

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

*Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Extern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grange-gorman, on Thursday 6th March 1980 at 6p.m.*

### *Present*

Ald. B. Ahern T.D.,	Cllr. P. Hickey P.C.,
Dr. J. D. Behan	Cllr. F. Hynes
Cllr. I. Belton T.D.,	Ms. Noreen Kearney
Cllr. D. Browne	Dr. D. G. Kelly
Cllr. M. Carroll	Dr. P. McCarthy
Cllr. J. Connolly P.C.,	Sr. Columba McNamara
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Mr. M. Matthews
Cllr. B. J. Durkan	Dr. A. Meade
Ald. Alexis FitzGerald	Dr. B. Sheehan
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. G. Timmins T.D.,
Cllr. T. Hand P.C.,	Dr. J. Walker
Mr. Kevin Harrington	Cllr. Mrs. M. Waugh

### *Apologies for Absence*

Mr. Hugh Corrigan and Cllr. E. Stagg

### *In the Chair*

Ald. Alexis FitzGerald

### *Officers in Attendance*

Mr. J. J. Nolan	Mr. F. McCullough
Mr. F. Donohue	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. T. Keyes	Mr. P. I. Lyons
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Mr. H. Dunne
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. C. Mansfield
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. P. J. Swords	Mr. M. Cummins
Prof. I. Browne	Miss E. Larkin
	Miss B. Kelly

28/80

### CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the members of the recent death of Mrs. Kathleen Sweeney, wife of Mr. Liam Sweeney, Senior Executive Officer, and the members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect to the deceased.

29/80

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Carroll seconded by Cllr. B. Durkan, the Minutes of meeting held on 7th February 1980 were noted and adopted.

(a) **MATTERS ARISING**

In reply to Cllr. Durkan the Chairman said that he had written to the Minister for Social Welfare about delays in payments in the Kildare area and he will raise it with the Minister again at his forthcoming meeting. In reply to enquiries from Cllr. Durkan and Cllr. Groome regarding the permanency of appointments at Naas Hospital, Mr. Nolan said that the meeting of the Working Party had been fixed for the 13th March and following this meeting a report would be prepared. On a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn the following motion was agreed:

"That the Chief Executive Officer arrange for the submission of a report to the Board indicating the numbers and categories of staff employed by the Board who are employed in a temporary capacity and outlining the duration for which each such employee has been in a temporary capacity."

The following motion proposed by Cllr. Durkan and seconded by Cllr. Groome was agreed:

'That this Board would use its good offices to arrange an early meeting between the members of Kildare Local Health Committee, a number of whom are also members of this Board, and the Minister for Health, together with representatives of Comhairle na n-Ospideal, to discuss the future development of Naas Hospital, with particular reference to making permanent the positions of the two consultants there.'

In reply to a proposal from Cllr. Sweeney that the Chairman of the Local (Health) Committees attend the Board's Seminar, Mr. Nolan said it would be as well if they did not attend the first meeting but that they might be asked to attend later and this was agreed. The Chairman reminded the members that the Seminar would meet on the 21st March 1980.

Dr. Behan asked that the Medical and Allied Research Committee meet to discuss the Research and Psychosomatic Unit and the Rutland Centre separately. Mr. Keyes said that this would be arranged and as he had the report of the Rutland Centre to hand he would arrange a meeting of the committee to discuss that report at an early date.

Dr. Behan said he thought it was appropriate that the Health Board should be represented on the Interview Board to select the new Chief Executive Officer and he proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and agreed:

**"That the Eastern Health Board arrange for a delegation to meet the Minister for Health and for the Public Service, to seek representation for the Eastern Health Board on the interview panel which will select the next Chief Executive Officer for this Board."**

Dr. Behan said that because a motion proposed by him at the January meeting asking the Minister to meet a deputation on the Tallaght Hospital had not been forwarded to the Minister the Board had lost an opportunity of pressing for an increase in its representation on the Tallaght Board as the Minister has since made the Establishment Order on the lines contained in the draft submitted earlier to the Board.

Mr. Nolan told Dr. Behan that the proposal to have Health Board representation on the Boards of all voluntary hospitals would be included in the discussions at the Boards Seminar on March 21st to get the views of the members before making any submission in the matter.

**30/80 DEPUTATION FROM WICKLOW LOCAL  
(HEALTH) COMMITTEE RE ST.  
COLUMCILLE'S HOSPITAL**

The Chairman welcomed the deputation which comprised of Cllr. Miley, Chairman of the Committee, and Dr. W. J. Roche and Cllr. Dr. J. McManus.

Cllr. Miley thanked the Chairman for receiving the deputation and said they were attending on behalf of the Wicklow people to demonstrate their concern about St. Columcille's Hospital, to ask for its continued upgrading and for the purchase of the necessary equipment and in particular to ask for the provision of a paediatric unit. Dr. McManus, making the case for the paediatric unit said that the Committee and all other interested parties were unanimous that this unit would be better sited at St. Columcille's than at St. Vincent's Hospital. There is now up to 1,000 births a year at the hospital and a 24 hour paediatric unit with two full-time paediatricians is a must where there is such a busy maternity unit. Since the Comhairie na nOspideal report was prepared the census figures for the South County Dublin population showed an increase of 53% and the Wicklow population 21%, while in the immediate area served by St. Vincent's Hospital the population has either declined or barely increased and the bulk of the population are elderly. It was considered that a paediatric unit should be where the younger population is and this means locating it at St. Columcille's Hospital. Dr. McManus said his Committee considered that the Comhairie na nOspideal decision was wrong and would like to have it changed. They agreed however with the recommendation that such a paediatric unit should be linked with a childrens hospital.

Dr. Roche also spoke and referred to the board's policy in relation to the hospital as a whole. He said it had developed over the years from a workhouse to a first class hospital but latterly the refusal of Comhairle to authorise the replacement of the permanent Surgeons was causing concern to the local population. A Committee had been formed with himself as Chairman, to seek this deputation to the Health Board. While they accepted that the hospital's paediatric section should be linked with a childrens hospital they considered it financially unnecessary to set up a childrens unit at another hospital while such a facility existed at St. Columcille's Hospital for development. He would like to have the assurance of the Board that the hospital would be properly developed and staffed without delay. His committee would not agree that the hospital be handed over to or be linked with other hospitals or consultants if this would result in the consultants doing the bulk of their work in the major hospital at which they worked.

The Chairman thanked the deputation for attending and assured the members that the Board was very much in favour of the development of the hospital and was taking all necessary steps in that regard.

Mr. Nolan said that the Board consistently over the years has fought for the status of St. Columcille's as an acute general hospital and for the development of the maternity and paediatric units. The Board met a major delegation from Comhairle na nOspideal at the Hospital for a full day and made a full and constructive case but the Comhairle refused to authorise the Boards proposals. However the Board were continuing to make representations. The deputation then withdrew.

Dr. Sheehan discussing the deputation said it would be a gross waste of public money to build a new paediatric unit at St. Vincent's when there was already a unit in existence which just needed to be upgraded.

Mr. Kelly described the situation at St. Vincent's where he said there were 60 paediatric beds on the site. He told Dr. McCarthy that these beds however did not belong to St. Vincent's but to Temple Street Hospital.

Cllr. Carroll said it was obvious that the paediatric unit should be at St. Columcille's and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. Hickey and agreed:—

"That this Board appoint a deputation to meet the Minister for the purpose of discussing St. Columcille's Hospital and matters appertaining to its use."

On a suggestion by Dr. Behan it was agreed that the deputation to meet the Minister should meet beforehand to prepare its case.

**31/80 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 at Newcastle on  
15/2/1980

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

In reply to Miss Kearney's enquiry regarding medical cards Mr. Dunne said that the patient and doctor are each notified in advance before a card is withdrawn.

- (b) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting at Cherry Orchard  
on 7/2/1980.

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

- (c) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting on  
18/12/1979.

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

The Chairman asked that reports of these visiting committees be brought to the Board as early as possible after the date of the meeting.

**32/80 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  
4/2/1980.

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

In reply to Cllr. Carroll Mr. Nolan said that the brief on the mental handicap unit at St. Columcille's Hospital was nearly completed and the consultant team had been appointed. Cllr. Connolly drew the members attention to three motions passed at the local (health) committee meeting regarding

visiting hours at mental hospitals, certificates of earnings for medical card applicants and taxi service for medical card holders. It was agreed that reports would be provided to the Committee on these matters.

Regarding the taxi service Dr. Behan said he frequently heard of health board patients being kept waiting for taxis while fare paying passengers were picked up. Mr. J. Sadlier said that very few taxis were used now except in emergencies when the Board's own transport is not available. Because of demand there is at times a delay in mini-bus service and this is difficult to overcome. Cllr. Carroll asked Mr. Sadlier to look into the problem of getting patients to St. James's O.P.D.

(b) Dublin City Local (Health) Committee meeting on 11/2/1980.

On a proposal by Cllr. Glenn seconded by Ms. Kearney the minutes were noted.

Cllr. Glenn expressed her concern over the situation at St. Clare's Home arising from the itinerant encampment and said that there appeared to be great delay in proceeding towards removing the encampment. She was supported by Cllr. Belton who said that the Corporation is claiming it has not formal title to the land as yet. He said the people in the area were very upset over conditions obtaining. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Glenn seconded by Ms. Kearney and agreed:—

"Deputation to meet Law Agents and officials of E.H.B. and Dublin Corporation to be arranged immediately."

Cllr. Mrs. Glenn also referred to Cllr. Sherwin's motion at the Committee meeting recommending a 'Rodent Week' to tackle the problem of rodent infestation. She was supported by Cllr. Connolly who recommended that this proposal be accepted. Prof. O'Donnell said that the Health Board should give its support.

Ms. Kearney referred to the report at the Committee meeting that over 800 children were in the Health Board's care and said she considered there should be a visiting committee to look after the interests of these children and asked that this be considered at the Seminar. In reply to Miss Kearney's enquiry about Killarney Street Offices, which was also the subject of a motion at the local committee meeting, Mr. Donohue said that the Board's staff were unable to get suitable offices in the area to provide additional facilities for the staff employed. In addition the financial situation requires him to look at the development of the services over the entire board area. He said that at present he had three

new health centres ready but unable to open because telephone lines had not yet been provided.

The Chairman asked that a report be submitted to the next meeting on the office accommodation at Killarney Street.

Regarding the provision of telephones the following motion was proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn:—

'That a meeting be arranged with the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs to discuss the telephone problems for E.H.B. Health Centres.'

Regarding the motion at the committee meeting on appeals against refusals of medical card applications Dr. Behan said that it was a matter of equity that an applicant would have a right of appeal to someone other than an officer of the Board.

(c) Kildare Local (Health) Committee meeting on 20/12/1979.

On a proposal by Cllr. Durkan seconded by Cllr. Groome the minutes were noted.

In reply to Cllr. Durkan's enquiry Mr. Sadlier said that the Health Centre at Maynooth would be handed over during this month. Regarding proposals for health centres at Athy and Castledermot and an extension to the Leixlip Centre Mr. Donohue told Cllr. Durkan that he could not say until the capital allocation was received what new starts could be considered for the coming year.

The members agreed at this stage to take the following motion in Cllr. Durkan's name:—

'That this Board would proceed in the current year with the provision of a new Health Centre in Castledermot under the Minor Capital Works programme if the Minister does not make provision for same in the Major Capital Allocation for 1980.'

Cllr. Durkan referred to a recent public meeting at Castledermot on the matter and described the total inadequacy of the existing facilities. In view of Mr. Donohue's comment about the current financial position he did not pursue the motion but asked that in allocating whatever funds are available the areas in most need get highest priority. Regarding reference to care of the aged in the report Cllr. Connolly drew attention to the fact that an old man had died in Ballyfermot recently and his death was not known for some days.

Regarding the committee's recommendation on coeliac disease the following motion was proposed by Cllr. Durkan and seconded by Cllr. Groome and agreed:—

**"That the Board request the Minister to extend the Long Term Illness Scheme to include Coeliac Disease."**

Cllr. Durkan raised the matter of anomalies in the rates of pay between health board employees in Kildare as against Dublin City and County areas. He was supported in this by Cllr. Groome.

Mr. Nolan said that while determination of remuneration levels was a matter for the C.E.O. he could appreciate the significance of the point made by Cllr. Durkan. Mr. Lyons, Personnel Officer said that this matter was at present the subject of negotiations at national level and that the outcome of such negotiations, would if the Department agreed, be implemented by the Board. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Durkan seconded by Cllr. Groome and agreed:—

**'That this Board recommends the implementation of a wage structure that will give the service staff of the Eastern Health Board in Co. Kildare, equal remunerative and promotional opportunities with employees in the rest of the Board's administrative area, with particular reference to the catering, maintenance and ambulance sectors.'**

**(d) Kildare Local (Health) Committee meeting on  
24/1/1980.**

On a proposal by Cllr. Durkan seconded by Cllr. Groome the minutes were noted.

Cllr. Durkan referred again to the delay in making Social Welfare payments and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. Groome and agreed:—

**"That this Board establish an emergency service to deal with applications for Supplementary Welfare Service, at weekends."**

The Chairman said that he would like to discuss this further and Cllr. Durkan suggested that the Kildare members meet the Chairman to discuss the health services in their area. The Chairman agreed but asked that a report on the development of the services be made available first.



	£m
(a) Direct expenditure by the Board (including its share of the expenses of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board vii. £12,324 m.)	85.594
(b) Payments in respect of services provided for eligible patients in voluntary hospitals and joint board hospitals.	89.790
(c) Payments in respect of services provided for eligible patients in homes for mentally handicapped persons.	6.334
<b>Total:</b>	<b>181.718</b>

The allocation does not cover

- expenditure on the commissioning of new units of accommodation
- expenditure on the special scheme introduced last December for the provision of dental and ophthalmic services for persons with full eligibility
- expenditure resulting from any revisions of capitation and subvention rates
- expenditures consequential on decisions which may be taken by the Government in conjunction with the Budget.

As this allocation represents a reduction of over £3 million on our original estimated requirement I am considering the position with the Management Team with a view to appropriate adjustments of programme proposals."

The Chairman said that the capital allocation had been conveyed to the Board by letter dated 5th March 1980 and that a separate letter had been sent by the Secretary of the Department to him.

While revenue allocation had been cut by £3.2 million as compared with estimated requirements the only capital allocation of the Board was £200,000 for works at St. Brendan's and St. Ita's Hospitals together with £60,000 for grants to voluntary agencies. It was clear he said that not only new starts but many ongoing services would suffer. In particular, maintenance, which had just been recovering from the 1976 cut-backs, was going to again be severely reduced. He would suggest that the Minister be invited to meet the Board at a later date.

The following motion was proposed by Ald. FitzGerald, seconded by Cllr. Durkan and agreed —

"That the E.H.B. invite the Minister for Health to meet the Board to discuss the implications of the cuts made in the Revenue Allocation to the Board for 1980."

Cllr. Hickey said that there was not much point in discussing the allocation until management provided the information on the budget for 1980. It would be necessary to ensure that sufficient finance was provided to keep the services going and the staff employed. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Groome and agreed —

"That a special meeting of this Board be convened to discuss

- (a) the Revenue Allocation
- (b) The Capital Allocation

for the current year."

Mr. Reynolds said that the allocation for 1980 was £73 million. Estimates prepared at current prices showed an expenditure of £76 million. The Department had advised the Board that there would be no supplementary allocations and that the budget must take account of anticipated inflation. The non-pay budget is £36 million and because of inflation the Board's shortfall in the year may be as high as £6 million.

Dr. Sheehan said that he believed the health services could be run in a more economical fashion, that there was much waste in the large hospitals and that emphasis on community services could reduce the dependence on hospitals. Cllr. Connolly said it was obvious there would not be enough money to carry on the services and the Minister and the government should be made aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Dr. Behan said that stringent financial controls were being imposed on the Health Board and he would like to be assured at the estimates meeting that equivalent strictures were being placed on the voluntary hospitals. He believed that financial accounts of voluntary hospitals for the last year and a breakdown of their allocation for 1980 should be made available.

The following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan and seconded by Cllr. Hickey and agreed —

'That the Board obtain from the Department of Health, in advance of the special estimates meeting, a comprehensive detailed breakdown of the allocation of £89.790 millions to voluntary and joint board hospitals, in view of the disproportionately large sum allocated to voluntary hospitals in comparison to the rest of the health services.'

Mr. Reynolds said that these figures will only be available if the Department of Health were prepared to supply them. Mr. Nolan pointed out that under Section 31 of the 1970 Health Act the Chief Executive Officer has the direct onus placed on him to ensure that the Board does not incur expenditure outside the limits imposed by the Minister and he asked for full co-operation in complying with these statutory requirements.

It was agreed that the Estimates meeting would be held at 6 p.m. on the 27th March 1980.

34/80                    TALLAGHT HOSPITAL BOARD  
(ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER

Dr. Behan again referred to the fact that the Board was in danger of losing adequate representation on the Tallaght Hospital Board and he proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and adopted—

'That the C.E.O. now arrange, as adopted by the Board in Minute 13/80 January 1980, for a delegation to meet the Minister for Health to discuss the Tallaght Hospital Establishment Order and to seek increased representation on the Planning Board for Tallaght General Hospital. It is further proposed that the Board arrange at the same deputation to seek representation for the Health Board on the Boards of all voluntary hospitals.'

It was agreed that pending the outcome of a request for a deputation the Board would not supply a panel of names to the Minister and that the Minister would be so informed.

The following motion proposed by Dr. Behan, seconded by Cllr. Connolly was agreed —

'That the Board defer selection of its representatives on the Planning Board of the Tallaght General Hospital until after the delegation from the Board has met with the Minister and sought increased representation.'

**35/80                    IRISH BREWERS ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAMME TO CURB MISUSE OF ALCOHOL**

As requested at the last meeting the Programme from the Irish Brewers Association was circulated to members.

**36/80    APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEE TO IRISH  
PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.**

On a proposal by Cllr. P. Hickey, seconded by Ald. Fitz-Gerald the following motion was adopted:

'That Cllr. Michael Carroll is hereby selected as nominee to represent Eastern Health Board at meetings of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.'

**37/80                    NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following motion was proposed by Ald. A. FitzGerald:

'That in view of the extreme housing shortage in Dublin City and in particular the needs of a growing number of 'homeless' that this Board invite representatives of the various hostels to a meeting to consider adequate liaison between them, especially as some facilities seem to be underused.'

Speaking to the motion Ald. FitzGerald said there was a lack of co-ordination among the various hostels providing services for the homeless e.g., certain hostels were not open during the day, some close earlier etc. and as a result certain hostels were under utilised, while others were overcrowded. He considered that the managements should be brought together to discuss the overall policy. In reply to an enquiry from Cllr. Carroll Mr. Donohue said that the Directors of Community Care have an interest in this area and visit some of the larger hostels. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed.

**38/80                    CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence having been circulated was taken as read.

The meeting terminated at 9.20 p.m.

CORRECT.

J. J. Nolan  
Chief Executive Officer



Signed.....

Chairman