noted that apart from payments, at reduced rates, for services rendered by the Unit to eligible patients, the Eastern Health Board is not involved in any capital or revenue expenditure relating to the Unit.

I propose to agree to the assignment of the temporary convenience letting of the site in question from University College to the Irish Foundation for Human Development on the terms of the existing lease."

At Dr. Jenning's request the Deputy Chief Executive Officer explained the circumstances in which the original lease of the site to University College, Dublin, Department of Psychiatry was now to be transferred to the Irish Foundation for Human Development. The adoption of the report was proposed by Mr. O'Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Hand and was unanimously adopted.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer agreed to arrange that Dr. Jennings should be supplied with particulars of the objectives, organisation and current activities of the Foundation.

47/77

**EASTERN HEALTH SERVICES SOCIAL CLUB-
APPLICATION FOR SITE**

The following Report No. 11/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"A request for a site has been received from a number of staff who propose to establish an Eastern Health Services Social Club with the following aims: —

- (a) To promote the co-ordination of organisation within the work areas of the club membership, and
- (b) The raising of finance by various means towards the building of premises. The purchasing or leasing of premises or grounds for benefit of members activities shall also be actively pursued by the Committee.

Membership of the club will be open to staff of the Eastern Health Board, St. James's Hospital, Administrative staff of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals and other persons approved by the club.

The site applied for is in the grounds of St. Brendan's Hospital and it is recommended that the Board at this stage would approve in principle of the application. It will be necessary to impose reasonable conditions in relations to the building of any premises when fuller details are made available but it is recommended at this stage that any premises provided by this group on lands owned by the Board would not be used for the sale or consumption of intoxicating liquor."

After a short discussion to which Dr. Walker, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Cllr. Connolly and Professor Browne contributed, it was agreed to postpone consideration of this report until the next meeting of the Board.

48/77

BOARD AND LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The following Report No. 13/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

'The membership of the medical, dental, nursing, including psychiatric nursing and pharmaceutical representatives on the present Board will terminate on the 30th June, 1977.

Also the membership of the corresponding representatives in the Local Committees will expire on the 30th June, 1977.

To be eligible to take part in the elections, a person must be registered on the electoral rolls for each particular type of representation. For health board elections, to vote or nominate a candidate for membership, one must be registered on the appropriate electoral roll, i.e., the roll for medical practitioners, the roll for dentists, etc.

Similarity for local committee elections, one must be registered on the electoral roll for the area where one practices. If practising in more than one area, one must indicate the area where he wishes to have a vote. In local committee elections, there is an exception to his rule. A psychiatric nurse employed in a mental hospital serving the functional area of the committee may go on each electoral roll for which he would be eligible.

The term of office of the two representatives of voluntary organisations also terminates and the Board at its June meeting will be asked to appoint representatives for the period after the 30th June. It is proposed to ask each local authority to nominate representatives and should more than two persons be put forward by the local authority the Board will have to select two persons.

Already large size advertisements have been inserted in the main dailies and prominent journals drawing attention to the elections and notifying that all electoral rolls will close on Friday, 15th April at 5.00 p.m.

A further advertisement will appear on that date inviting nominations from interested parties for the vacant posts.

When the nominations close and where there is more than one candidate, ballot papers will be sent to each registered voter. When the ballot papers are returned, the count and declaration of successful candidates will take place.

I feel it is essential to draw attention to the fact that being on the Health Board Electoral Rolls does not automatically qualify one for the local committee elections. One must register for each election. Any queries you may have will be dealt with by Miss Flanagan, Personnel Department or Mr. Quinn in Secretariat."

Arising from references to confusion about the necessity for separate electoral rolls for the forthcoming election of members of Health Boards and Local Health Committees, the Chief Executive Officer pointed out that the procedures for these elections are laid down in regulations made by the Minister. The report was noted.

48/77

**DISPOSAL OF DISPENSARY RESIDENCE AT LUSK. CO.
DUBLIN**

The following Report No. 5/1977 was submitted:—

"The Board at its meeting on the 1st May, 1975 approved in principle the sale of the residence at Lusk to the District Medteal Officer on consideration of Report No. 29/1975.

Luck Dispensary Residence with 1P acres of land attached is situated approximately half a mile from the village of Lusk. the site on which the residence stands was acquired in 1889 from the Commissioners of Public Works. Dr. Patrick F. Brennan, District Medical Officer is the occupier of the residence since 1957 and is stHI in occupation. He has requested the Board to sell to him the residence and the land attached. The Chief Valuer has indicated that the current market value of the residence and the H acres of land is £21,000 and this valuation has been confirmed by the Commissioner of Valuation. Dr. Brennan has agreed to purchase the property for this sum.

I propose, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health, to dispose of the dispensary residence and the H acres of land at Lusk to Dr. Brennan for the sum of £21,000 —*rbr.* Brennan to be responsible for payment of stamp duty and his own legal fees. This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of the property as proposed shall not be carried out or that it shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution. If the Board resolves that the disposal shall not be carried out, H shall not be carried out. On the other hand, if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal shall be carried out, the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above."

The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Jennings and seconded by Professor Doyle and unanimously adopted:—

'That the proposals outlined in Report No. 5/1977 be adopted.'

50/77

NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) and (b) The following two motions proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow were taken at the same time at the request of the proposer—

(a) 'That the grant of £400 agreed to be paid to the Sacred Heart Club for the harkfcapped (now renamed Walkinstown Club for the Handicapped) be now paid to this Organisation.'

(b) "That a refund of the money paid in respect of a chalet purchased on site at St Mary's Hospital. Phoenix Park be now made to the Walkinstown Club for the Handicapped who intend to avail of it for their headquarters to cater for Handicapped in Walkinstown and neighbouring areas."

Foltowfng discussion on these motions to which Professor Doyle contributed Cllr. Connolly's request was approved in principle subject to a report from the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care to be submitted to the May meeting.

(c) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Lemass and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow:—

'That the Eastern Health Board strongly recommends to the Minister for Health that free, speedy and efficient. Medical and Dental service be available to Secondary School Children between the ages of twelve and sixteen and that Medical and Dental examination of pupils be extended to such schools.'

A discussion took place on this motion. Cllr. Mrs. Lemass spoke on the delays which occur in having dental treatment provided. Following discussion on the motion the proposer agreed on the suggestion of Cllr. Duming that the motion should relate to "all children between the ages of twelve and sixteen years". The revised motion, as follows, was then agreed unanimously:—

"That the Eastern Health Board strongly recommends to the Minister for Health that free, speedy and efficient. Medical and Dental service be available to all children between the ages of twelve and sixteen and that Medical and Dental examination of pupils be extended to such schools."

(d) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Hickey and seconded by Mr. Corrigan:—

'That having regard to the wide areas of common interest both in regard to people in need and kinds of need to be met, this Board supports the Free Legal Advice Centres (F.L.A.C.) campaign for the speedy introduction of a State-sponsored comprehensive system of free legal aid for the less well off."

It was noted, on the advice of the Programme Manager Community Care, that the provision of free legal aid is not a function of the Board.

(e) The following motion was proposed by Mr.K. Harrington and seconded by Mr. D. O'Flynn:—

'That the Eastern Health Board demand that the Department of Health appoint a Chief Dental Officer immediately at the same level as the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health." The motion was unanimously adopted.

51/77

CORRESPONDENCE

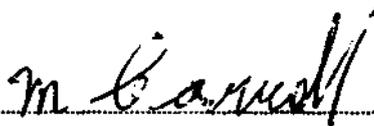
- (a) Press statement issued on behalf of Mr. Brendan Corish, Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Social Welfare, regarding the establishment of the National Manpower Planning Committee for Personal Social Services having been circulated was noted.
- (b) Letter dated 30th March, 1977 from the Department of Health concerning vaccination against Poliomyelitis was read and noted.
- (c) Letter from Dun Laoghaire Borough Corporation dated 29th March, 1977 concerning registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Blackrock area having been circulated was read and noted.

- (d) Letter dated 4th April, 1977 from Secretary/Manager James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board informing the Board that the Chairman, Cllr. M. Carroll, has been elected Chairman of the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board for the coming year was read. The members congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his election.

The meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.

CORRECT.

E. O CAOIMH,
Chief Executive Officer.

Signed 
Chairman.