

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 1st September, 1977 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mrs. J. Barlow	Councillor Denis Kinsella
Dr. J. D. Behan	Deputy Mrs. E. Lemass
Councillor Michael Brady	Deputy Thomas Leonard
Councillor D. Browne	Dr. P. McCarthy
Councillor Michael Carroll	Sr. Columba
Mr. Hugh Corrigan	Dr. A. Meade
Councillor Oliver Cooney	Mr. B. Mully
Councillor H. P. Dockrell	Deputy C. Murphy
Councillor Joseph Durning	Mr. F. O'Mahony
Alderman A. FitzGerald	Dr. B. Sheehan
Councillor Mrs. A. Glenn	Councillor J. Sweeney
Councillor Austin Groome	Dr. J. Walker
Councillor P. Hickey, P.C.	Dr. Marie Walsh.
Dr. D. G. Kelly	

Councillor P. Hickey, Chairman, presided.

Apologies for Absence:

Mr. K. Harrington and Professor J. McCormick.
Professor J. S. Doyle.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. F. J. Donohue	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. T. Keyes	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Mr. E. Dunphy
Prof. B. O'Donnell	<i>Dublin Medical Officer</i>	Mr. J. A. Duggan
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	<i>Finance Officer</i>	Mr. C. McQuaile
Mr. F. E. Elliott	<i>Planning & Eval. Officer</i>	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. R. N. Lamb	<i>Personnel Officer</i>	Dr. P. O'Sullivan
Mr. F. McCullough	<i>General Administrator</i>	Miss E. Larkin
Mr. P. J. Swords	<i>General Administrator</i>	Miss B. Kelly
Mr. J. Clarke	<i>General Administrator</i>	Miss Frances Casey
Prof. Ivor Browne	<i>Chief Psychiatrist</i>	

102/77

CONDOLENCE

The Chairman informed the meeting of the recent death of Dr. Giles O'Keefe brother of the Chief Executive Officer and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The members directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

103/77

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 4th August, 1977 having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal of Mr. H. Corrigan, seconded by Councillor J. Sweeney.

(a) Matters arising from minutes:

Arising from the minutes Dr. A. Meade referred to the future development of St. Cotumcille's Hospital in the light of discussions with St. Vincent's Elm Park and St. Michaels Hospital and sought assurance that the Board would be fully advised of how the talks were progressing. Councillor M. Carroll, Dr. Sheehan, Councillor Durning and Dr. P. McCarthy endorsed Dr. Meade's views. Mr. Swords stated that talks at the moment were exploratory with a further joint meeting next week and the board would be kept informed of any developments. Dr. Walker enquired as to the present position on retrospective payment of allowances for handicapped children *and* Mr. Oonohue informed him that he had written to the Department of Health in regard to the financial provision for same and was awaiting its reply.

104/77 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 St. Cotumcille's Hospital on 28/7/77.

Councillor Durning enquired as to when the committee's suggestion for extended visiting hours was being introduced and was informed by Mr. Swords that while the matter was agreed in principal it was held up due to staff holidays. Sr. Columba stated that in her opinion the transport for patients requiring special tests was inadequate. It was agreed that Mr. Swords would consult with the Technical Services Officer and advise Sr. Columba of the result.

(b) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Central Mental Hospital on 21 /7/77—noted.

(c) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Vincent's Hospital on 27/7/77—noted.

105/77

GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICE—PARTNERSHIP

The following Report No. 27/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Application by Doctor T. F. Devlin, 10 Duncairn Terrace, Bray, Co. Wicklow, to take on an Assistant with a view to Partnership.

Doctor T. F. Devlin, 10 Duncairn Terrace, Bray, Co. Wicklow, is participating in the Board's general practitioner service and his centre of practice is at 10 Duncairn Terrace, Bray. In his letter of the 11th June, 1977, he has expressed his wish to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership. He has a large list of eligible persons and the average number of eligible persons per doctor in the area is fairly high.

In accordance with paragraphs 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 Devlin's request. In letters dated 15th July, 1977, the Irish Medical Association and the Medical Union stated that they had no objection to Doctor Devlin's proposal.

I recommend that, subject to the approval of the Board, applications be invited in the usual manner and that an

Assistant with a view to partnership for Doctor Devlin 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 agreed to the creation of a partnership or 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 or 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 Councillor J. Sweeney seconded by Deputy C. Murphy, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

"That the Board approves of the partnership proposal as set out in Report No. 27/1977."

106/77

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE—HEALTH
CARE AND PSYCHOSOMATIC UNIT—SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE**

The following Report No. 28/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

'The Board at its meeting in June 1974, approved the recommendation of Dr. J. H. Cullen, Director of Research, for the establishment of a Health Care and Psychosomatic Unit for the purpose of studying the effects of stress in producing both psychological breakdown and a wide variety of physical conditions with a view to designating treatments to alleviate them. The Board, in arriving at its decision, decided that a Scientific Committee of the Board should examine the proposals and monitor progress. The Scientific Committee met only once since then simply because the money required for the Unit was not made available until June 1977. The following letter from the Department of Health conveying the Minister's approval to the financing of the 'Unit has been received.

"A Chara,

1. I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to previous correspondence concerning the financing of the Psychosomatic Unit, Garden Hill, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8.
2. I am to say that approval is now given to your board for the making of a grant under Section 65 of the Health Act, 1953 to the Psychosomatic Unit. The grant is not to exceed £30,000 in 1977 or to exceed £60,000 in a full year.
3. The approved staffing level for the unit is as set out in the enclosure to your letter of 6th January, 1976 viz.—
 - 1 Senior Psychiatrist
 - 2 Registrars (one medical) 2
 - Senior Psychologists
 - 1 Psychiatric Social Worker 1
 - Technician (junior grade) 1
 - Psychiatric Nurse 1 General
 - Nurse 1 Clerk Typist
4. The usual procedures in regard to the recruitment of staff as appropriate to different grades should be followed (including approval of Comhairle na nOspideal where required).

5. The allocation for your board for 1977 for on-going non-capital expenditure on the existing services which was notified to you in the Department's letter dated 13th January, 1977 will be adjusted to the extent of £30,000 which represents the total amount approved for this unit for 1977. This 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, as well as the increases in expenditure levels approved under the special job creation programme, commissioning of new units and additional expenditure arising from increases in the rates of allowances as provided for in the Budget.
6. A progress report should be submitted quarterly by your Board to the Department setting out the performance of the unit. As this is a research-cum-service project it will be necessary after three years, when trends have been established, to have an independent evaluation of the scheme.

Mise le meas."

It will be noted from the Minister's letter that progress must be regularly monitored and that an independent evaluation of the scheme be made in due course.

For the information of the members, I set out a short summary of the membership of the Committee. When the Committee was originally set up in June, 1974, there were ten members. After the June, 1974 Local Government Election, three of the members ceased to be Board Members. This left seven members. However, as Drs. Cullen and Mahon and Mr. D. O'Flynn are no longer members of the Board, this only leaves four of the original Committee still on the Board viz. Dr. J. S. Doyle, Dr. A. Meade, Prof. J. McCormick and Mr. H. Corrigan.

I now recommend that the Scientific Committee should be re-convened to consider the position and that the Board should fill the six existing vacancies, to include at least one officer on the Committee.

Other items which the Committee will have to consider is the letter from Council for Post Graduate Medical and Dental Education and request from Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital for research grant."

After a short discussion the following resolution proposed by Councillor H. P. Dockrell and seconded by Dr. P. McCarthy was unanimously adopted:—

'That the Board notes the Minister's approval to the allocation of a Section 65 grant for the Psychosomatic Unit and agrees that the Unit's progress should be monitored by the Scientific Committee. It further agrees to the appointment of the following members to the vacancies on the Scientific Committee:—

Prof. B. O'Donnell, Dr. J. Behan, Mr. J. J. Nolan, Dr. D. Kelly, Sr. Columba, Dr. M. Walsh.

107/77

LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEES

The following Report No. 29/1977 from Mr. F. Donohue, Programme Manager Community Care, was submitted:—

"At the August meeting of the Board, (paragraph 97/77 refers), it considered and approved the appointment of certain persons to the different Local Committees. Since then the organisations representing the Categories where vacancies still existed have been consulted and have nominated as follows:—

Dublin City— Dr. S. Murphy, Temple Gardens, Dublin 6.
Dr. A. O'Grady, 115 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4.

Dr. J. Plaisted, 14 Mount Prospect Avenue, Dublin 3.

Dublin County— Dr. J. J. Fennelly, St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4.

Dr. C. McNamara, 57 Knocknashee, Goatstown, Dublin 14.

Dr. T. Hynes, The Moorings, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Kildare— Dr. Cowhey.

Wicklow— Mrs. P. McNamara, Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped—Voluntary Organisation representative.

The foregoing completes the five Local (Health) Committees, excepting for Dublin City where the Public

Health nurse representative has transferred to the Western Health Board area. Under the rules governing casual vacancies. Miss R. Gavigan, has been nominated by the Irish Nurses Organisation who are the nominating body in this case.

I recommend that the Board agree to the appointment of all persons named in this report. A full list of all members of Local (Health) Committees will be circulated."

On a proposal by Councillor D. Browne, seconded by Deputy T. Leonard, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the following motion:—

'That the Board agrees to the appointment to the relevant local health committee of the persons named in this report.'

108/77

COMMUNITY CARE VISITING COMMITTEES

The following Report No. 31/1977 from Mr. F. Oonohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, was circulated, as was the accompanying schedule referred to in the report.

"1. At the August meeting the Board adopted the following motion:—

That the Eastern Health Board establish a system of inspection of the area units, offices, premises, similar to and in a like spirit to that currently applicable to the Special and General Hospital Programme'.

2. Apart from the Community Welfare Homes which are already included in the schedule of premises assigned to the Hospital Visiting Committee there are 154 premises under the control of the Community Care Programme ranging from large multi-purpose Health Centres to local information offices, to dental units, offices and a day nursery. (There is also a number of premises operated by voluntary organisations with financial assistance from the Health Board in which are provided services such as training and employment of handicapped persons, day centres and clubs for the elderly and day nurseries. These are not under the control of the Board).

3. It was suggested at the August meeting that the proposed inspections be carried out by the existing Hospital Visiting Committees—each Committee to deal with the Board's own premises in specified Community Care areas. The attached schedule lists Health Centres etc. in each area and shows the Hospital Visiting Committees already functioning. The Board may now wish to proceed with the assignment of premises to the Committees.
4. inspections of premises would be arranged by the Directors of Community Care in consultation with the Chairman and members of each Committee concerned."

After a detailed discussion as to the best method of getting the proposed arrangements to operate satisfactorily, to which the following members contributed—Mr. O'Mahony, Dr. Walker, Dr. Meade, Dr. Sheehan, Dr. McCarthy, Dr. Behan, Councillor Browne, Councillor Duming, Councillor Mrs. Bartow, Alderman FitzGerald and Councillor Mrs. Glenn, it was unanimously agreed to defer further consideration of the matter to the next meeting.

109/77 TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 30/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At meeting held on 2nd June 1977, the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £2 million during the quarter ending on 30th September, 1977.

Instalments of Health Services Grant are received in the middle and at the end of every month. In recent months the Department of Health practice has been to enquire, a few days in advance of payment of grant, what the expected cash balance will be on date grant is paid. This figure is taken into account in calculating the grant instalment. As a result the highest amount the Board's account was overdrawn since 1st July 1977 was £1,085,362 on 15th August. The highest credit balance was £982,097 on 15th July.

I consider that an overdraft up to £1£ million will be sufficient to meet our needs for the rest of the present year, and, I therefore, request the consent of the Board to the borrowing by way of overdraft up to £1| million as required during the period from now until 31st December, 1977."

On a proposal by Councillor M. Carroll seconded by Councillor O. Kinsella the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

'That the Eastern Hearth Board hereby consent to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft as outlined in Report No. 30/1977."

110/77

ST. LOMAN'S CATCHMENT AREA—PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE—ADDITIONAL STAFFING

The following Report No. 32/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

'The population of the St. Loman's catchment area has been growing significantly over the past ten years. This increase in population has been accelerated by (i) the establishment of a population growth centre based on the village of Tallaght and (ii) the addition to the St. Loman's area of the north eastern part of Co. Kildare which previously formed part of the catchment area of the now defunct Carfow Kildare Mental Health Board.

The population of Tallaght which in 1971 stood at 6,000 has now reached a figure of approximately 40,000 and is expected to reach a population of 100,000 within the next ten years or so. While it is the intention that this area should eventually function as an independent catchment area it will be dependent on St. Loman's Hospital for inpatient services for the foreseeable future.

The population of north eastern Kildare is, likewise, increasing rapidly. The population for the county as a whole as per the 1971 Census was 72,000. Population projections for 1981 and 1991 are 110,000 and 153,000 respectively, i.e. a doubling of population in the twenty year period. The population increase in the north eastern part of the County serviced by St. Loman's Hospital will be at least proportionate to the increase for the County as a whole.

Consideration is at present being given to the establishment of a psychiatric unit at the County Hospital, Naas. This project will of necessity take a number of years to plan and complete.

Meanwhile St. Loman's Hospital will continue to cater for the needs of the expanding population.

The above increases have resulted in increased pressure on hospital beds and this pressure coupled with the inadequacy of specialised facilities elsewhere for geriatric patients has brought about a situation which necessitates the strengthening of hospital staffing. A separate report will be submitted with regard to the provision of additional bed accommodation at St. Loman's. Part of the solution to the overcrowding problem lies in the expansion of community nursing service and day treatment services and this will also require additional staffing. It is also proposed to establish a new service based on the National School, Celbridge.

It is also deemed prudent to make provision for additional staff to cover the sick leave contingency and the additional annual leave which will be inherent in the proposed staff complement.

The present nursing staff needs of the St. Loman's service have been subjected to critical examination by the Board's officers independently and in consultation with staff representatives and the report submitted as a result of this examination incorporates a request for 16 additional nursing staff on the present total complement of 137. This report has been the subject of a separate assessment by a Senior Nursing Officer attached to the Northern Ireland Health Service who visited St. Loman's, inspected the various wards and had discussions with all grades of staff. This officer has agreed that the additional numbers requested are reasonable having regard to standards obtaining in Britain and Northern Ireland. It also emerged in discussions that the application to the St. Loman's situation of criteria applicable in Britain would result in a greater staff increase than is now being sought.

I should like to make it clear that the examination of staffing needs did not extend to the childrens' service at St. Loman's, it being the intention to defer this examination

until such time as administrative arrangements for Child Psychiatric Service as a whole had been completed. A further report in relation to the needs of the Child Psychiatric Service will be submitted in the near future.

The cost of increased staffing at present remuneration levels will be approximately £50,000 per annum.

The Boards approval is requested to the creation of an additional 16 nursing posts in the St. Loman's Service."

On a proposal by Councillor Mrs. Bartow seconded by Mr. H. Com'gan the members agreed to consider also Item No. 11—the notice of motion in the name of Mr. Mulledy which was seconded by Councillor M. Carroll. Mr. Mulledy's motion was as follows:—

"That the Chief Executive Officer report, that provision be made, and a decision be now made to provide additional wards and beds in St. Loman's Hospital:—

- (a) to alleviate the present chronically overcrowded conditions.
- (b) to expand the range of the hospital to enable it to cater fully to the needs of the exceptionally large catchment area, population approximately a quarter million."

Mr. MuHedy outlined the existing situation at St. Loman's Hospital with particular emphasis on the shortage of beds for patients requiring acute treatment arising from the increase in the numbers of long stay patients. He also referred to the population growth in the catchment area of St. Loman's. There followed a lengthy discussion to which the following members contributed:—

Councillor Carroll, Mr. Corrigan, Dr. Meade, Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Behan, Dr. Kelly and Councillor Brady. Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, informed the Board that earlier this year he had arranged for a comprehensive review of the plan for the development of the Psychiatric Service adopted by the Board in 1972. The review involved extensive consultation with all the interests involved and he hoped to have a report for consideration by the Board at its November meeting. He suggested that the members should await this report. The members on consideration of Mr. Keyes statement decided to defer Mr. Mulledy's motion until the review report was available, but on consideration of Report No. 32/1977 referred

to at the commencement of this minute adopted the following motion on a proposal by Mr. Mulledy seconded by Councillor Carroll:—

'That the Board consent to the creation of additional nursing posts for St. Loman's as set out in Report No. 32/1977.'

111/77

**BEAUMONT HOSPITAL BOARD—PRESS RELEASE FROM
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The following Press Release from the Minister for Health was noted:—

"Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., Minister for Health, has made an order under the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act, 1961 establishing the Beaumont Hospital Board which will, *inter alia*, plan, build and furnish a general hospital at Beaumont, Dublin.

The minister has appointed the following as members of the Board.

Lieutenant-General Sean McKeown, Chairman.

Dr. P. O'Brien, "Dungarvan", Howth Road, Raheny, Dublin.

Professor J. S. Doyle	nominated by the Eastern Health Board.
Mr. J. J. Nolan	

Mr. P. C. Carey, M.Ch.	nominated by the Board of Governors of St. Laurence's Hospital, Dublin.
Dr. H. E. Counihan	
Mr. T. Stafford	

Dr. J. Fielding	nominated by the Committee of Management of the Charitable Infirmary, Jervis Street. Dublin.
Mr. P. Lynch	
Mr. B. Martin	

Mr. J. McAuliffe-Curtin F.R.C.S. (Irel.) nominated by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Mr. C. Dowdall	Department of Health.
Mr. S. Hensey Dr.	
P. A. Jennings	

Lieutenant-General McKeown, Chairman, is former Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces.

Dr. P. O'Brien is a general medical practitioner.

Beaumont Hospital is one of the six major general hospitals proposed for the Dublin area and will be provided on a **she** of approximately 36 acres at Beaumont Convalescent Home which is being purchased from the Sisters of Mercy. It is intended that the hospital will replace the existing Jervis Street and St. Laurence's Hospitals.

The hospital is one of the projects referred to in the Government's statement of 15th July, 1977 on job-creation and it is proposed to proceed immediately with the building of the hospital.

In order to expedite the project it is proposed to use the plans for the Regional Hospital at Wilton, Cork, now nearing completion and to employ the same design team.

8th August 1977."

112/77

JOB CREATION—PRESS RELEASE FROM MINISTER FOR
HEALTH

The members on consideration of the press release, noted its contents.

113/77

NOTICE OF MOTION

The motion in the name of Mr. B. Mulledy was dealt with under Minute Number 110/77.

114/77

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) CHEAP FUEL SCHEME:

Letter dated 26th August, 1977 from Dublin Corporation advising that the Corporation's Community and Environment Department would operate the Cheap Fuel Scheme from 1st October, next. The Programme Manager,

Community Care had circulated a Report No. 31 A/1977 setting out the history of the scheme. The members noted the Corporation's decision.

- (b) Letter dated 13th August, 1977 from the Chairman of the National Women's Talent Bank deploring the fact that not one woman had been appointed to the Pre-commissioning Committee of the Beaumont Hospital Board was circulated and considered. Councillor **Mrs.** Glenn deplored the Minister's selection of members and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Dr. A. Meade and unanimously adopted:—

"Propose that the Minister for Health be requested to include Sr. Columba as a member of the Beaumont Pre-commissioning Committee."

- (c) At the conclusion of the Meeting Dr. A. Meade was informed by Mr. Elliott that the notices for display in surgeries etc., were with the Board's advertisers as a final proof.

The meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.

CORRECT:

E O CAOIMH.

Chief Executive Officer

Signed

Chairman