

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom. St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on Thursday 7th February, 1980 at 6 p.m.

PRESENT

Ald. B. Ahern T.D	Cllr. F. Hynes
Dr. J. D. Behan	Ms. N. Kearney
Cllr. L. Delton T.D.,	Dr. D. G. Kelly
Cllr. D. Browne	Dr. P. McCarthy
Cllr. M. Carroll	Prof. J. McCormick
Cllr. J. Connolly P.C.,	Sr. Columba
Cllr. E. Doyle	Mr. M. Matthews
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. B. J. Durkan	Cllr. M. Freehill
Ald. A. FitzGerald	Dr. B. Sheehan
Cllr. Mrs. Glenn	Cllr. E. Stagg
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. T. Hand P.C.,	Cllr. G. Timmins T.D.,
Mr. K. Harrington	Dr. J. Walker
Cllr. P. Hickey P.C.,	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. H. Corrigan and Cllr. Mrs. M. Waugh

IN THE CHAIR

Alderman Alexis FitzGerald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. J. J. Nolan	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. F. J. Donohue	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. T. Keyes	Mr. C. Mansfield
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. P. J. Swords	Miss E. Larkin
Mr. F. J. McCullough	Miss F. Heaney
Prof. I. Browne	

14/80

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the Board of the recent deaths of the following, and members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect — the mother of Miss E. Fulham, Superintendent Public Health Nurse in the Kildare area; Mr. Myles Dockrell, former Psychiatric Nurse and brother of the Board's Fire Officer Mr. Liam Dockrell; Mr. Joe Byrne and Mr. Tom Canavan, former Section Officers of the Board.

15/80 On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. Hand it was agreed that the meeting would end not later than 9 p.m.

16/80 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On a proposal by Cllr. Freehill, seconded by Cllr. Hand, the Minutes of meeting held on 10th January, 1980 were noted and adopted.

MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Donohue undertook to keep Cllr. Freehill informed of the position from time to time regarding D.P.M.A. applications.

In reply to Cllr. Durkan, the Chairman said that he hoped to meet the Minister next week and would raise with him again the question of delays in Social Welfare payments in the Kildare area. In reply to Cllr. Durkan, Mr. Swords said that the question of appointments at Naas Hospital was still before Comhairle na nOspideal.

In reply to Cllr. Stagg's enquiry about the working party on St. Columcille's and Naas Hospitals, Mr. Nolan said that he had talks with officers of An Comhairle and had an encouraging reaction. It would be necessary to await the outcome of discussions on links with major hospitals in the area before a decision would be made on appointments to the Board's hospitals. In the meantime Mr. Lamb would arrange a meeting of the Working Party dealing with the two hospitals to consider if any further measures were necessary. In that regard it was agreed that Cllr. Eric Doyle should be a member of-the Working Party.

The Chairman informed members that the C.E.O. and himself would be meeting the Secretary of the Department the following Tuesday regarding the development of St. James's. The members agreed that Cllr. Groome should join the delegation. Dr. Sheehan asked that he be replaced on the delegation and the members agreed to the' nomination of Cllr. Stagg.

17/80 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 Verge-mount Hospital, on 11/1/80 — noted on proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Cllr. Sweeney praised the work done on the development of long-stay accommodation at the Hospital. Mr. Nolan said that it had been discovered that the old people admitted to the new unit were more confused and incapacitated than expected showing the heavy burden of such cases yet to be dealt with. He said that the Little Company of Mary had approached the Health Board for a site at the hospital to build accommodation for terminal cases and in endorsing their application for the Board's approval he hoped that the Order might agree to cater for some younger chronically sick.

Mr. D. Kelly referred to possible similar developments at the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook and enquired about the advisability of having two such units. Mr. Nolan replied that practical experience showed that there was still a significant need for such accommodation but that a unit greater than 15 to 20 beds tended to impose too heavy a burden on staff and resources. Cllr. Freehill said there was a number of young chronic sick in Cheshire Homes who did not need nursing, but who could not get accommodation elsewhere. Mr. Nolan said that it was hoped that accommodation would become available in due course for the more independent physically disabled. The Board was prepared to support the Assisi Trust housing project at the Dominican Convent, Navan Road, with this type of problem in mind, but Board priorities in this regard were related at this stage to care of the aged, young chronic sick and terminal cases.

(b) No. 3 Visiting Committee Meeting held at St. Brigid's Home on 17/1/80 noted on a proposal by Cllr. Durkan seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

Cllr. Durkan referred to the maintenance needs of the wooden exteriors of the building and indicated that he would submit a motion for the Estimates Meeting that funds be allocated to undertake speedily the necessary repairs at the Home. Cllr. Hynes enquired if the Fire Officer had examined the building. The Technical Services Officer said that the Dublin Corporation Fire Officer had examined the building some years ago and in addition the Board's Fire Officer visits the Home at least twice a year. He said that as the buildings are at ground level with wide verandahs there are good evacuation arrangements. In addition the floors are concrete and there is at present a scheme in hands for rewiring and installation of fire alarms.

Mr. Nolan referred briefly to the history of the building since its use as a sanatorium and said it was as full as ever and cannot be done without at present The Board has emergency arrangements with the Fire Brigade and the security personnel at night have full instructions as to how to deal with emergencies. On a proposal by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Hynes it was agreed that the Fire Officer be asked to attend a later meeting and that a report be made available to the members in advance.

On a proposal by Dr. McCarthy seconded by Cllr. Stagg it was agreed to suspend standing orders to enable a Visiting Committee meeting held that day at Cherry Orchard to be discussed.

Dr. McCarthy said that at the last Committee meeting at Cherry Orchard the members were advised that finance had been made available by the Department of Health for the provision of an extension to house the two bed isolators that had been purchased but at this visit they found that nothing had been done since the last meeting. Cllr. Groome said it was at least two years since the Isolators had been purchased and if the Department recognised the need to purchase them they should provide the unit for their use. Cllr. Stagg asked that the Board re-examine its stand on the provision of the unit and ask the Department to agree to provide the building. Prof. McCormick said that expert advice should be sought as to whether this unit was needed or not before it was provided. Mr. Nolan said that the Cherry Orchard Hospital was the national infectious diseases centre for the country and while smallpox had virtually disappeared the danger of Lassa fever etc is still present. The need to use the unit at Cherry Orchard might never arise but it was considered that in present circumstances, the facilities must be retained. The matter is still being considered by the Department and the Board could consider asking the Department to fulfill the Board's original plans or could agree to accept the Department of Health's alternative proposals. The following motion was proposed by Dr. McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Stagg:—

"That the original plans to house the two *bed isolators' be implemented."

The motion was passed. Professor McCormick dissenting. It was decided to inform the Department accordingly.

18/80

**PROCEEDINGS OF
LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the following local (health) committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:

- (a) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee meeting held on 7/1/80.

On a proposal by Cllr. Hand seconded by Cllr. Carroll the minutes were noted.

- (b) Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee meeting held on 8/1/80.

On a proposal by Cllr. Freehill seconded by Cllr. Carroll the minutes were noted.

In reply to Cllr. Freehill Mr. Keyes said he had referred the motion about drug abuse in the area to the Chief Psychiatrist for his report

In reply to Professor Doyle's enquiry about a report on the Rutland Centre, Mr. Keyes said he would ask the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a meeting of the Scientific Committee at which he would have a report available.

19/80 DISPOSAL OF LAND TO DUBLIN
COUNTY COUNCIL - (ST. PATRICK'S HOME, NAVAN
ROAD)

The following report No1 7/1980 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"In report No. 27/79 the Board was advised of an application by Dublin County Council for approximately 3.6 acres of land at St. Patrick's Home for the purposes of developing playing facilities to meet the needs of an expanding local community. The Board gave its consent to the disposal on the basis of a set off or alternatively at the market value of the site.

The Minister for Health by letter of 11th September, 1979, gave his consent to the disposal on the basis of a set off to avoid the need for either party borrowing capital funds. In the course of recent negotiations with the County Council in regard to the Board's need for sites for Health Centres, Day Nurseries, Welfare Homes and similar, it has been established that the Board will require approximately 20 acres in various locations throughout the county as follows:—

Ctondalkin		
(a) Deatsrath	(b) Booth Road	(c) Ronanstown
Tallaght		
(a) Castletimon	(b) Central Area	
South County Dublin		
(a) Stillorgan	(b) Cabinteely	(c) Shankill
(d) Limekiln	(e) Ballyboden	(f) Ballinteer
North County Dublin		
(a) Swords	(b) Baldoyle	(c) Malahide
(d) Portmamock	(e) Donabate/Portrane	

Also arising from these discussions the County Council has indicated their interest in a further 14 acres approximately at Navan Road being the remainder of the Board's property bordering the canal and railway line at Ashtown and adjacent to the 554 acres which they acquired from the Dublin Health Authority in 1965 for housing. This land is

required by the County Council for recreational facilities in the area. The land in question is surplus to the Board's requirements. There will be sufficient land still remaining to preserve the amenities of the Home including privacy.

I recommend that the Board approve of the disposal of the further 14 acres approximately to Dublin County Council for amenity purposes and subject on this occasion also to the provision of adequate boundary walls to restrict access to the remaining lands in the Board's possession and to preserve the privacy of the Home (boundary walls should be approximately 8 feet high). There will still remain 33 acres in the possession of the Board at St Patrick's. In view of the Board's requirements for sites in the County Council area, it is recommended that this disposal also be by way of a set off so as to avoid the necessity for the borrowing of capital monies by the Board.

The lands are held by the Board under a Fee Farm Grant dated 28th April, 1885, subject to an annual rent of £184.65 and became vested in the Board under the provisions of the State Lands (Workhouses) Act, 1962.

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of this property as proposed shall not be carried out or that it shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution.

If the Board resolve that the disposal shall not be carried out it shall not be carried out

On the other hand, if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal should be carried out the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above."

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Hickey it was unanimously agreed that the proposals outlined in Report No. 7/1980 be adopted.

In reply to Dr. Meade, Mr. Nolan described the arrangements that exist for the exchange of land between the Health Board and Dublin County Council and Dublin Corporation. Mr. Nolan told Cllr. Hynes that it was part of the agreement for the exchange of land that an 8 ft. wall be built to secure the boundary.

Regarding the delay in providing a similar wall at the boundary of lands at St. Clare's the Corporation members indicated that they would be bringing pressure on the Dublin Corporation to provide a wall at that boundary although it was agreed that the itinerant encampment along the road was holding up the provision of this wall.

Mr. Lamb said that the Corporation had now made a Prohibition Order on the site to enable them to remove the itinerants.

**20/80 OFFICE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER - APPOINTMENT PER L.A.C.
COMPETITION**

Mr. Nolan said he was informing the Board officially as a matter of information rather than for discussion that the post of Chief Executive Officer had been advertised by the Local Appointments Commission. The Chairman said he regretted that the L.A.C. and the Department had seen fit to proceed with the advertisement for the position in the circumstances existing. Prof. McCormick, Cllr. Hickey and Drs. Meade and Walker associated themselves with the Chairman's remarks and expressed their complete satisfaction with Mr. Nolan's performance of his duties as C.E.O. and their sincere appreciation of his dedicated service to the Board and to the public in the health and welfare administration.

**21/80 LETTER OF 23/1/80 FROM NURSING HOMES ASSOCIATION
RE NEED TO INCREASE ALLOWANCES FOR LONG-STAY CASES**

The following letter from the Nursing Homes Association (23/1/80) was considered:-

"We understand that active consideration is being given at present to the following:

- (a) Increases in the Long Term allowances for patients in Nursing Homes.
- (b) Reclassification of the various categories of Nursing Homes.

Regarding (a) — you will recall that a totally inadequate increase of 21.4p per day was allowed to long stay patients in Nursing Homes and hope that in the recommendations you make that ample allowance is made for correction of this anomaly in 1979 and an adequate adjustment also made to take into account the increases that have recently occurred and those expected to occur again in 1980.

We have written to the Minister outlining a case for making the minimum allowance to patients in Nursing Homes of £6.00 per day. From your own costings and from comparisons with other service industries, you will undoubtedly appreciate that even at this figure it is affording a much needed section of our community excellent full time nursing care for a minimum cost

On the question of reclassification, we believe that this is currently being examined. In your letter dated 17th May, 1979 in response to ours of the 2nd April, 1979 you indicated that category 'D' Homes provide nursing care only. However, in the summary of Health Services issued by the Dept of Health you will see that Class C covers 'good quality Homes providing Nursing Care only'. Our Homes more than fulfil this requirement and we see no reason why we should not be in this category.

We have made representations to the Minister for Health on these and other points and look forward to hearing from you favourably in the near future."

Cllr. Timmins recommended the application to the Board and referred to the amount of work undertaken in Bray by these homes which otherwise would become the responsibility of the Board. Prof. McCormick in supporting this said that the work being done was an essential part of the geriatric service. Cllr. Sweeney said that without these homes the Board would be unable to cope with the problem. Mr. Nolan said that the Board has applied for permission to increase to £50 per week (as a maximum in special cases) the Board's support to individuals in private nursing homes.

**22/80 LETTER OF 2/1/80 FROM CHAIRMAN SOUTH
EASTERN HEALTH BOARD RE PROPOSED
ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS**

The following letter from the Chairman of the South Eastern Health Board was considered:—

"Dear Chairman,

At the December monthly meeting of the South Eastern Health Board there was a discussion on a proposal to take steps to have an association formed between the members of the eight health boards in the country in order to further the interests of the Boards and of those whom the Board members represent. Some local authority members referred to the associations which exist for local authorities and which

enable members to discuss with their colleagues from other local authorities problems which they would have in common and also enable them to achieve consensus across the country in cases where proposals need to be made jointly to the Minister. The associations in these cases also have an annual opportunity to meet the Minister in person. It was felt that a development of this kind for the eight health boards would be advantageous and the following resolution was passed:—

That a proposal to form an association with the members of the other health boards be approved and put to the membership of those boards; the objective is to hold an annual meeting and a number of working meetings each year to consider matters of common interest and pursue jointly the objectives of the Boards; that this Board take the initiative in arranging an initial meeting with two members from each Board to explore the proposal further and to draft a constitution for the meetings".

Councillor J. Cummins (Waterford City) and the Chairman (Kilkenny) were selected to represent the South Eastern Health Board at the initial meeting.

I should be glad if you would consider having the matter put to the members of your Board and discussed and if a favourable reply is received from each of the Boards I will take the initiative in having arrangements made for the initial exploratory meeting with two members from each Board. The members will be very welcome to come to Kilkenny for this meeting but I am sure it would be more convenient for all travelling to have it held in Dublin and this can be arranged.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

M J. McGuinness, M.C.C. Chairman."

While it was agreed that there was a need for such an association it was felt that it would be ineffective if all members of all health boards were to meet. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would represent the Eastern Health Board, at the initial meeting, and that they would recommend that each health board's membership of the association would be limited to between 6 — 8 members.

23/80 LETTER OF 3/12/79 FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN HEALTH BOARD RE VISITING COMMITTEE TO ST. DYMUNA'S HOSPITAL, CARLOW

The following letter from the Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, South-Eastern Health Board re appointment of members to Visiting Committee, St. Dympna's Hospital, Carlow was considered:—

"A Visiting Committee of Board members visits St. Dympna's Hospital twice yearly and recently in the course of their visit reference was made to the non-attendance of Board's representatives from the Eastern Health Board in view of the fact that St. Dympna's caters for psychiatric patients from South Kildare.

Has this matter been discussed at your end and what are your views on it? For my part I think it would be a good idea that members from the Eastern Health Board should meet with our visiting committee members on the occasions they visit St Dympna's. If you agree I can arrange to discuss the matter further with you so that details can be ironed out."

On a proposal by Ald. FitzGerald seconded by Mr. Kelly Cllr. Durkan was appointed to the St. Dympna's Hospital Visiting Committee.

24/80 LETTER OF 16/1/80 FROM THE IRISH BREWERS ASSOCN. RE PROGRAMME TO HELP CURB MISUSE OF ALCOHOL

The following letter from the Irish Brewers Association was considered:—

"Dear Mr. Nolan,

You may already be aware that the Irish Brewers' Association launched a public education programme during the past few weeks to help curb the misuse of alcohol in Ireland. The programme reflects our industry's concern with this growing social and health problem and our total commitment to helping prevent the misuse of our own products.

I enclose for your information a broad outline of our programme. Dr. Morris Chafetz, President of the Health Education Foundation in Washington, is at present drawing up a comprehensive education programme. I hope that it will be possible to arrange for you to come and meet with Dr. Chafetz on his next visit to Ireland early this year.

In the meantime, we will keep you informed of further developments in our programme and we look forward to cooperating with you in tackling the problem of alcohol misuse.

Yours sincerely,

G. N. Cairns, Chairman."

Dr. Meade asked to be given a copy of the programme referred to in the letter and it was agreed to ask the Association for a copy for each member. Dr. Behan asked that the matter be discussed at a later meeting. He suggested that the Health Board nominate some persons to join in this education programme. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn asked that a similar response be sought from the Distillers. On a proposal by Cllr. Connolly the Chairman agreed that the matter be put on the agenda for the next meeting for full discussion.

25/80

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan and seconded by Ald. FitzGerald.

"That the Eastern Health Board have representation on the Boards of all voluntary hospitals to assist the Department in ensuring the co-ordination and delivery of an integrated hospital service across both public and private sectors."

Speaking to the motion Dr. Behan said he wanted the Board to have representation on the Boards of hospitals to oversee the provision of a properly integrated hospital service. He felt that the Board had very little say in the development of Hospital Services in its area. While many hospitals are at present in private ownership, the community pays for the bulk of the services provided and these hospitals should be more answerable to the community. At present there was a two tier service, private and public, with two standards of care and two different sets of attitudes. There was, he claimed, a more favourable financial allocation to the private sector which placed constraints on the public sector. His objective was to have one standard of care and democratic representation on the boards of voluntary hospitals.

He felt that the Boards should represent

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (1) Owners and Managers | (4) Ministerial nominees |
| (2) Elected members of staff | (5) Local representatives possibly Directors of Community Care and G.Ps. |
| (3) Nominees of Health Boards | |

Mr. Kelly said he believed that there was a place for both public and private hospital services and it was very important to have a mixture of the two. He said that the proposed link

between St Columcille's and St Vincent's was an example of that type of service which would be of general advantage to the public.

Dr. Behan agreed to a suggestion that the motion be altered to read — 'That the Eastern Health Board seek representation ...' and the motion was agreed as amended. It was considered in that context that the practical application of the terms of the resolution should be considered at the Board's Seminar.

(b) With Cllr. Connolly's permission, Cllr. Freehill moved the motion in his name as follows:—

'That a family planning clinic be set up in the Ballinteer Health Centre.'

The motion was seconded by Miss Kearney.

Cllr. Freehill said that a survey had been carried out in the area which showed that 94% were in favour of the Board providing a clinic and of the survey 86.3% were married women between the ages of 21 and 40 years. She said it was an exceptional area because the majority of the population was married couples of child-bearing age. Also the area was a considerable distance from the city centre. In reply, Mr. Donohue said that the Board was not authorised to provide family Planning services until the Family Planning Act was brought into operation and the necessary Regulations were made to indicate the type of service to be provided. Cllr. Freehill suggested that the Minister be asked when he intended to bring the Act into operation and it was agreed that this be done.

(c) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. Timmins:—

'That the Eastern Health Board make provision for a hospital service at Arklow in view of the distance the area is from a general hospital and the very large population and concentration of heavy industry in the area.'

Speaking to the motion Cllr. Sweeney said that Arklow was a large expanding town with a population, including the hinterland, of 17,000 approximately. There are about 4,000 employed in industry in the town and the nearest hospital is St Columcille's. The town has no accident facilities other than G.P.s' surgeries and it needed a hospital or casualty centre.

In support Cllr. Timmins said that a committee from the town was told some years ago that when the Health Centre was provided the Board would examine the question of an accident service further but this has not been done.

Mr. Lamb said that this matter had been before the Board earlier and advice had indicated that a first aid centre would not be workable, and an alternative to an expensive, fully staffed and fully equipped unit is a fast ambulance service. In reply to Cllr. Sweeney's dissatisfaction about the existing ambulance service Mr. J. Sadlier said his aim was to have an ambulance rostered to Arklow during the daytime hours but this was not always possible. However, he had now made five new employments for the Wicklow area with particular reference to Arklow's needs and he hoped that this would provide a better service.

26/80

OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The Chief Executive Officer advised the members that Canon MacNutt, Church of Ireland Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, had recently resigned after 36 years of service and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation would be sent to him.
- (b) Mr. Nolan advised members of the recent establishment of an association of Eastern Health Board Pensioners and that he had promised them the Board's practical support in their endeavours.
- (c) The Chairman suggested Friday 21st March, as the initial day for the Board's seminar and this was agreed. The seminar will be held at Cherry Orchard Hospital and will commence at 10 a.m. It is intended that it will be a full day and lunch will be provided. Mr. Nolan said that some working papers are being prepared by Mr. Lamb and would be issued to members in advance.

27/80

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated with the agenda.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT: J.J.Nolan
Chief Executive Officer

**CHAIRMAN**