

Eastern Health Board

Minutes of Special Meeting of Eastern Health Board held on Thursday,
1st February, 1979 at 3.30 p.m. in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's
Hospital, Grangegorman, Dublin 7.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow.

Dr. J.D. Behan

Cllr. H.P. Dookrell

Ald. Alexis FitzGerald

Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn

Cllr. A. Groome

Mr. K. Harrington

Ms. Noreen Kearney

Deputy C. Murphy

Dr. B. Powell

Cllr. J. Sweeney

Dr. John Walker

APOLOGIES

Mr. H. Corrigan

Cllr. P. Sashay

Cllr. E. Stagg

Prof. J.S. Doyle

Sr. Columba McNamara

IN THE CHAIR

Alderman Alexis Fitzgerald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. J. J. Nolan

Mr. T. Keyes

Mr. F. McCullough

Prof. Ivor Browne

Mr. F. Elliott

Mr. E. Dunphy

Mr. C. Mansfield

Mr. M. Cummins

Miss E. Larkin

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On a proposal of Mr. Harrington seconded by Dr. Behan the Minutes of the Special meeting held on the 22nd January, 1979, having been circulated were confirmed with the addition to the record of attendance of Cllr. Kinsella, whose name had been inadvertently omitted.

Report No. 3/1979 which had been adopted in principle at (he Special meeting on the 22nd January was put to the meeting and on a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Dr. Powell the following motion was passed unanimously;-

"That the Board adopt as policy report No. 3/1979 and the recommendations contained therein and that the Board approve of the delegation selected at the meeting of 22nd January, 1979 to meet the Minister for Health on 19th February, 1979."

Mr. Nolan said mat the report was now adopted in substance as well as principle and was, therefore, the policy of the Board and would form the basis of the discussion at the proposed meeting with the Minister. Dr. Behan welcomed the Chief Psychiatrist's Intention to concentrate on his duties as R.M.S. of St. Brendan's and to organise and supervise at close quarters (he services provided. He asked that Mr. Keyes outline the additional staff that would be necessary. Mr. Keyes listed the following as the initial requirements:

1 Secretary

- 1 Assistant R.M.S.
- 2 Registrars
- 2 Senior Clinical Psychiatrists (upgraded)
- 1 Consultant Psychiatrist/Geriatrician (Clinical Director)
- 1 Consultant for Training and Rehabilitation

He said the last two appointments had already gone to the Comhairle for approval and the Board would be asked to approve of the staff listed.

A discussion followed on the future of St. Brendan's Hospital and the staffing thereof. It was made clear that aspects of the hospital would be phased out rather than the hospital being closed. A special grant was being sought for maintenance and upkeep and the general standards of care were being improved. Unit A would be closed and negotiations would be started with St. Laurence's Hospital regarding future accommodation needs. There would be no redundancy of nurses, as in phasing down the hospital, other services such as the community services would be expanded. Enhanced therapy programs—were envisaged for Units O, P, Q and R but staffing requirements were not known as yet. The same would be true of the Assessment Centre. Mr. Keyes said that the complement of nurses at the hospital was quite reasonable but there is a scarcity of male staff. Progress was being made towards integration of staff and this might help the situation. There would be consultation with the staff at all stages in the future development of the hospital.

The following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan, seconded by Cllr. Groome and unanimously adopted;-

"That the Board approve of the provision of the staff requested by the Programme Manager to enable Professor Browne to undertake an active role as R.M.S.

of St. Brendan's without detriment to his role as Chief Psychiatrist."

Mr. Nolan said that the financial provision necessary would be discussed at the Board meeting to be held later in the day. The Chairman confirmed with Professor Browne that he would take a more active role in and be more involved as R.M.S. St. Brendan's Professor Browne stated (hat to implement the decision he would move his office to St. Brendan's Hospital, but he would also continue in his role as Chief Psychiatrist.

Mr. Keyes introduced Report No. 3A/1979 of the 1st — February, 1979. In discussion a number of alternations were made in the paragraph A of the draft attached to the report which are incorporated in the report hereunder:-

"Report No. 3A

.. Clinical Professorial Unit and Administrative Head-quarters of Chief Psychiatrist at Garden Hill

I attach for consideration draft resolution in connection with the above proposed unit. I recommend the adoption of this resolution.

.. I have estimated the annual Revenue costs as follows:

Pay	£176,000
Non-Pay	<u>£20,000</u>
Total	<u>£196,000</u>

Existing staff and other costs are about £90,000 which means that the net additional annual Revenue costs will be £105,000 approximately.

Draft Resolution

A.

That the Board agree to the leasing to the St. James's Hospital Board, on the same terms as apply to the lease of the existing Hospital site of the plot of 4 acres approx. known as Garden Hill, Mount Brown but excluding present site of the Endocrine unit subject to:

- (i) The leasing by the St. James's Hospital Board to the Eastern Health Board on similar terms of a plot of about 3 acres comprising a site off Brookfield Road when acquired by the Hospital Board together with an adjoining section of the Hospital site.**

- (ii) The provision by the St. James's Hospital Board, on a suitable site in its possession, prior to the giving of possession of the Garden Hill site at Garden Hill, Mount Brown, of temporary accommodation of equivalent area and condition to the accommodation presently standing on the Garden Hill plot which requires to be vacated and removed to enable the Hospital Board to provide services for the new Hospital.**

B.

That the Board agree to the making of an application to the Minister of Health for the necessary funds for the construction of a Clinical Professorial Unit and Administrative Headquarters for the Chief Psychiatrist, in permanent purpose-built accommodation, on the site of about 3 acres referred to at A (i) above, at an estimated capital cost of £775,000 at current prices, on condition that, in accordance with the lease arrangement, the temporary accommodation to be made available by the Hospital Board referred to at A(ii) above, be occupied immediately on completion and the existing premises at Garden Hill involved in the transaction be thereupon vacated to permit the Hospital Board to enter into possession of the site."

On a proposal by Cllr. Groome seconded by Dr. Powell the following motion was unanimously agreed:-

"Formally propose adoption of Report No. 3(A) 1979 of Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager on Clinical Professorial Unit and Administrative Headquarters of Chief Psychiatrist at Garden Hill."

The Secretary then read two letters which the Chairman had received about the condition of staff houses at St. Brendan's. Mr. Keyes explained the position regarding estate houses both at St. Brendan's and St. Ita's. Some blocks of houses at St. Ita's had been converted for the accommodation of patients and he said he was anxious to do the same at St. Brendan's. In discussion the members supported the use of houses for patient accommodation but asked that the staffs interests and needs would be given sympathetic consideration. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Murphy seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Barlow and passed unanimously:-

"That the Chief Psychiatrist reply to the views put by the staff on the use of estate houses. He should put the Board's case for using the houses as accommodation for patients and report back to the Board."

The meeting ended at 5.10 p.m.

Correct:

J. J. Nolan
Chief Executive Officer.

Signed: _____
Chairman.