

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of monthly meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grange-gorman, Dublin on Thursday 14th June, 1979 at 6 p.m.

Present

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Dr. Patrick McCarthy
Dr. J. D. Behan	Prof. J. McCormick
Cllr. D. Browne	Sr. Columba
Cllr. M. Carroll	McNamara
Cllr. H.P. Dockrell	Mr. Michael Matthews
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Dr. Aidan Meade
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Deputy Ciaran Murphy
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Patrick Hickey	Dr. B. Powell
Dr. D. G. Kelly	Dr. B. Sheehan
Cllr. D. Kinsella	Cllr. E. Stagg
	Cllr. J. Sweeney
	Dr. J. Walker

Apologies

Cllr. J. Connolly, Mr. H. Corrigan Prof. J. S. Doyle and Mr. K. Harrington

In the Chair Alderman

Alexis FitzGerald

Officers in Attendance

Mr. J. J. Nolan	Prof. B. O'Donnell
Mr. F. Donohue	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. T. Keyes	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. J. Reynolds	Mr. C. Mansfield
Mr. F. Elliott	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. P. I. Lyons	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. J. Doyle	Miss E. Larkin
Mr. P. J. Swords	Miss F. Heaney

71/79

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Mary Freehill, who was appointed to the Board by the Dublin Corporation in place of Dr. J. O'Connell and said he was pleased to see her become a member of the Board.

72/79 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Dr. Powell and Deputy Murphy referred to the discussion on the motion on midwifery services proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Kinsella (item 69/79 of minutes of 3/5/79). They indicated that while they both contributed to the debate they did not wish to be recorded as having supported the motion. The minutes as amended, were then adopted on a proposal by Cllr. Kinsella seconded by Cllr. Sweeney.

73/79 MATTERS ARISING

Referring to the Dublin Medical Officer's report on accidental choking which was agreed by the members (item 67/79 of Minutes of 3/5/79) at the May monthly meeting. Dr. Walker pointed out that accidental choking could happen in any situation and suggested that the Heimlich Maneuver referred to, be brought to the notice of the public at large and not just the catering trade. Dr. O'Donnell agreed that he would pursue this course but said he would like to proceed first as arranged at the last meeting and this was agreed.

In reply to Cllr. Stagg Mr. Swords said that the staff for the Radiography and Reception areas for Naas Hospital had not yet been sanctioned by the Department, but the Board was pressing the matter.

74/79 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman congratulated all the members of the Board who had stood for election and were re-elected. He said that it was remarkable that all the out-going board members who stood had been elected to their respective authorities.

75/79 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. Broc's Home and Clonskeagh Hospital on 26/4/1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Dr. McCarthy the report was noted.

- (f) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital Baltinglass, on 10th May, 1979.

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

(c) No. 1. Visiting Committee meeting held at Newcastle Hospital on 23rd May, 1979.

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

Cllr. Sweeney drew attention to the small amount of money allocated for maintenance at the hospital and said there was much to be done in that area and the Committee would like to see these works carried out as soon as possible.

(d) No. 2. Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Patrick's Home on 1st May, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Browne seconded by Dr. Powell the report was noted.

In reply to Cllr. Browne Mr. Swords said it was hoped to have the work on the cubicles and bathrooms completed by the end of June. Dr. Powell drew attention to the references in the report to (1) the proposal to close down the maternity unit at the home and (2) the proposed acquisition of land by the County Council. In relation to the latter he hoped that the board would insist on the building of a proper boundary wall by the County Council. Mr. Nolan said that this was part of the contract.

Dr. Walker expressed continuing reservations about the decision to close the maternity unit. The Home was a point of referral for unmarried mothers all over the country with an established guarantee of anonymity and confidentiality. While there might be good medical reasons for the change there were social and other considerations to be taken into account. To mitigate the effect of the closure he suggested that the various referral agencies be advised of the proposed changes and Mr. Nolan agreed that this would be done.

Cllr. Barlow said she deplored the decision to close the unit. Girls came to St. Patrick's for protection. The confidential nature of the service could be lost by sending the girls to a maternity hospital for the confinement. Dr. McCarthy said that it was statistically unlikely that confidentiality would be breached. The Board was looking to the medical care of the mother and child and this gave rise to need for change.

Cllr. Browne referred to the attendance at the meeting of Dr. Hanratty Obstetrician/Gynecologist, St. James's Hospital, who he said, assured them of the adequacy of the service including the provision of a private room, should a girl be concerned about any breach of confidentiality. He pointed out that the Sisters in the Home were also satisfied with the proposed change. Cllr. Barlow asked that the referring agencies be assured that confidentiality would be preserved.

**(e) No. 3. Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Vincent's,
Athy on 24th April, 1979.**

On a proposal by Cllr. Stagg, seconded by Sr. Columba, the report was noted.

In reply to Cllr. Stagg's enquiry about the staff requirements listed in the report Mr. Swords said that a ward sister for each of the units had been provided but the rest of the list was still with the Department of Health. In reply to Cllr. Stagg's further inquiry about chiropody and physiotherapy equipment Mr. Barry said that while the Board had not yet succeeded in getting the services of any chiropodists for extra seasonal work, the quotations for the physiotherapy equipment had been received and an order was about to be placed.

**(f) No. 3. Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry
Orchard Hospital on 24th May, 1979.**

On a proposal by Mr. Matthews seconded by Cllr. Hickey the report was noted. Mr. Matthews referred to the concern expressed by the Committee at intrusions into the hospital area. Mr. Swords said that steps were being taken to strengthen security at the hospital. In reply Mr. Matthew's enquiry about electricity supplies the Technical Services Officer said that this matter was still under review with the E.S.B.

**(g) No. 4. Visiting Committee meeting held at Daneswood,
Glasnevin on 25th April, 1979.**

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

Cllr. Glenn stressed the need for the provision of an acute psychiatric unit at the James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

**76/79 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 held on
7/5/1979.**

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn the minutes were noted.

Dr. Walker enquired as to what the report on Peamount Hospital, circulated to the Local Committee, had contained and said that he considered any such report should first be

presented to the Board. Professor McCormick said that while it was agreed that a local committee should not preempt the Board it was often useful for local matters to be debated locally first.

The Chairman agreed that the report be circulated to members. Meantime he said that the whole question of the relevance and functions of the Board and its committees should be examined and he would like to see a seminar arranged for the members at which they could examine the services, activities and role of the Board. Dr. Behan pointed out that the Board had already agreed on such a proposal made by him earlier. After discussion it was decided that the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer, together with Dr. Behan, Prof. McCormick and Cllr. Hickey would arrange for a seminar to be conducted in September or October of this year.

(b) Dublin City Local (Health) Committee held on 9th May, 1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Glenn, seconded by Deputy Murphy, the minutes were noted.

77/79 QUESTION

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Sweeney it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should answer the question tabled by Dr. Powell.

QUESTION

"Would the Chief Executive Officer indicate how it is proposed to implement the arrangements, due to come into force on 1st July, 1979, whereby there will be a reduction by 10 hours per week in the duty hours of non-consultant hospital doctors employed in the Board's hospitals, it being recognised that these arrangements have been agreed by the I.M.A., M.U., and the Department of Health".

REPLY

By agreement between the I.M.A., the Medical Union and the Department of Health, the introduction of a 40 hour week for Non-Consultant hospital Doctor will be phased in over an 18-month period, as follows: —

From 1/7/1979 — a reduction of 10 hours per week.

1/1/1980 — a reduction of 5 hours per week.

1/7/1980 - a reduction of 10 hours per week.

1/1/1981 — a reduction of 5 hours per week.

In the General Hospitals Programme, the rosters for Non-Consultant Hospital Staff are worked over a two or four week cycle. It is proposed therefore to introduce, as from 1st July, 1979 a 120 hour fortnight or 240 hour four-week cycle as appropriate. Present rosters arrangements are being examined with a view to giving effect to the reduced hours, either by revision of rosters or, where necessary, recruitment of extra staff. Recruitment of extra staff would be the subject of a report to the Board.

78/79

**GRANT OF LEASE TO
DUN MHUIRE TRUST**

The following Report No. 25/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"The Board will be aware from the Reports of the Visiting Committee that the former North Dublin Union Buildings at North Brunswick Street are being used by the Legion of Mary to provide Hostel accommodation for homeless men, women and children. In addition, part of the premises is being used as residential accommodation for the Legion voluntary staff and as general offices for the organisation. The Legion has been in occupation of the premises since March, 1927 when the use of the buildings was given to them by the Commissioners administering the affairs of the Dublin Board of Assistance. The buildings at that time had lain vacant for a number of years following their use as Army Barracks.

Following lengthy negotiation and to put the occupancy of the premises by the Legion of Mary on a formal basis I recommend that the Board grant the Legion a 99 year Lease (from the 1st January, 1978) on the condition that the same services or other ancillary services approved by the Board continue to be provided by the Legion on the site. There will be provision in the Lease that at the premises revert to the Board should the services now provided or other approved ancillary services cease to be provided. The Board will continue to maintain the premises as has been the practice heretofore. The yearly rent would be £1 if demanded.

The Lease will be between the Eastern Health Board and the Dun Mhuire Trust which was incorporated on 1st April, 1958 with the object of undertaking and executing any trust and dealings with property, assets and liabilities of the Legion of Mary.

The Legion continues to provide a very valuable service to the Board and, accordingly, it is in the Board's interest that the Legion's occupation of the premises be put on a formal basis.

The consent of the Board to the terms of the proposed Lease which will be subject to the approval of the Minister for Health is requested.

In theory, we could wish to clear the Legion out because of the value of the site — particularly in the content of acquisition of St. Laurence's for mental health or geriatric services purposes".

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Kinsella it was unanimously agreed to adopt the report.

Cllr. Hickey expressed his pleasure at this move by the Board. Mr. Nolan said that it endorsed the Board's view of the value to the Board of the Legion and the good work done by them.

79/79 GENERAL PRACTITIONER SCHEME-APPLICATION TO EMPLOY AN ASSISTANT

The following Report No. 26/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"Doctor M. B. Millerick, Killiney House, Killiney, Co. Dublin, is participating in the Board's general practitioner service. His centres of practice are at Killiney, Bally brack and Shankill. In his letter of the 21st February, 1979, he has expressed his wish to take on an Assistant with a view to partnership. He has a considerable number of eligible persons on his panel and the average number of eligible persons on the panels of doctors in the area is fairly high

In accordance with paragraph 21/22 of the circular letter 8/75 dated 9th April, 1975 issued by the Department of Health, the Irish Medical Association and the medical Union were asked for their observations en Doctor Millerick's request. The Irish Medical Association and the Medical union have stated that they have no objections to Doctor Millerick'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 Millerick be selected in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraphs 21/22 of the departments 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 an addition to a group practice or to the recruitment of an Assistant with a view to partnership the position will be advertised in the normal way but the doctor or doctors involved or a nominee of the doctor or doctors involved in the proposed taking in of a partner, or additional member of assistant will be entitled to sit on the selection board. The selection board shall pay due regard to any objection of this representative to the giving of the post to a particular individual or individuals. If the Board considers it desirable it may not recommend any candidate for appointment".

On a proposal by Clir. Hickey seconded by Dr. Powell the report was adopted.

80/79 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST. PATRICK'S HOME

The- following Report No. 27/1979 from. the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"Dublin County Council has recently submitted an application for the acquisition of approximately 3.6 acres of land at St. Patrick's Home witch the Council requires for the purpose of providing playing facilities to meet the needs of an expanding local community.

The area which the Council has applied for is to the North East of the Home and is bounded by the Railway Line on the North and by a small Public Park on the Eastern boundary.

In 1965 5% acres of land was disposed of to the Council also bordering on the railway line to the west of the Home on

Ashtown Road. This site has been developed by the County Council for housing. Suitable conditions in relation to an adequate boundary wall and retention of right-of-way were incorporated in the conditions of sale in order to preserve the privacy of the Home.

I recommend that the Board approve of the disposal of a further 3.6 acres to the Dublin County Council to be subject on this occasion also to the provision of adequate boundary walls and restricted access to the site so as to preserve the privacy of the Home.

As the Board is at present in discussion with the Council for a number of sites for Health Centres the disposal may be effected by means of a set-off or alternatively at the market value of the site.

The disposal of the lands will be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health".

On a proposal by Dr. Powell seconded by Cllr. Hickey, the report was adopted.

81/79 TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 28/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"At meeting held on 1st March 1979 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £1.1 million during the quarter ending on 30th June 1979.

It is considered that overdraft accommodation of the same amount will be required during the September quarter 1979.

Accordingly, I request that the Board consent to borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 30th September 1979 up to a maximum for £1.1 million".

On a proposal by Dr. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the report was adopted.

82/79 MENTAL HANDICAP SERVICE

The following Report No. 29/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"It is proposed subject to the approval of the Board and to the obtaining of planning permission for change of use, to lease from the Augustinian Fathers, land and buildings at Ballyboden, Rathfarnham for development of an adult residential centre for the mentally handicapped.

The property consists of the Augustinian House of Studies (a large modern 3 storey building) on about 14 acres of land. About 1 % acres of the land will be retained by the Fathers for their own use. The proposed lease will be for a period of 35 years with rental review at five yearly intervals based on the consumer price index. It has been indicated to the Fathers that the Board may wish to build a day centre for mentally handicapped and a welfare home on the land.

The building will accommodate 70-80 persons and will help to reduce the waiting list for mentally handicapped residential care which now stands at over 500. Part of the property will be available on the 1st December 1979 and the remainder will be available on a phased basis thereafter.

The estimated annual revenue cost for full occupation is £240,000.

I recommend that the Board approve of the above proposal.

Board approval to the required staffing is being requested in Report No. 32/1979".

On a proposal by Cllr. Kinsella, seconded by Cllr. Sweeney, the report was adopted.

83/79 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST. CLARE'S

The following Report No. 30/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"In 1947 the former Dublin Board of Assistance purchased the lands at St. Clare's Home. Since 1909 the Glasnevin Lawn Tennis Club had been using a small portion of the lands bordering on Ballymun Road.

Shortly after the purchase of the property in 1947 a formal Agreement was made with the Club on the basis of a yearly tenancy at a rent of £30. At that time additional land was made available to the Club who have continued in occupation of approximately 1.75 acres.

During recent years strong representations have been made by the Club that additional playing facilities are needed in the area in view of the rapid expansion in the housing development and at the moment the membership of the Club is 500 mainly in the younger age groups.

Following discussions with the Club, the Board's Law Agent has advised that a 35 year Lease be granted to the Club on a total of 2.75 acres. The Law Agent has recommended that the Lease should reserve a current market

yearly rent of £2,000 subject to five yearly reviews and that while the premises are used as a Tennis Club an annual rent of £500 will apply which will also be subject to five yearly reviews. Appropriate clauses will be embodied in the Lease to safeguard the Board's interest and will provide for the full rent to become payable on a change of usage. The construction of buildings or the disposal of interest to another party will be made subject to the prior approval of the Board.

In view of the public amenity being provided by the Club and in particular having regard to the increasing population of young persons in the area the Board's consent is sought to the granting of the Lease on the conditions set out above.

The granting of the Lease will be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health".

On a proposal by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. Hickey the report was adopted.

Cllr. Glenn drew attention to the state of the land along the road at St. Clare's where itinerants are camped. Mr. Nolan said that there were two aspects to the board's problems in the area. One was expansion by a tenant which was the subject of correspondence with the Law Agent and the second was intrusion by the itinerants where the Board was experiencing difficulty with the City Council. Cllr. Glenn and the Chairman, said that they would endeavor to have the Corporation take the necessary action to remedy the situation.

84/79 NEW UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION FINANCIAL AND STAFFING PROVISIONS

The following Report No. 32/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

"Report No. 9/1979, at the Special Meeting of the Board on Thursday, 15th February, 1979, set out the Board's financial allocation for non-capital health expenditure for 1979, as notified in the Department of Health letter dated 31st January, 1979, based on approved levels of net expenditure for on-going services in 1979. It was stated in the report that, as indicated by the Department of Health, additional funds would be made available at a later date to cover the pay and non-pay costs of new units of accommodation which would be completed in 1979. The following schedule gives details of the additional financial allocations, pay and non-pay and staffing levels notified by the Department of Health as approved for these new units: —

SPECIAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME:

UNIT	APPROVED STAFFING LEVELS	APPROVED LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE			
		PAY		NON-PAY	
		1979	full-year	1979	full-year
		£	£	£	£
Psychiatric Day Centre/Hostel					
Cluain Mhuire (Section 65)	2 Medical Secrtnries) 1 Trainee Social Worker,)				
Burton Hall (Section 65)	1 Asst. Section Officer) 1 Telephonist/Receptionist) 1 Medical Secretary) 2 Trainee Psychiatric) Nurses) 1 Senior Psychologist) 1 Social Worker) 1 Home Economics Teacher) 2 Activists) 1 Cook) 1 Assistant Cook) 1 Kitchen Attendant) 1 General Domestic)	65,000	115,000	25,000	60,000

	1 Horticultural Instructor				
	1 Gardener				
	1 Driver/Handyman				
York Road (Section 65)	1 Hostel Supervisor				
	1 Asst. Supervisor				
General (Section 65)	2 Consultant Psychiatrists - subject to the approval of Comhairlc na nOspideal				
Woodville House, Artane and Ard na Greine, Nth. Cir. Rd.	2 Hostel Supervisors				
	2 Cleaners				
	1 Craftsman	11,300	22,600	4,000	8,000
	1 Labourer				
Foothill House	3 Psychiatric Nurses				
	1 Occupational Therapist				
	1 Workshop Supervisor	10,800	40,000	9,000	20,000
	1 Hostel Supervisor				
	1 Aide				
	2 Domestic				
	1 Labourer				
Ballyboden Residential Centre for mentally handicapped adults (Section 65)	4 Reg. General Nurses				
	3 Reg. Mental Handicap Nurses				

UNIT	APPROVED STAFFING LEVELS	APPROVED LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE			
		1979	PAY		NON-PAY
			1	1	
		full	year	1979	full-
		£	£	£	£
8allyboden Residential Centre for mentally handicapped adults (Section 65)	11 Attendants				
	7 Therapists	2,000	120,000	13,000	120,000
	1 Clerk-Typist				
	1 Occupational Therapist				
	1 Porter/Driver				
	1 Boilerman				
	1 Cook				
	1 Assistant Cook				
	2 Domestic				
	2 Kitchen Domestic				
	1 Groundsman				
	1 Physiotherapist				
	1 Speech Therapist				
	1 P.T. Instructor				
	1 Hairdresser				
	1 Craftsman				
1 Labourer					
72 Bed Unit, St. Ita's Hospital	20 Nurses/Therapists	50,000	125,000	10,000	20,000
	12 Domestic/Attendants				
	20 Student Nurses				

23 Bed Unit, St. Loman's Hospital	20 Nurses 8 Domestic 1 Craftsman	50,000	100,000	20,000	40,000
Psychiatric Day Centre Kilcock	3 Nurses 1 Occupational Therapist 1 Domestic/Housekeeper 1 Labourer	1,0,600	25,000	4,400	8,000
Psychiatric Day Centre, St. James's Hospital (Section 65)	1 Consultant Psychiatrist (subject to approval of Comhairle na nOspideal) 1 Lecturer/Registrar 1 Charge Nurse 1 Senior Occupational Therapist 1 Occupational Therapist 2 Workshop Instructors 2 Aides 1 Cleaner	18,000	72,000	10,000	40,000
St. Michael's House, Ballymun					
20 beds in new 50 bed unit (Section 65)				10,000 Section 65 grant	

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UNIT	APPROVED STAFFING LEVELS 1979 full 1979 full	APPROVED LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE			
		PAY		NON-PAY	
		1	1	1	1
		year		year	
		£	£	£	£
Tallaght (Millbrook) Health Centra	1 Porter 1 Cleaner 1 Receptionist 1 Dental Surgeon 1 Dental Attendant	7,750		4,750	
Ballinteer Health Centre	1 Porter 1 Cleaner 1 Receptionist 1 Dental Surgeon 1 Dental Attendant	4,700		3,000	
Coolock Health Centre	1 Porter 1 Cleaner 1 Receptionist 1 Dental Surgeon 1 Dental Attendant	5,940		2,760	

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Blanchardstown Health Centre	1 Porter 1 Cleaner 1 Receptionist 1 Dental Surgeon 1 Dental Attendant	1,400	950
Dunlavin Health Centre	1 Dental Surgeon 1 Dental Attendant 1 Caretaker/Cleaner	3,570	1,430
Shillelagh Health Centre	1 Caretaker/Cleaner	275	175
Pre-School Day Nurseries at Tallaght, Coolock and Blancharditown (Section 65) General Hospital Care Programme	Notification awaited from the Department of Health.	Section 65 Grant £20,000	

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STAFFING STRUCTURE - INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION

It has been agreed with the Principal Local Government Auditor that the present staffing and structure of the Internal Audit Section is inadequate to cope with the level of continuing Audit Examination required in an organisation of the size of the Eastern Health Board.

It is proposed to re-structure the section as follows: —

1 Senior Executive Officer	Chief Internal Auditor
1 Section Officer	General and Special Hospitals, Audits and Capital Accounts.
1 Section Officer	General administration including salaries, wages and pensions.
1 Assistant Section Officer	Community Care Programme.
1 Assistant Section Officer	Computer Systems.
5 Clerical Officers	Routine checking and general back-up work.
1 Clerk/Typist	

The additional staff required is: —

1 Senior Executive Officer.

1 Section Officer.

4 Clerical Officers.

1 Clerk/Typist.

The approval of the Board is requested to the creation of the additional posts listed in this Report and to the appropriate adjustments in the Board's approved staffing complement".

On a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. Freehill, the report was adopted.

Cllr. Freehill enquired if all of the staff had yet been appointed, to which Mr. Keyes replied that some trainee psychiatric nurses were being taken on next week and advertisements seeking other staff were being prepared. Cllr. Freehill said she was concerned that disabled persons be appointed to appropriate positions in the Board and asked if there was any liaison between the National Placement Service and the Health Board. Mr. Keyes said that placement officers contact the Board usually through Personnel.

The Board has a programme for appointment of Disabled persons but there is no specific person who liaises with the Placement Service.

The following motion proposed by Cllr. Freehill and seconded by Alderman FitzGerald was agreed.

'That a Liaison person be appointed for the Personnel Section of the E.H.B. to keep contact with the N.R.B. with a view to ensuring that a fair proportion of staff vacancies are allocated to Disabled people".

Dr. Walker raised the need for extra medical staff for the Tallaght area of his community care Directorate where at present the services are being carried on by sessional-appointments. Mr. Donohue said that while he accepted Dr. Walker's position, the report before the Board related to the staffing of new units constructed and new units of service which do not require building construction are not covered in this allocation. The letter to the Department which brought the reply contained in the report included a request for this medical staff but this aspect had not yet been dealt with by the Department. In reply to Deputy Murphy's enquiry about dental appointments to staff the new centres Mr. Donohue said that while it was still difficult to obtain dental officers there was a better response lately to advertisements. Consideration was being given to a new staffing structure and other conditions — with a view to making posts in the public dental service more attractive.

The L.A.C. have been asked to fill these posts.

85/79ST. LOMAN'S HOSPITAL - DEDESIGNATION OF CHILDRENS AND PRE-ADOLESCENT UNITS

The following Report No. 33/1979 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted: —

'The above units have, since the inception of a Child Psychiatric Service at St. Loman's Hospital, operated as an integral part of the Psychiatric Service provided in and from that Hospital. Admission and discharge procedures and the authority to hold and treat the children involved are identical to those obtaining in respect of adult patients and derive from the Mental Treatment Act, 1945 as amended.

The application to children of procedures which were drawn up to cater for adults has never been regarded as ideal by the Board's Medical Staff. A favourable opportunity to effect a change in the situation did not present until recently: within the past year—

- (a) The Board has been successful in procuring the services of a Chief Nursing Officer and two Assistant Chief Nursing Officers.
- (b) Warrenstown House has been established as a residential centre for children suffering from emotional disturbance and requiring short-term care.
- (c) Approval has been received from Department of Health to the planning of a residential unit in the grounds of Cherry Orchard Hospital to replace the Children's and Adolescent Units. The latter units will on completion of the Cherry Orchard project be diverted for adult use and provide much needed accommodation for the St. Loman's catchment area where there is a rapidly expanding population.

As a result of developments over the past year the Child Psychiatric Service is now a readily identifiable branch of psychiatry offering an improved service to children and a career structure to personnel who wish to specialise in this branch of Psychiatry. In addition from the point of view of the child and the child's parents or guardians, it is desirable that admission and discharge procedures and hospital regimen should be on the same informal basis as that applicable in the three large Children's Hospitals in Dublin City. It is also desirable from a staffing point of view to have an arrangement which will promote: —

- (1) a satisfactory mix of Psychiatric Nurses and other caring staff;
- (2) mobility of staff as between the various centres in which Child Psychiatry Services are provided.

Dedesignation of the Units will promote all of these objectives and I propose on the basis of the recommendation of the Consultant medical staff involved and subject to approval of the Board and Minister for Health to take the necessary steps to effect such dedesignation".

On a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. K inset Ia the report was adopted.

**86/79 LETTER 8/5/1979 FROM DUBLIN
CORPORATION NOTIFYING APPOINTMENT OF
MEMBER TO BOARD**

The following letter from Dublin Corporation notifying appointment of a new member to the Board was noted.

"I wish to inform you that the Dublin City Council at a Monthly Meeting held on 7th May, 1979 appointed Councillor . Mary Freehill to succeed Alderman Dr. John O'Connell as a member of the Eastern Health-Board".

87/79 LETTER 7/5/1979 FROM PROF. D. HOWIE

The following letter of 7/5/1979 from Prof. D. Howie, St James's Hospital Board, seeking formal confirmation of permission to proceed with developments on the site was submitted: —

"It has been drawn to my attention that the Board of St James's under the terms of its lease for the site from the Eastern Health Board has not notified the Health Board officially of its intention to construct a new hospital and Clinical Sciences Complex, including a Dental Hospital, on the site.

Members of the Health Board will be familiar with the hospital's intentions through their representation on the Hospital Board and through my own presentation of the Development Control Plan at a recent Health Board meeting, i am confident that the members of the Health Board view our projected development with both sympathy and enthusiasm. I was greatly encouraged by the reception I received at the meeting to which I have referred.

I would be most grateful if the Health Board would give formal sanction for the new hospital development as required by the terms of the lease. I look forward to hearing from you".

On a proposal by Prof. McCormick, seconded by Cllr. Hickey it was unanimously agreed that the proposals contained in Prof. Howie's letter be approved.

**88/79 LETTER 30/4/1979 TO MINISTER FOR
HEALTH RE REVISION OF COMPOSITION OF ST.
JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD**

The following letter dated 30/4/1979 from the Chairman, St. James's Hospital Board to the Minister for Health, proposing revision of composition of the Board was submitted and noted on a proposal by Prof. McCormick seconded by Cllr. Glenn: -

'The constituent bodies making up the St. James's Hospital Board established under the Statutory Order No. 187 of 1971 have had under consideration certain amendments to the composition of the Board. The chief objectives are to ensure some representation of the clinical staff of the hospital upon the Board and to ensure representation of the teaching authority.

The first of the objectives arises from the feeling that it is in any case desirable to have the clinical staff of the hospital represented but it is also recognised that it is characteristic of the Federated Voluntary Hospitals that staff can be elected to their Boards. It is felt that with the progress on the development, of the new St James's Hospital, translation of services from the Federated Hospitals is now more imminent and it is understood and believed that if the general character of the Board were more akin to *that in the Federated Hospitals this would* materially assist in the difficult process of transfer and amalgamation.

As far as University representation is concerned it is recognised that the Hospital will be a major teaching hospital and a substantial Clinical Sciences Complex (including a Dental Hospital) will be constructed on the site. The University of Dublin, acts as it were, as the agent of the Higher Education Authority and the Minister for Education in relation to the planning of this major development and the University will be responsible for its management once it is completed. The Hospital Board, however, will be in overall control of the site and it is therefore appropriate that the University should be formally represented.

it is therefore proposed with the agreement of the Eastern Health Board and the Central Council of the Federated Voluntary Hospitals that the Board membership should be increased from twenty to twenty-four members. The Eastern Health Board will nominate to you twelve members of whom two will be members of the clinical medical staff of the hospital. The Central Council of the Federated Voluntary Hospitals will nominate ten members and the board of the University of Dublin will nominate two members. It is not proposed that there should be any change in the procedure for nomination or appointment. I trust that this will be acceptable to you and that we can enter into a discussion with officials of your Department in regard to the precise amendment to the Statutory Order".

In reply to Dr. Behan and Dr. Powell, Mr. Nolan said that the correspondence with the St. James's Hospital Board on this matter left that Board in no doubt as to Health Board policy on the matter of appointments to St. James's Hospital Board.

**89/79 LETTER 30/4/1979 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE
BOARD'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS GERIATRIC PATIENTS IN
LONG-STAY PRIVATE HOMES**

While the members welcomed the increase Cllr. Browne expressed the generally held view that the subvention was still not sufficient and while the members might have con-

sidered at estimates time that the mark up allowance for inflation was adequate then, there should now be a further increase to account for subsequent inflation. Deputy Murphy agreed that the increase was not enough but said that the real fault lay in the base figure not being big enough. In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Swords said that the £25 figure was fixed two to two and a half years ago and it was not increased since.

He said that this £25 was only a subvention towards the cost of maintenance in a nursing home and was not paid in all cases. There was also a capitation rate paid by the Board which was less than that amount but is increased each year. Dr. Meade said that the Department's attention should be drawn to the fact that these voluntary institutions catering for the elderly are relieving the Board of a great burden of care for old people and providing a service at a great saving to the Board.

Prof. McCormick supported this and pointed out that many nursing homes are forced to lower their standards because of the low rates payable and many can only stay open at the cost of economies in their running.

In the course of the discussion Cllr. Glenn suggested that there be a further special meeting of the Board on services for the elderly. The Chairman said that he would request that this meeting be held as early as possible after the annual meeting of the Board in July.

**90/79 LETTER FROM DUBLIN CORPORATION (30/4/1979)
ENCLOSING REPORT NO 92/1979 ON CHILDREN
BEGGING/SLEEPING ROUGH**

The following letter dated 30/4/1979 from the Dublin Corporation was submitted: —

"Dear Mr. Nolan,

The Dublin City Council at its adjourns quarterly Meeting held on the 9th April, 1979, adopted Report No. 92/1979 of the City Manager regarding Children Begging/ Sleeping Rough (copy attached).

I wish to confirm the financial commitments contained in the Report".

"To the Right Honourable the
Lord Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Dublin City
Council

Report No. 92/1979

Re: Children Begging/Sleeping Rough

At its meeting on 5th February, 1979, the City Council considered a report from the Joint Committee Regarding the Problem of Children Sleeping or Living Rough and passed the following resolution: —

' That the report be adopted and that immediate consultations should take place with the Eastern Health Board, that increased Capitation Grants be made available to voluntary associations engaged in working with the unattached youth of our City and asked to employ unattached youth workers in the Centre City '.

Copies of the report have been sent to the Eastern Health Board, the Department of Justice and the Dublin Youth Service Council, and the attention of these bodies has been drawn to the appropriate recommendations contained in the report and to the terms of the Council's resolution.

Discussions have taken place between senior officers of the Corporation, the Eastern Health Board and the Garda Síochána, and there is a general agreement to co-operate in dealing with the problems referred to in the report.

I have also met representatives of the Eastern Health Board and discussed the particularly difficult problem- of itinerant children sleeping rough and begging and we are *ad idem* on the urgent necessity to provide a reception centre for these children.

I recommend that the City Council agree in principle to provide jointly with the Health Board, a premises suitable for use as a reception centre and to pay half the capital cost of such a premises. The Health Board would be responsible for the balance of the capital cost and for the staffing of the centre.

From the discussions with the representatives of the Health Board it appears that there may be defects in the legislation — i.e. the Childrens Act 1908 — which might inhibit effective steps being taken in some instances, to help these children. The Board representatives have undertaken to clarify the legal position in these cases.

However, it is felt that action to try and help these children cannot be deferred until a reception centre is provided. Consequently steps have already been taken by the Cor-

poration to get accurate information regarding these children and their family circumstances etc., with a view to taking the most suitable action to help them. The Corporation's Welfare Staff, the Eastern Health Board Staff and the Gardai Siochana and other social agencies are already liaising very closely on this work.

If this report is approved the question of providing the reception centre will be discussed further with the Health Board and I shall report again to the City Council.

_____ J. MOLLOY,
CITY MANAGER.*

Cllr. Glenn said that the reception centre referred to in the report was urgently needed and if the Board agreed to the provisions of the Report this centre could be established. At the Chairman's request Mr. Donohue reported the up to date position of his negotiations. He said he had arranged with St Ultan's Hospital that the institution would receive children at night who were referred by Gardai etc., but that they could only accept children under 10 years of age and -this arrangement did not meet the needs of older children or fractious children. He said he had written to the Garda Commissioner informing him of the arrangements. There was a proposal to establish a Day facility on the south side of the city which would also have associated residential accommodation to which could be brought children where it was found that families were breaking up. It was also proposed to establish a home for about six to eight of the more difficult children, staffed by people experienced in this type of work and a premises was already selected. It was also intended that Trudder House would be improved and upgraded.

He said that the Corporation and the Board were discussing the question of the reception of special families who need special facilities and he will report further to the Board progress on all these matters. Mr. Donohue advised that the Minister for Health had made £100,000 available for Special programmes on behalf of deprived children.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Donohue on the excellent progress to date. Cllr. Glenn also thanked Mr. Donohue for his report and said she was pleased to see the allocation had been made by the Minister.

91/79 MEMBERSHIP OF (a) NEW MEDICAL
COUNCIL AND (b) COMHAIRLE NA N-OSPIDEAL

The members were advised by the Secretary that Board members Prof. McCormick, Dr. Walker, Dr. Powell and Dr. Sheehan had been appointed to the Medical Council

and that Dr. B. McCaffrey, a Clinical Director in the Board's service, had been appointed to the Comhairle na n-Ospideal. In relation to the Comhairle, Prof. McCormick said that he was surprised at some of the decisions made by the Minister in the appointments. The Comhairle since it was created had earned respect as it was seen to be independent in its recommendations to the Minister and had indeed made some unpopular decisions. He was concerned about some of the appointments to the new Comhairle and would like to see its activities monitored and if the new body does not appear to have the independence shown by the former Comhairle that this should be viewed with great concern.

Dr. Behan said that appointments to an Comhairle should be by election by interested bodies, and nominations by representative and state bodies together with some ministerial appointments and he considered that the seminar to be held on the Board's functions should consider this matter.

Cllr. Carroll said he was disappointed that the Health Board was not represented on the Comhairle. Dr. McCarthy said that the Comhairle wielded enormous power in the area of the development of the hospital services and consultant appointments and agreed that the new Comhairle's performance would want to be watched carefully.

Mr. Kelly agreed that it would be necessary to monitor the Comhairle's activities but said that there had been a view that the last Comhairle was very city orientated and that the new Comhairle has more county or country representation. At Dr. Meade's suggestion the Chairman agreed that the full list of membership of both the Medical Council and the Comhairle be circulated at the next Board meeting.

92/79

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Glenn:

"That the Eastern Health Board impress on the Minister for Health the urgent need to go ahead with the modernisation of two adjoining pavilion units at James Connolly Memorial Hospital to provide accommodation for acute medical cases".

In support of his motion Cllr. Carroll presented the following four points:

1. There is an urgent need for more acute medical beds at the Hospital. In fact, the Consultant Physicians have recently made official representations to the Hospital Board in the matter.

2. As Chairman of the Hospital Board I have had the concern of the Medical Staff and of the Board conveyed to the Minister for Health. I feel that it would be helpful to have the support of the Health Board in view of its responsibilities for the health services for the area.
3. Briefly, what is being looked for in the short term is the go-ahead for the modernisation of two adjoining pavilion units at Blanchardstown Hospital. Until the job is carried out, as the Consultant Physicians point out there will be a very difficult and potentially dangerous situation.
4. The extraordinary thing is that there was an allocation of money from the Department of Health towards the work last year but the job has still not been cleared to enable the Hospital to go to tender. It would provide 62 modernised beds at a fraction of the cost of new beds and I would ask the Board to give its full support to my motion.

In support of the motion Cllr. Glenn emphasised the need for the development that was being requested. The Hospital Board understood that money had been allocated but there has been difficulty in making progress. In reply to Dr. Meade Mr. Elliott said that the Hospital Board was unable to find the reason for the delay in getting the Department's agreement Dr. Meade said that such a situation could not be accepted and Cllr. Carroll said that as Chairman of the Hospital Board he was sending a letter to the Minister the next day on the matter. At the suggestion of the Chairman it was also agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister from the Health Board in support of the Hospital Board's request.

93/79

OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Nolan advised the members that a brief had been prepared on the proposed new office accommodation and that he would lay it before the Board at its next meeting.
- (b) Dr. Powell, referring to the answer supplied to his question, explained that the question related to working hours of non consultant hospital doctors and the agreement reached in 1974 in this matter and he read to the members the prepared statement outlining the situation. Mr. Nolan asked Dr. Powell to submit the matter to him for inclusion on the agenda at a future Board meeting.
- (c) As this was the last meeting at which the members appointed by local authorities were attending in their current term of office the members expressed their appreciation of the assistance given to them by the administrative staff of the Board in all their dealings with them and in particular tribute was paid to the

former Chief Executive Officer Mr. O'Keefe and to Mr. Nolan. The Chairman also expressed his appreciation for the assistance given to him by the staff and the members in his year in office and expressed the hope that the L.A.C. would now take the Board's recommendation and appoint Mr. Nolan to the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer.

The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT: J.J.Nolan
Chief Executive Officer

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN.