

## 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 June, 1977 at 6p.m.*

**Present:**

Councillor M. Brady	Councillor Patrick Hickey
Councillor D. Browne	Dr. P. C. Jennings
Councillor M. Carroll	Councillor D. Kinsella
Councillor J. Connolly	Miss K. Kinsella
Mr. J. Corcoran	Miss M. Lacey
Mr. H. Corrigan	Dr. J. R. Mahon
Dr. J. Cullen	Mr. D. O'Flynn
Dr. J. S. Doyle	Mr. M. Ruane
Councillor J. Durning	Councillor J. Sweeney
Mr. K. Harrington	Dr. J. Walker

In the Chair—Councillor M. Carroll, Chairman.

*Apologies for Absence received from:*

Alderman A. Fitzgerald. Professor J. McCormick, Dr. Meade and Deputy C. Murphy.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. F. McCullough
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. Sadlier	Technical Services Officer	Mr. H. Dunne
Professor B. O'Donnell	Dublin Medical Officer	Mr. P. Delaney
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Personnel Officer	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. F. Elliott	Planning & Eval. Officer	Mr. K. Quinn
Professor I. Browne	Chief Psychiatrist	Mr. M. Cummins
		Miss K. Dolan

63/77

GOOD WISHES

The Chairman drew the members attention to the fact that the following existing members Mr. Corcoran, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Mahon, Dr. Cullen, Mr. Ruane and Miss Lacey were not going forward for election to the incoming Board. He thanked them for the help and advice and the contributions which they had made to the work of the Board during their period of office.

The members were unanimous in joining with the Chairman in extending their very best wishes to these members in the future. Dr. Jennings and Miss Lacey thanked the Chairman and members for their good wishes on behalf of the other retiring members.

64/77

#### CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the members that Dr. M. J. Bastible, the former Dublin County Medical Officer of Health, and Councillor Miss M. C. Ennis, had died recently and the members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect to the deceased and directed that their sincere sympathy should be conveyed to the bereaved families.

65/77

#### COUNTY COUNCIL STRIKE—COLLECTION OF RUBBISH

With the Chairman's permission Councillor Connolly drew the members attention to the above strike and the consequent hazards it might create for the health of the population. He asked the members to use their good offices and appeal to the County Manager to try to find a solution to the refuse collection strike.

66/77

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 5/5/1977 having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Councillor Hickey seconded by Councillor Sweeney.

#### *(a) Matters Arising:*

Arising from the minutes the Secretary read letter dated 31/5/1977 from the Department of Health regarding additional job creation in the Community Care programme, the letter having already been circulated for the information of members. Councillors Hickey, Durning, Connolly, Brady and Sweeney welcomed the information.

67/77

#### PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The reports of the following visiting committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) *No. 1 Visiting Committee held at Vcrgemount Hospital, Clonskeagh, on 19/5/1977—Noted.*
- (b) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home, Navan Road, on 27/4/1977—On a proposal by Councillor O. Browne seconded by Dr. Walker, it was agreed to refer the report back for additional information.*
- (c) *No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Hanbury Lane Workshop on 18/5/1977—Noted.*
- (d) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St Ita's Hospital, Portrane, on 27/4/1977.*

The Chairman congratulated the medical officers and staff **for the wonderful sports programme** which had been organised so successfully and which was enjoyed by so many people. Mr. Harrington asked that the Visiting Committee be advised of the date and time of the T.V. programme on this subject. Mr. O'Flynn drew attention to the inadequate telephone service and asked that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs be requested to improve these services as a matter of extreme urgency.

The members noted the report.

- (e) *No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brigid's Home, Crooksting, on 24/5/1977.*

Arising from the Report, Mr. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive **Officer, made a brief report** regarding the position to date in the development of St. James's Hospital and in the planning of the new units on the site. He pointed out that the Board representatives on the St. James's Board was endeavouring to ensure that in such development and planning, the general community needs were being safeguarded especially in relation to the provision of adequate services for the aged, for psiatrics **and for** obstetrics.

A general discussion took place and in the main, members were satisfied that within the restrictions imposed by financial stringency, worthwhile progress was being made. Some medical members however expressed serious concern at the possibility that enthusiasm and pressure to develop a large acute hospital on the site could lead to the gradual premature phasing out of the existing paediatric and obstetric departments and to a serious contraction of the services and accommodation available in the hospital for care of the aged before equivalent and corresponding facilities had been provided. Councillor D. Browne stated that the members should support this stand by its representatives as strongly as

possible. Dr. Mahon stated that the care of the aged had been a great problem for many years and that the former St. Kevin's Hospital had built up a great reputation in dealing with this type of patient. He exhorted the members to ensure that this reputation would be fully protected. Dr. Jennings, Mr. Corrigan and Mr. O'Flynn fully endorsed the views expressed by previous speakers. Mr. Ruane also drew the members' attention to the strain which it put on the psychiatric service. Dr. Mahon then proposed the following motion which was seconded by the Chairman Councillor M. Carroll:—

"In the interests of general community health and welfare it is essential that provision of the existing maternity and paediatric services as well as of adequate accommodation and care for long stay patients must be maintained at St. James's Hospital until such time as the Eastern Health Board are fully satisfied that comprehensive alternative services, equal at least to the existing services, are definitely available at suitable locations elsewhere in the area."

The motion was adopted unanimously for transmission to St. James's Board and to the Department of Health.

- (f) *No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital, on 18/5/1977*—The report was noted.

Councillor Connolly drew attention to his request that the entrance to the hospital from the road should be examined from the point of view of a traffic hazard.

68/77

#### 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 2/5/1977—Noted. The Committee's request to visit St. Brendan's was approved.
- (b) Kildare Local Health Committee meeting held on 24/3/1977—Noted.
- (c) Wicklow Local Health Committee meeting held on 25/3/1977—Noted.

69/77

**OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION**

The following **Report No. 16/1977** from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At meeting held on 3rd March, 1977 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £1 million during the quarter ending on **30th June, 1977.**

Instalments of Health Services Grant are received in the middle and at the end of every month. In the period of fifty days from 1st April to 20th May, the Board's Bank Account was in credit for twenty-three days and in debit for twenty-seven days, the highest credit being £1,349,411 on 16th May and the highest amount the account was overdrawn being £1,067,167 on 28th April.

I consider that it is likely that £1 million overdraft will not be **sufficient to meet** out needs for the rest of this year and I therefore request the consent of the Board to the borrowing by **way of overdraft up to £2 million** as required during the period from now until 30th September, 1977."

On a proposal from Mr. O'Flynn, seconded by Councillor Browne the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That **the** Eastern Health Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 16/1977."

70/77

**CAPITAL BORROWING**

The following Report No. 15/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"I set out hereunder schedule of capital expenditure for which long-term borrowing arrangements must be made:—

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>Loan Approve!</i>	<i>Amount to be raised</i>
72-Bed Unit. St Ita's	570,000	285,000	285.000	125.000	160.000
730/722 South Circular Road	60,400	30.200	30.200	23.500	6.700
Geriatric Unit, St. Brendan's	57.700	28.850	28.850	20,000	8.850
Day Nursery, Ballyfermot	143.500	26.300	117.200	101.700	15.500
North Strand—Health Centre	116.350	54,350	62.000	47,750	14.250
Millbrook—Health Centre	350.000	—	350.000	—	350.000
Renovations—Disinfecting Department.	10,200	—	10.200	—	10.200
Welfare Home, Navan Road	300.000	—	300.000	—	300.000
St. Vincent's. Athy	157500	—	157^00	140.000	17.500
	1,765,650	424,700	1.340.950	457.950	883,000

It is proposed to raise loans from the Commissioners of Public Works, repayable over a period of 35 years, to provide the required sum of £883,000."

On a proposal by Councillor Connolly seconded by Councillor Browne the following motion was unanimously adopted:

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 15/1977 be adopted."

71/77

#### LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The following Report No. 17/1977 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"As the members are aware, the term of office of members representing the medical (3), nursing (2) (including psychiatric nurses), dentists (1) and pharmacist professions terminates on 30th June, 1977. The membership of the two representatives of voluntary organisations on each committee also terminates on that date.

Advertisements were inserted in the major dailies and magazines inviting persons to go on electoral rolls for each profession and subsequently candidates were invited to go forward for election to each committee in the Board's area.

Nominations closed on 6th May and the position in each local committee area is as follows:—

	<i>NOMINATIONS</i>				
	<i>Medical (3)</i>	<i>Nursing (PH) (1)</i>	<i>Nursing (Psy) (1)</i>	<i>Dentist (1)</i>	<i>Pharmacists (1)</i>
Dublin City ___ —	—	1(E)	1(E)	2(V)	1(E)
Dublin County —	—	1(E)	1(E)	1(E)	1(E)
Dun Laoghaire ___	3(E)	1(E)	2(V)	2(V)	1(E)
Kildare — _ —	2(E)	1(E)	1(E)	1(E)	—
Wicklow ___ _	1(E)	—	1(E)	1(E)	1(E)

The candidates marked (E) were duly declared elected under Section 10(1) of the Health Board Regulations 1972. Elections are taking place and close on 1st June for those vacancies marked (V).

A problem occurs in the following areas:—

Dublin City — 3 medical vacancies

Dublin County — 3 medical vacancies

Kildare — 1 medical vacancy and 1 pharmacist vacancy

Wicklow — 2 medical vacancies and 1 public health nurse vacancy.

The Minister was asked for a ruling as to how these vacancies should be filled and he has stated that they are to be treated as casual vacancy under Article 7(2) of Health (Local Committees) Regulations 1972, which requires the Board to fill the vacancies. It is accordingly a matter for the Board to decide how these vacancies should be filled. It will also be necessary to get the consent of anyone nominated to act.

For the setting up of the first committees, organisations representing the different professions were invited to nominate candidates and the Board made the appointments.

At the July meeting the Board will also be required to appoint a medical officer of the Board of the status of County Medical Officer for each area, an RMS. **of a mental hospital serving an area or a senior psychiatrist, a Superintendent Assistance Officer or his equivalent for each area and 2 representatives of voluntary organisations for each**

The members while noting the report, felt that the holding of Local Committee Elections and Health Board Elections in or around the same time created a lot of confusion in the minds of eligible voters and many assumed that if they were on the Health Board Electoral Roll that they were automatically on the Local Health Committee Electoral Roll. To eliminate this confusion Dr. Walker suggested that an interval of six months should elapse between the holding of the two elections. The members concurred with this and the following resolution proposed by Dr. Walker and seconded by Dr. Jennings was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Board urge the Minister for Health to amend the Regulations governing the election of doctors, dentists, nurses (including psychiatric nurses) to Health Board Local Committees, so as to allow an interval of at least six months to elapse between such election of members to the Health Board itself."

72/77

#### DISPOSAL OF LAND

The following Report No. 19/1977 from Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In December 1973, the Board consented to the disposal of approximately 19} acres of land at St. Clare's Home to the Dubttn Corporation, (Report No. 51/1973 and Minute ref. 128/1973 refer).

This land was required by the Corporation mainly in connection with the extension of Griffith Avenue west of Ballymun Road, housing, and for the widening of Ballymun Road and also to enable the nearby Institute of Industrial Research and Standards to expand its facilities.

It was also stated in the above Report that Officers of the Board had been negotiating with Dublin Corporation for the acquisition of sites at St. Canice's Road for the new Welfare Home and at Grange Road, Raheny for a school for mentally handicapped children. The Board gave its consent to the disposal of the 19¼ acres in question and also to offsetting against this area the 4.2 acres required from the Corporation.

Subsequently, the Board was advised by the Corporation that due to a change in policy, the Corporation was no longer interested in the acquisition of approximately 10 acres of the land south of the Griffith Avenue Extension, portion of which property is adjacent to the Institute's premises and is now separated from the balance of our land by the new road. In the meantime and mainly in connection with the building of a number of new Health Centres, additional land is required by the Board from the Corporation. At the moment the area of the land required by the Board approximates to that required by the Corporation at St. Clare's i.e. 16.75 acres.

After discussions between Officers of the Board and the Assistant City Manager, the Corporation has recently advised the Board that it has accepted in principle an arrangement whereby the disposal of land between the two bodies would operate on an exchange basis for land held by each body and required by the other, the basis of the exchange being the agreed value of the particular site as determined by an independent valuer. The Minister for Health has also signified his agreement to this arrangement.

While the Board will be advised in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, of the details of the disposal of the Board's property when it arises, it is recommended that the Board accept in principle the disposal of land on an exchange basis with Dublin Corporation and Dublin County Council. This arrangement has obvious advantages in that the local bodies concerned will not normally require to finance individual transactions by way of borrowing and this should result in substantial savings on loan repayments. With regard to part of the area of land south of Griffith Avenue Extension, the Board is at present negotiating with the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards and the Department of Industry and Commerce for its disposal to the Institute and a further report will be submitted to the Board."

After a short discussion the members unanimously agreed to endorse the report, on a proposal by Professor Doyle seconded by Mr. Corrigan.

73/77

**JAMES CONNOLLY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD-INCREASE  
IN MEMBERSHIP**

The following Report No. 18/1977 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The Health Board at its meeting on 6th May, 1976, having considered Report No. 22/1976, agreed to the proposal received from the Minister for Health that the membership of the Hospital Board should be increased from 15 to 17 in order to provide for representation of the North-Eastern Health Board.

By the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board (Establishment) Order 1971 (Amendment) Order, 1977 (Statutory Instrument **135 of 1977**) the Minister for Health in exercise of his powers under the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act, 1961 ordered that the Board shall consist of 17 members and that the term of office of the 2 representatives of the North-Eastern Health Board shall commence on the 1st June. 1977.

As from the 1st June, 1977 the Hospital Board will be constituted as follows:—

- 6 by the Eastern Health Board
- 2 by the North-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 Chairman of the Hospital Board will continue to be elected from the representatives of the Eastern Health Board **who** are members of the Health **Board.**"

On a proposal by Mr. H. Corrigan seconded by Councillor Carroll it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

'That Report No 19/1977 be noted.'

74/77

**NEW HOSPITAL AT BEAUMONT**

The following letter dated 16/5/1977 from the Secretary, Department of Health, was submitted as was an accompanying Draft Order—

"Chief Executive Officer  
Eastern Health Board  
James's Street Dublin 8

**NEW HOSPITAL AT BEAUMONT**

A Chara,

The Minister for Health has asked me to inform you that he has reached agreement with the Sisters of Mercy for the purchase of 36 acres of land at Beaumont Convalescent Home for the building of the new General Hospital which will replace the existing Charitable Infirmary, Jervis Street end St. Laurence's Hospital. The purchase is subject to outline planning permission being obtained.

The Minister would propose to set up a new board which would first plan and build the new hospital and would administer it when it is commissioned. The draft of an Order to set out such a board under the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act, 1961 is attached. It is proposed to have discussions with the two hospitals concerned, with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and with the Eastern Health Board on this draft. When these are completed, the Minister would seek Government authority for making the Order.

The proposed initial membership of the board, as set out in the Draft Order, reflects the nature of its first function, that is to plan and build the hospital. This membership is intended to last only until the commissioning stage. Then, by an Amending Order, the constitution of the board would be changed. The changes, which would be made following consultation with all the authorities mentioned in the preceding paragraph, would be related to the new role of the board as the hospital managing body. Specifically, the Minister would intend that, at that stage, the Departmental representation on the board would be withdrawn and the Chairman would be elected by the members rather than being appointed by the Minister, as in the initial stage.

Because of the full consultations on the Draft Order which will be necessary, it **will not** be possible to set up the new **board** in the **near future**. **Accordingly, for the** purpose of obtaining the **outline planning permission necessary** for the completion of the **purchase of the land, ad hoc arrangements will be needed**. **The Minister accordingly** proposes that planning permission **would be** sought by a group with an officer of the Department (**who** will be one of those nominated to the new board) as Chairman and which would otherwise consist of the Chairman of the two existing hospitals and the Chairman of the Eastern Health Board (or their nominees). Invitations to act in this capacity are being sent to the persons concerned.

The Minister would be glad to have the views of your board on the Draft Order. If your board so desires, a discussion with the Department on it can be arranged.

Similar letters are being sent to each of the other bodies mentioned in the second **paragraph above** and copies are being sent for information to **the** Department of Education, the Higher Education Authority, **the** Dublin Regional Hospital Board, Comhairle na nOspideal and the Sister of Mercy.

Mise le meas.

B. Hensey."

Professor Doyle felt that the beds available in the new hospital should equal at least **the** number of beds in the hospitals being replaced. Mr. Harrington also contributed to the debate, following which the members agreed unanimously to note the correspondence, for reply to the Department as indicated.

75/77

**ADDRESS BY MR. DICK BARRY. PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH-  
NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD 1977**

The above address having been circulated, was noted by the members.

76/77

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Letter dated 31st May, 1977 from the House Governor/ Secretary, National Children's Hospital, Harcourt Street, notifying on behalf of the Board of that hospital that the hospital will continue to maintain and improve all services and facilities at present provided there until further notice.

Accompanying this letter was a copy of a circular letter to doctors advising them of the position. The members noted the correspondence.

- (b) Letter dated 29th April, 1977 from the Dublin Corporation requesting the Board to continue to administer the powers duties and functions of the Corporation in relation to Public Assistance Services for the period 1 st January to 31st December, 1977 or until the Social Welfare (Supplementary Welfare Allowances) Act, 1975 comes into operation, whichever is the earlier. The members unanimously agreed to the Corporation's request.

The meeting terminated at 7.10 p.m.

**CORRECT:**

E. O Caoimh,

*Signed*

**CHAIRMAN.**