

## 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 5th October. 1978 at 6 p.m.*

*Present:*

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Dr. D. G. Kelly
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. D. Kinsella
Cllr. M. Carroll	Deputy T. Leonard
Cllr. J. Connolly	Prof. J. McCormick
Cllr. O. Cooney	Sr. Columba
Mr. H. Corrigan	Mr. M. Matthews
Cllr. H. P. Dockrell	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. E. Doyle	Deputy C. Murphy
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Cllr. E. Stagg
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Mr. K. Harrington	Dr. J. Walker
Cllr. P. Hickey P.C.,	

*Apologies for Absence*

Dr. J. Behan, Dr. P. McCarthy  
Dr. B. Sheehan.

*In the Chair*

Alderman A. FitzGerald, Chairman.

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. E. O. Caoimh	Miss A. Flanagan
Mr. J.J. Nolan	Mr. C. Mansfield
Mr. F. Donohue	Mr. E. Butler
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. F. Elliott	Mr. A. Duggan
Mr. M. Hayden	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. P. J. Swords	Miss K. Dolan
Mr. F. McCullough	Miss E. Larkin
Prof. I. Browne	Miss R. Carolan
Mr. J. Clarke	

110/78      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7th September, 1978, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Corrigan.

**111/78 RETIREMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**

The Secretary read the following letter addressed to the Chairman by Mr. O Caoimh:—

Dear Chairman,

As I informed members of the Board at its September meeting I will vacate the office of Chief Executive Officer on the 31st of this month. In this capacity this is the last monthly Board meeting at which I will be present.

My entire career has been in the public service commencing with the former National Health Insurance Society followed by service in the Defence Forces during the years of world war two and since 1945 in the service of Local Government and Health Authorities. I have been exclusively employed in the Health Service for a period of over 21 years since 1957.

Since entry into the Local service I have served under some 30 different Chairmen (or should I say Chairpersons as they included the redoubtable Mrs. Mary Mulvey, Mrs. Catherine Byrne, one time Lord Mayor of Dublin and Miss Mary Ennis the almost perennial Chairperson of the former Balrothery Board of Assistance). A goodly number of these Chairmen notably "Bishop" Paddy Burke were Dail Deputies and Senators and include two who became Cabinet Ministers. I trust that my service under all these chairmen, irrespective of party affiliation, was of value and assistance to them and I wish to record my appreciation of their co operation — and indeed on occasions their forbearance — in the discharge of my duties.

In common, I feel sure, with some members here to-night, I look back with nostalgia to the 10 years life of the Dublin Health Authority which unified the staffs and services of some half a dozen different authorities with administrative headquarters in the grounds of the then St. Kevin's Hospital. My nostalgia did not and does not of course preclude a welcome for the inclusion of Counties Kildare and Wick low into the Eastern Health Board. I need only refer to the interest the Board has taken in the improvement of services in these Counties whose elected representatives have by no means been backward in furthering the welfare of their constituents.

My immediate predecessor at St. Kevin's was the late Mr. Seamus Murphy who, amid many other distinctions, was the

first to carry the title of Chief Executive Officer in the Republic's Health Service. He it was who carried through the transformation of the Old South Dublin Union to provide a vastly improved service for the less well off citizens of Dublin City and County. In his time top class clinical personnel were recruited viz., Mr. Hugh McCarthy and the late Mr. Charles Boland both eminent surgeons; Dr. James Mahon (a former member of this Board) and Dr. Patrick Blaney, dedicated physicians, Dr. John Harmon, Chief Pathologist as well as the late Dr. McCarthy succeeded by Dr. James O'Dea as Medical Superintendent. Under the Dublin Health Authority clinical staff were augmented in the persons of Dr. Hanratty, Obstetrician/Gynaecologist and Dr. Mullaney, Senior Pathologist. Nor can I forget the late Miss Anne Young the first lay Matron of St. Kevin's Hospital. She it was who inaugurated the nurse training school which in a short period of time has come to rank among the foremost in this Country. It would be remiss on my part not to pay a well deserved tribute to the Sisters of Mercy who as nursing Sisters in St. Kevin's did so much over generations of years to mitigate the harsh conditions of the Poor Law Regime. Their departure in the interests of their nursing and teaching vocation in the third world was sorely felt by all.

The culmination of this pioneering work together with fresh blood from the Dublin Federated Hospitals and the Medical School of Trinity College will be achieved in a few years from now with the commissioning of the new St. James's Hospital. My hope is that we will all live to see that happy day.

Under the reign of the Dublin Health Authority the other services saw important developments. On the retirement of the colourful Professor John Dunne (who I am glad to say is still hale and hearty) Professor Ivor Browne was recruited as Chief Psychiatrist and on tonight's agenda you have before you a progress report on his latest plan, for the improvement of the service. This service suffered a serious set back on the untimely deaths of Dr. Vincent Crotty, the first Clinical Director of St. Loman's Hospital and Dr. John Bergin, the first Director of Mental Handicap.

Special mention must be made of the late Dr. J. B. O'Regan the first Chief Medical Officer of the Dublin Health Authority. Under his wise and humanitarian guidance a first class Public Health Service administered on a functional pattern was built up. Some have felt unhappy to see that service transformed under the McKinsey Plan. I feel I must record what Dr. O'Regan told me shortly before his lamented death. After he retired he made an extensive tour of the

Public Health Services in Great Britain where to my knowledge he was held in high esteem. On his return he came to see me and told me of his findings. I vividly recall his parting words:—

The Public Health Services in Dublin City and County are equa' to the best I saw across the water and better than most.'

A goodly number here this evening will remember Or. O'Regan's characteristics — a modest man, of few words, of unremitting zeal for the improvement of the Public Health Service and not given to boastful or exaggerated statement.

I must record too my appreciation for the co-operation and loyalty I have got from the Board's staffs at all levels with a special word of praise for the several Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the Hospitals and Homes directly under the control of the Board. It would be unrealistic to expect that in the current era of rapid change problems do not arise in the field of industrial relations. But looking on this area as a whole the monthly reports of the visiting committees are an eloquent testimony to the unflinching dedication of all staffs and to the prevailing high standards of morale.

I must say a special word of appreciation for the Board's Management Team whose doyen is my deputy J. J. Nolan. With a few exceptions they all come from the staffs of the several constituent authorities unified into a single staff under the Dublin Health Authority. The unification was indeed a big upset to them in their personal lives and careers but they willingly gave their loyalty to the new authority and to me.

After ten years they had to undergo a further upset with the advent of the Eastern Health Board but they rapidly adjusted themselves to the changed situation. The "new comers" (if I may so term experienced officers from other authorities) have admirably blended in with the Team which now operates as a cohesive body with a healthy but friendly rivalry for what we euphemistically call limited resources.

A final word of thanks to you Chairman, to the three former Chairmen still on the Board and to each and every member all of whom have shown understanding to me in the discharge of my duties. Within the statutory constraints placed on a Chief Executive Officer I have tried to the best of my ability to ensure that the corporate policy of the Board is faithfully implemented. The composition of Health Boards is unique in either the private or public sectors of this Country — unique in the sense that all Board members are elected by

their peers. This provides a balanced measure of representative democracy of a very high order well ahead of the position obtaining in any other area of public life. I recall with pleasure the first Estimates meeting of the Eastern Health Board. The then Deputy Joe Dowling paid tribute to the professional members of the Board for their insight into the realities of political life. Dr. Aidan Meade reciprocated on behalf of professional members. He had warm words of praise for the sensitivity of public representatives to the needs of their constituents and for their understanding of the complexities and constraints of professional life. Long may this spirit of mutual respect and understanding live on in the Eastern Health Board.

Yours sincerely.

E. O Caoimh  
Chief Executive Officer.

5th October, 1978.

The Chairman, in paying tribute to Mr. O Caoimh, expressed on behalf of the Board their regret at his retirement and their thanks for the contribution he had made to the Board and indeed to the local service throughout his career. Cllr. Hickey speaking as an elected representative and a former Chairman of the Board, paid tribute to Mr. O Caoimh's service, not only to the various local authorities with which he was associated but also to his service in the defence forces during the emergency. Dr. Meade expressed the thanks of the professional members of the Board for the support and guidance Mr. O Caoimh had given when they joined the Board and since. Professor McCormick said that as the Board's first chairman he had particular personal reasons to be grateful to Mr. O Caoimh. He has displayed a quality very rare — it is a form of unimpeachable integrity. He stood out for what he thought was right. As a board member and as its chairman he recognised the contribution one makes to the running of the health services is miniscule. They are run mainly by the Chief Executive Officer and his staff.

Cllrs. Dockrell, Browne.

Mrs. Barlow and Connolly also paid tribute to Mr. O Caoimh. Sr. Columba, on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, conveyed the Order's best wishes to Mr. O Caoimh on his retirement and thanked him for his interest and concern for the Order in all their dealings with the Board over the years.

Mr. J. J. Nolan, on behalf of the staff, referred to Mr. O Caoimh's many attributes. He found him easy to work with and approachable but always expecting and maintaining high standards. Mr. Nolan made the point of how smoothly Mr. O Caoimh had drawn together the various and adverse elements of his senior management team. He expressed his own personal good wishes to Mr. O Caoimh and said that he was as sorry to see Mr. O Caoimh go, as he knew Mr. O Caoimh was to be leaving.

Mr. O Caoimh, in replying, thanked the Board and Mr. Nolan for their kind remarks. He said he would face his retirement with confidence and hoped to remain active and interested in all matters relating to the Board and the community in general.

The Chairman proposed that a committee be appointed to organise a function to mark the Chief Executive Officer's retirement. The following agreed to act:—

Aid. FitzGerald, Cllr. Hickey, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Dockrell, Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, Dr. Meade, Cllr. Groome and Mr. J.J. Nolan.

#### 112/78 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 on 24th August, 1978 at Clonskea Hospital and St. Broc's Welfare Home.

Cllr. Sweeney referred to the big increase apparent in the incidence of pertussis in 1977 and asked that the Board encourage a higher level of immunisation. Dr. Meade in support emphasised the need for immunisation and asked for a comment from Prof. O'Donnell. Professor O'Donnell said that there was no doubt that the increase in the cases resulted from a fall in vaccination resulting from adverse publicity over the last few years. There were indications of increased demand for vaccination because of the increased incidence of the disease. He would arrange for increased publicity to be given to the need for vaccination. Dr. Walker and Professor McCormick supported the need for stepping up the campaign for immunisation. Dr. Walker suggested that the Health Education Bureau might be able to assist.

In reply to a request for a full report on the geriatric situation made by Cllr. Connolly, the Chairman referred to

an earlier proposal to have a full meeting on the Care of the Aged later in October. Professor McCormick and Dr. Meade advised the Board that the report of their group on the aged would not be available for some months and the Board agreed to a proposal by the Chairman that the January meeting of the Board should fix a date for the special meeting on the Care of the Aged in the light of progress on Prof. McCormick's report at that time.

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Dockrell the report was noted.

- (b) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held on 23rd August, 1978 at Bru Chaoimhin. ..

Mr. Corrigan drew attention to the poor attendance of the members of the No. 2 Committee when meeting at Dundrum: at a recent meeting he was the only member present. He asked that another meeting of the committee at Dundrum be arranged for an early date.

The report of the committee was noted on a proposal by Mr. Corrigan seconded by Cllr. Browne.

- (c) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held on 30th August, 1978 at Cherry Orchard Hospital.

On the proposal of Cllr. Stagg seconded by Mr. Matthews the report was noted.

- (d) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held on 30th August, 1978 at St. Loman's Hospital.

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the report was noted. Mr. Hickey said he was pleased to see the provision made in the draft capital programme for works at St. Loman's in 1979. Following a discussion on the difficulty in securing male nursing staff the Chairman asked that a report covering all aspects of the problems of recruitment be submitted to the November meeting of the Board. Mr. Harrington asked that the minutes be corrected by the substitution of the word "registering" for "showing" in the last line of the paragraph relating to central heating.

- (e) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held on 19th July, 1978 at Tallaght Health Centre.

Cllr. Hickey referred to the need for early consultation with developers and planners to enable the Directors of Community Care to plan where they will provide services in new areas. Mr. Donohue said that the Board has liaison on

this matter with the County Council and the Corporation and had meetings about once a month. The Board knows where developments are taking place but if the provision of services fails behind the development it is because of lack of funds. Also though the areas in which housing will develop may be known it was not always known where the town centre will be sited. He referred to the next meeting of the visiting committee which was scheduled to be held at Emmet House and he said that this meeting would give the committee members the opportunity to discuss the matter further. Regarding Dr. Walker's reference to staff needs Mr. Donohue said that extra public health nurses were being provided for in the job creation programme for 1978. Of the 96 jobs created 48 went to the Community Care Programme.

Professor O'Donnell undertook to enquire further into the matter of the notification to Directors of Community Care by the local authorities of persons rehoused on medical grounds as referred to by Cllrs. Dockrell and Browne. The report was noted.

- (f) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held on 19th September, 1978 at Our Lady's Clinic, Dun Laoghaire.

- Noted.

#### 113/78 PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

- (i) Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee — held 30th May, 1978.

In reply to Mrs. Barlow, Prof. O'Donnell said he was not aware of cases where meat slaughtered outside the city was brought in in an unsupervised way. He said that he would make enquiries in this regard.

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow the report was noted.

- (ii) Dublin City Local Health Committee - held 14th June, 1978.

On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, the report was noted.

- (iii) Dublin County Local Health Committee — held on 3rd July, 1978.

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Hickey, the report was noted.

- (iv) Kildare Local Health Committee - held 20th July, 1978.

On a proposal by Cllr. Groome, seconded by Mr. Corrigan, the report was noted. In reply to Mr. Kelly, Mr. Donohue said that the extra ophthalmic sessions referred to in the minute were being arranged to clear a back-log of work and he was not aware of any oversight or misunderstanding in the discussions on the arrangement of the extra sessions.

**114/78 DEVELOPMENT OF NAAS HOSPITAL  
(Report No. 24/1978)**

Mr. Nolan told the meeting that the Department of Health had a few days earlier sent a deputation of senior officers to inspect the Board's hospitals at Athy and Naas, and it was expected that the Department's proposals on the two hospitals would soon be notified to the Board. He suggested that the Board await these proposals from the Department before considering the report on Naas Hospital and the nomination of a deputation to the Minister. This was agreed, with the provision that this item would appear on each Board agenda until it was debated. In response to comments by Cllr. Cooney and Mr. Kelly regarding the post of Registrar at Naas Hospital, Mr. Nolan explained the policy of Comhairle na n-Ospideil in relation to such posts which in effect would if approved involve a possible staff rotation arrangement with St. James's Hospital.

**115/78 DISPOSAL OF LAND  
AT ST. CLARE'S, BALLYMUN**

The following report No. 28/1978 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At its meeting held on 1st June, 1978 the Board consented to the disposal of an area of 2.5 acres at St. Clare's Home to St. Michael's House for the purpose of extension of residential facilities for the mentally-handicapped. At the ordinary meeting for July the Board was informed that, on further examination of the project for the provision of living accommodation for 50 severely handicapped children, an area of 3.46 acres would be required. The necessity was established in the course of the detailed planning by the St. Michael's House Consultant Architects and took into account the contours of the site and the need for outdoor recreation for the future residents.

The agreement of the Minister for Health to the leasing of 3.46 acres to St. Michael's House at a nominal rent has been received and the formal consent of the Board to the increase in the area already approved is requested. The plot is indicated on the site location map displayed."

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Mr. Corrigan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposals outlined in Report No. 28/1978.

116/78                      CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The following report No. 29/1978 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"Following an informal discussion, the Department of Health has requested by letter dated 20 Mean Fomhair 1978, the submission of a list of projects, in order of priority, in order to enable a programme of possible new starts in 1979 to be determined.

'Department of Health,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1.

20 Mean Fomhair 1978.

Chief Executive Officer,  
Eastern Health Board, 1  
James's Street.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1979

A Chara,

I wish to refer to your letter of 31 July 1978 and also to the informal discussion which took place in the Department on 15 September 1978 regarding the Capital Programme for 1979. In order to enable a programme of possible new starts to be determined it will be necessary to set out the projects proposed in accordance with your Board's priorities. The order of priority should be set out in relation to all the works proposed and not shown separately under each programme heading. The estimate of the cost should be given in the case of each project as well as an indication of the probable expenditure in 1979.

I would be glad to have your reply as soon as possible after your Board's next meeting.

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M. Kirby,  
Hospital Planning Office.'

A.I propose the following list of projects on each of which a start could be made in 1979 subject to notification at a reasonably early date of their inclusion in an approved Capital programme for next year: —

Project	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Expenditure 1979
1. Fire precautions works St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling	£80,000	£50,000
2. Fire precautions works St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park	£200,000	£40,000
3. Fire precautions works and telephone system — St. Loman's Hospital	£180,000	£70,000
4. Continuation of up-grading of patient accommodation and fire precautions works — St. Brendan's Hospital	£165,000	£165,000
5. Extension of psychiatric clinic Vergemount Hospital	£250,000	£40,000
6. Prefabricated units at Garden Hill to provide 12 beds, day hospital accommodation and data centre for epidemiological studies	£200,000	£40,000
7. Health Centre, Blessington	£75,000	£40,000
8. Staff changing accommodation, patients reception, new boilerhouse County Hospital, Naas	£160,000	£40,000
9. Health Centre and Community Care headquarters, Naas	£400,000	£30,000
10. Community Care headquarters. Dun Laoghaire	£150,000	£10,000
11. Laundry, St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy	£200,000	£20,000
12. Day Hospitals, mental health service, St. James's Hospital and to serve St. Loman's and Dublin North-West	£180,000	£90,000
13. Health Centres, Athy, Shillelagh and Knockananna	£250,000	£50,000

14. Extension of St. Dymphna's Alcoholism Unit	£40,000	£40,000
15. Acquisition of additional hostels for mental health service	£80,000	£80,000
16. Acquisition of additional sites for Health Centres	£100,000	£100,000
17. Development of laundry. Cherry Orchard Hospital	£150,000	£50,000
18. Grants for Voluntary community services	£209,000	£209,000

B. As already mentioned, the building projects listed above are restricted to those on which construction could be commenced next year. In the course of the informal discussion with officers of the Department of Health the importance of early planning next year of projects which could then be ready in good time for commencement in 1980 was emphasised. I propose, with the Board's agreement, to request approval to proceed with the detailed planning of the additional health care facilities in the following order of priority:—

Project	Estimated Exp. in 1979	
1. Up-grading and structural strengthening of more patient accommodation, St. Ita's Hospital	£5,000	(Planning)
2. Geriatric assessment units, St. Columcille's Hospital and County Hospital, Naas.	£10,000	
3. 20-bed acute unit, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow	£5,000	
4. Central pharmacy (at St. Brendan's) to replace building at 1 James's Street	£5,000	
5. Health Centre, Swords	£5,000	
6. Child Psychiatric Unit (on Cherry Orchard lands)	£5,000	
7. Units for young chronic sick — St. Columcille's and St. Patrick's, Navan Road	£5,000	

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 8. Welfare Home, Cluain Mhuire,<br>Blackrock   | £5,000  |
| 9. Replacement of community health<br>facilities at Edenmore, Limekiln<br>Lane, Clonkeen Road, Bray  | £20,000 |
| 10. Health Centres at Castledermot,<br>Inchicore, Skerries, Tallaght (No. 2),<br>Clane, Blanchardstown (No. 2)<br>Decnsrath, Terenure (extension),<br>Larkhill (extension) | £50,000 |
| 11. Replacement of accommodation for the aged at<br>St. BrigkJ's Home, Crooksling  | £5,000  |
| 12. Welfare Homes, Kimmageand<br>Raheny  | £10,000 |
| 13. Provision of 20 psychiatric beds for<br>Tallaght area  | £5,000  |

C. I have made a request to the Department of Health for a continuation of the system of special allocations for minor capital works which has operated in 1977 and 1978. The allocation for 1978 was £360,000 which will be fully expended within the year. I have submitted an extensive list of works which would not cost more than £35,000/£40,000 each and would not give rise to additional non-capital expenditure and will advise the Board of the outcome of my request in due course."

Mr. Elliott explained that part 1 referred to works which could start in 1979, part 2 to works expected to be taken to the planning stage in 1979 and part 3 to minor capital works for which a special request for an allocation has been made. Since report No. 29/1978 was circulated a further letter had been received from the Department of Health relating to the programme the effect of which was summarised in the following supplementary memo now circulated to the meeting.

"Since the circulation of Report No. 29/1978 it has been indicated by one section in the Department of Health that a priority in the 1979 capital programme proposals should be assigned to the provision of Health Centres at Ballybrack and Rowlagh. It is not clear why this should be necessary as these were the areas selected for the two additional Health Centres for which a sum was included for planning in the 1978 allocation: Architects were appointed with the Department's approval and the projects would be ordinarily classified as ongoing. However, as they should be ready to proceed next

year before any of the projects listed on page 2 of report 29/1978 it would be appropriate in the circumstances to list them as item 1 and 2 in the list of new starts in 1979. The proposed Welfare Home at Harold's Cross for which the Department assigned a sum for planning this year could, similarly, be listed as item 3 for the coming year. The estimated costs and the anticipated expenditures in 1979 are as follows:

	Estimated Cost	Estimated Cost 1979
Health Centre, Ballybrack	£280,000	£75,000
Health Centre, Rowlagh	£450,000	£75,000
Welfare Home, Harold's Cross .	£280,000	£40,000"

Cllr. Mrs. Barlow asked that a sum of £15,000 be included in the programme for the adaptation of premises in the three Psychiatric hospitals to provide a libran/ service. After discussion, Mr. Elliott said he would incorporate a request to the Department of Health in further discussion on a minor capital programme.

Dr. Walker referred to the proposals for developments in his Area No. 4 contained in the capital programme and said he had not been consulted in regard to future planning in his area. Mr. Donohue in reply said that the capital programme was a request to the Department for funds to provide facilities where it was self-evident they were needed and for the implementation of the policy to replace prefabricated buildings. No decision had been taken in any case except to proceed to plan for works for which capital funds were being allocated. Mr. Donohue said that in fact he had asked the Director of Area 4 for the capital programme requirements for his area earlier this year but they had not yet been produced. The Chairman said that the Board would like to see full consultation with all parties involved when dealing with the capital programme.

It was proposed by Mr. Corrigan and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow —

"That the proposals outlined in Report No. 29/1978 be adopted."

117/78

**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES - REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF 26th SEPTEMBER, 1978**

The following is the report of the Committee:—

**"DEVELOPMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES -  
PLANNED EVOLUTION"**

*Minutes of Meeting of Sub-Committee of Board held at St. Brendan's Hospital on Tuesday 26th September, 1978.*

*Present:*

Dr. J. Behan (Chairman), Mr. H. Corrigan, Aid. A. Fitzgerald, Deputy C. Murphy, Sr. Columba McNamara.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Professor I. Browne, Chief Psychiatrist,  
Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager, Mr. E. Butler, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. E. Dunphy, Senior Executive Officer.

Apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. P. Hickey.

Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, read the Progress Report which had been circulated, provided additional information where necessary and brought the members up to date with the present position in the implementation of the 5 year Development Programme.

The various developments listed were fully discussed and the following specific recommendations were adopted:—

1. That the project to extend the Psychiatric Unit at Vergemount Hospital should proceed irrespective of any investigation which might be considered necessary with regard to the future use of that Hospital.
2. That discussions be held with the authorities of St. John of God and St. Patrick's Hospitals with a view to making mutually acceptable arrangements for regular inspection by the Board's Visiting Committees of facilities provided by those Authorities under Agency arrangements.
3. That, in view of the urgent need for additional in-patient accommodation in the rapidly expanding St. Loman's catchment area, the relocation of the Child Psychiatric Service presently based in St. Loman's Hospital be under taken as a matter of urgency.

A general discussion took place in relation to the 5 Year Programme and the members noted the views put forward by the Chief Psychiatrist and the Programme Manager that the Programme would have to proceed as planned if services were to keep pace with the rapidly expanding population and if a

major crash programme were to be avoided in a few years time. The Programme Manager pointed out that the targets listed in the Programme could not be achieved in the context of the Board's Capital Programme which included projects from all three programmes. Their attainment would necessitate a regular yearly injection of Capital Funds over and above the normal capital allocation.

The following motion was adopted:—

'That the Minister for Health be requested to receive a deputation from the Board comprising the Chairman, members of the Ad Hoc Committee and relevant officers, to present him with the Ad Hoc Committee's report and Development Programme and to seek his assurance that the necessary funds would be made available to enable the programme to be implemented in full within the time scale set out therein, thus enabling present difficulties to be overcome.'

The meeting concluded at 5.30 approximately.

Signed: James D. Behan.

### "PROGRESS REPORT

The above report was adopted by the Board at a special meeting held on the 31st March, 1978. The Board's view that urgent action was required in the matter of the implementation of the Five Year Programme in order to keep abreast of the ever increasing demand for Services was stressed as was the undesirability of perpetuating the large traditional mental hospitals as focal points of a developing service.

Subsequently, discussions were held with officers of the Department of Health who had requested further information in support of the projects listed in the report. This information has been supplied per my letter of the 13th September, 1978. (copy attached).

The 1978 developments as listed in the report have been pursued separately on an individual basis and the up to date position in relation to each is summarised in the following paragraphs.

\* 1. Purchase of Hostels.

- a) A property known as Woodville House, Kilmore Road, Artane has been purchased for £35,000. This property will provide 12/15 places.

- b). The Board is at present negotiating with the Board of St. Patrick's Hospital, the acquisition of a property at Fonthill near Palmerstown. This property will provide in excess of 20 places, and will serve to relieve the situation in St. Loman's Hospital.
- c) The Board's property at Ard na Greine, North Circular Road, hitherto used by resident male nursing staff is being adapted to provide a further 12 hostel places.
- d) Other suitable properties are actively being sought.

\*2. **Conversion of Maid's Home** — St. Loman's Hospital. This project which will provide 23 additional beds should **be ready** to go to tender by the end of the present month. The unit is expected to be completed by March, 1979.

\*3. **Maintenance and Up-grading — Re-construction Works.** Work in progress at Wards O, P, and R, St. Brendan's Hospital. It is not possible at this stage to give a completion date.

Up-grading scheme in progress at Lower House, St. Brendan's Hospital.

Re-construction to female chronic block (174 beds) and female Nurses Home St. Ita's Hospital is expected to be completed within the coming month.

Re-construction on 174 male chronic block expected to commence this year.

- **4. Extension to Vergemount Clinic.**

This scheme is with the Department of Health for approval.

5. Additional beds at St. John of God Hospital etc. have been provided. The present average bed occupancy is approximately 30.

6. **Construction work at James Connolly Memorial Hospital to provide 50 bed acute unit.**

Schedule of accommodation has not as yet been finalised.

- 7. Prefabricated units at Gardenhili.  
Documentation and schedule of accommodation in process of being submitted to Department of Health for approval.
- 8. **New 20 bed** acute unit at Newcastle Hospital.  
This scheme is with Department of Health for approval.

- 9. **Day Hospital Places (Secondary Services) for St. Loman's Hospital.**  
Temporary accommodation being sought pending the making available of purpose built accommodation.
- 10. **New Day Hospital (50 places) St. James's Hospital.**  
This project is with the Department of Health for approval.
- 11. **Planning of new child unit — Cherry Orchard Hospital.**  
This scheme when completed will make 40 adult additional beds available at St. Loman's Hospital. The Department of Health has been requested to nominate representatives to act upon a Project Team which will be representative of the Eastern Health Board and Department of Education as well as of the Department of Health.
- 12. **Dublin North West - Planning of Day Hospital (40 Places).**  
This scheme is at present being prepared by the Architect.
- 13. **Planning — 20 bed acute unit at Tallaght.**  
The question of priorities for the Tallaght area is at present under consideration and it may well be that priorities for this area will be subject to change with a view to providing day places before in-patient services.
- 14. **Hostel 20 places — Dublin North East Catchment Area.**  
When vacant possession is obtained of selected estate houses at St. Ita's Hospital, these will be adapted for use for hostel purposes. The houses are at present being occupied by members of the nursing staff. Consideration will be given to the purchase of any suitable accommodation which will become available in the area.
- 15. **Accommodation — St. Dymphna's — Alcoholism Treatment Unit.**  
A scheme for the extension of this unit at present being prepared by the Architect.

1979

- 3. **Dublin South East — provide 50 Day Care Work Shop Places.**  
A proposal to provide the above places in a centre which will replace Hanbury Lane work shop, has been submitted to the Department of Health.

5. **Dublin North West — Construction of Day Hospital**  
Day Hospital Facilities in this area will be provided by extending the premises at 140 St. Laurences Road, Clontarf. A scheme for this extension is with the Department of Health.

**T. Keyes Programme  
Manager**

**20th September, 1978.**

- \* Finance available in Current Year's Capital Programme. -  
Finance being provided in 1979 Capital Programme."**

Referring to their report Professor Browne said that while he appreciated that the available capital will be shared between the programmes, the committee felt that a special allocation would be needed to implement the planned evolution of the mental health services. Cllr. Groome in supporting Prof. Browne, said that it would be necessary to send a delegation to the Minister as recommended in the report to put the case to him. The Board gave its agreement to the Chairman's proposal that the Minister for Health be requested to receive a deputation as nominated in the report from the Chairman of the sub-Committee at their meeting on 26/9/1978.

**118/78 ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL -  
LETTER FROM DEPT. OF HEALTH OF 11/9/1978**

The following letter dated 11th September was received from the Department of Health.

**\*11th September, 1978.**

**Chief Executive Officer  
Eastern Health Board 1  
James's Street Dublin 8.**

**A Chara,**

We enclose for your information and observations copies of documents received from the Secretary, Environmental Council, Department of the Environment.

Your board is invited to submit to this Department information relating to health aspects of the Environment in your area along the lines indicated in items 1 6 in the Council's letter dated 21 August, 1978.

This information will be assimilated into our report to the Environmental Council.

Mise le meas

Public Health Division."

Department of the Environment  
Custom House Dublin 1.

21st August, 1978.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

A Chara,

The Minister for the Environment has been given a general responsibility by the Government to promote the protection and improvement of the physical environment, together with specific functions including the preparation of a national environment policy and the production of reports on the state of the environment. He has recently established an Environment Council to advise him in relation to these matters and a list of the members of the Council is attached for your information.

The Council held its inaugural meeting on 30th June, 1978. In his address to the members, the Minister asked that the Council should give priority in its deliberations to the questions of an environment policy and the means and procedures for reporting on the state of the environment.

The Council is aware that most Government Departments and many semi-State bodies have interests bearing on these matters and many have programmes and projects which have a direct effect on the physical environment. It seems appropriate, therefore, that the Council should invite the Departments and agencies concerned to provide information on their existing and proposed activities in the environmental area and to indicate any views they may have on objectives of an environmental policy in the area(s) with which they are concerned, or generally.

To facilitate co-ordination of the information received, it would be appreciated if the information were submitted on the following lines —

- (1) Indicate what are the major activities of your Department/Agency which are related to the protection and improvement of the physical environment.
- (2) State what other activities of your Department/Agency affect the physical environment and in what way. Indicate what action is taken to prevent or minimise any harmful effects.
- (3) State if there are any developments foreseen by your Department/Agency which are likely to affect the physical environment.
- (4) State if there are any new programmes or projects (or expansion of existing programmes) for the protection or improvement of the physical environment which your Department/Agency would favour or recommend.
- (5) Indicate if your Department/Agency has any views as to what should be the objectives of environmental policy in the area(s) with which it is concerned, or generally.
- (6) What, if any, activities of your Department/Agency are likely to provide an input to reports on the state of the environment.

An early reply would be appreciated. Fairly brief replies on each point should suffice. The Council may, however, wish to discuss particular aspects further with your representatives at a later stage. Extra copies of this letter are enclosed for your convenience as it is expected that you will wish to consult bodies operating under the aegis of your Department.

Mise, le meas.

D.M. Burns  
Runai don Chomhairle.

#### ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

"Chairman:  
Mr. E. T. Ceannt, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin  
(former Director General, Bord Failte Eireann)

**Members:**

**Mr. T. Bonner, Dublin**  
(Chairman, Water Pollution Advisory Council)

**Dr. H. D. Crawley, Dublin**  
(Director, Health Education Bureau)

**Mrs. M. Clifford, Dublin**  
(President, Dublin Council of Trade Unions)

**Mr. T. F. Collins, Tralee, Co. Kerry**  
(County Manager, Kerry County Council)

**Mr. B. Drury, Dublin**  
(Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment)

**Mr. J. A. Daly, Ennis, Co. Clare**  
(Morgan McInerney & Sons Ltd.)

**Dr. W. K. Downey, Dublin**  
(National Board for Science and Technology)

**Dr. J. N. R. Grainger, Dublin**  
(Department of Zoology, TCD)

**Mr. M. Hillery, Castletroy, Limerick**  
(National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick)

**Mrs. J. Lahiff, Shannon, Co. Clare**  
(Housewife)

**Mr. P. A. Mullaly, Glanmire, Co. Cork**  
(Chairman, An Taisce)

**Mr. T. McManus, Dublin**  
(Cement Roadstone)

**Dr. M. Neenan, Carlow**  
(An Foras Taluntais)

**Mr. S. O. Neachtain, Spiddal, Co. Galway**  
(Teacher)

**Prof. M. J. O'Kelly, Cork**  
(Department of Archaeology, UCC)

**Mr. P. Shaffrey, Co. Dublin**  
(Architect and Town Planner)

**Mrs. D. Tubridy, Dublin**  
(Public Relations Officer)"

Dr. O'Donnell explained that while environmental matters were the responsibility of the relevant local authority they bear close relationship to health matters - he and the Board's Health Inspectors are closely involved and as such the Department's letter would have some implication for the Health Board. Matters relating to dumping of refuse or toxic waste, sea pollution, health education etc. could have a bearing on the health services. E.E.C. directives in the future will require the authorities in this country to comply with new Regulations issued to member countries. After a discussion the following motion, proposed by Dr. Walker and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow, was unanimously adopted:-

"That (1) the answers to the questions put by the Department of the Environment in their letter of 21st August, 1978 should be answered on behalf of the Eastern Health Board and (2) that the Eastern Health Board recommend to the Department of the Environment that Dr. B. O'Donnell be appointed to the Environmental Council."

**119/78 CONSULTANT MANPOWER PROJECTION UP TO  
1981 - REPORT OF COMHAIRLE NAn-OSPIDEIL**

It was unanimously agreed to defer this item to the November meeting.

**120/78 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary read a letter from the Department of Health dated 25th August, 1978, advising that the Minister had approved of an increase to £830 a year in aggregate of the allowances payable to Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of health boards with effect from 1st January, 1978.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

**CORRECT E.O Caoimh  
Chief Executive Office**

**Signed Chairman**