

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

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

### PRESENT

Dr. J. D. Behan	Ms. N. Kearney
Cllr. L. Belton T.D..	Dr. D. G. Kelly
Cllr. D. Browne	Dr. P. McCarthy
Cllr. M. Carroll	Dr. A. Meade
Cllr. J. Connolly P.C.,	Cllr. M. Freehill
Prof. J. S. Doyle	Dr. B. Powell
Cllr. B. J. Durkan	Dr. B. Sheehan
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Cllr. E. Stagg
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Mr. K. Harrington	Cllr. G. Timmins, T.D.,
Cllr. F. Hynes	Dr. J. Walker
	Cllr. Mrs. M. Waugh

**APOLOGIES Mr. H. Corrigan  
and Prof. J. McCormick**

**IN THE CHAIR Cllr. D.**

**Browne, Chairman**

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. J. J. Nolan	Prof. I. Browne
Mr. F. Donohue	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. J. Clarke	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Dr. C. Warde
Mr. M. Hayden	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. F. McCullough	Mr. T. Barry
Mr. P. J. Swords	Mr. C. McQuaile
Mr. J. Brennan	Miss E. Larkin
	Miss F. Heaney
	Miss P. Genochy

### 118/80                      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Minutes of Proceedings of Annual Meeting held on 3/7/1980
- (b) Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting held on 3/7/1980

**On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Stagg the  
Minutes of the two meetings were signed.**

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. Stagg was advised that the letter regarding the inadequacy of the allocation for St. James's Hospital had been sent to the Department of Health. He asked that the matter be followed up urgently.

119/80                      **PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING  
COMMITTEES**

The Reports of the following Visiting Committee Meetings having been circulated were dealt with as follows:

(a) **No. 2 Visiting Committee Meeting held at St. Patrick's Home on  
3/7/1980**

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

Miss Kearney said she noted that a number of children were over a year in the Home and that they were reported to be unsuitable for placement. She claimed that professional opinion indicates that any child is suitable for placement if the proper foster parents can be found. She also commented on the lack of activities for the children and on the apparently high nursing staffing in the Home although there were normally no ill patients there. She referred to the alternative of accommodating mothers and children in small group homes such as that developed by the French Sisters of Charity at Donnybrook and suggested that the Board should consider this type of development.

Dr. Powell agreed and stated that children must be stimulated at an early age to reach their full potential. He also referred to the continuing problem of trespass and asked that the Dublin Corporation be requested to build the wall on the boundary of the land which the Board had transferred to them. He also recommended that the Board press forward its proposals for a unit for young chronic sick at the Home.

Referring to the last point, Mr. Nolan said that although, as notified to the Board, the Department had turned down the Board's proposals, they were being put again to the Department for approval. He was conscious of the recent gradual decline in use of the Home for its original purpose and the eventual decision of the Board to agree to the closing of the Delivery Unit had left staff and space to spare for the proposed Unit for the Young Chronic Sick. It was also proposed to have some accommodation for elderly females in the Home as a complement to the adjacent new Welfare Home and the facilities at James Connolly Memorial Hospital. Referring to Miss Kearney's comments on the fostering, Mr. Doyle

said that the Board is constantly seeking suitable parents but some children are difficult to place. With regard to activities he said there is a post of Montessori Teacher at the Home which, while vacant at present, will be filled shortly. The group home as mentioned by Miss Kearney, had already been considered with the Order and the St. Louise Adoption Society but it would prove very costly on the Board to replace the Home with such units when -it is considered that the Home caters for 400 mothers per annum.

**(b) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park on 27/6/1980**

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

Cllr. Groome wished it to be noted that he had attended this meeting but was not recorded as having done so.

**(c) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 16/7/1980.**

On a proposal by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, the report was noted.

Cllr. Hynes said he wanted to bring again to the attention of the Board the matter of repairs to the roof and electrical wiring, that on this visit he found conditions the same as they were at the last visit when he also brought this matter to the notice of the Board. He also referred to the inadequacy of the service road around the Hospital, which was too narrow to take large vehicles, with the sharp right hand corners forcing them on to the grass area.

Mr. Nolan asked the Programme Manager to deal with these matters.

**(d) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held at Naas Hospital on 17/6/1980.**

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

Cllr. Stagg asked the Board to note the staff shortages in most administrative sections in the KikJare area. He wished to praise the officers concerned for their speedy restoration of the office premises following the recent fire and the staff of the local offices for the way they carried on under difficult circumstances. He said he was glad to hear that relatives working as Home Helps would be treated in the same way as non-relatives and he asked if this was so throughout the Board area.

In reply to his enquiry about guidelines for eligibility for Home Helps Mr. Donohue said that each case was treated on its merits and the needs and resources available but relatives were not debarred from payment as Home Helps.

Cllr. Groome drew attention to the inadequacy of the ophthalmic service in the Kildare area and referred to the case of a child who although promised an appointment in three weeks time, had not been seen after three months. On a suggestion from Mr. Kelly, it was agreed that the Board would examine the possibility of a liaison between one of the Dublin City Hospitals for the provision of an Ophthalmic Service.

Cllr. Ourkan referred to the long waiting list for orthodontic treatment and to the back-log of cases for psychological assessment. Regarding Orthodontics, Mr. Donohue said that the Board has repeatedly advertised through the Local Appointments Commission for a Consultant Orthodontist without success but when this post is filled and the necessary support staff is provided the situation will improve. Mr. Harrington said that the demand for orthodontics will grow in the future and the Board must be prepared for this demand. He said, however, that orthodontic treatment is of its nature a long term treatment and could only be done at certain stages in the child's life.

Regarding the Psychological Assessments, Mr. Donohue said that discussions were at present going on with staff at St. Brendan's Hospital to increase the service but financial considerations might not allow the service to be increased as yet

**120/80                    NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO  
BOARD OF ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL**

The following Report No. 41/1980 was submitted by the Chief Executive Officer:

"The appointment of Professor B. O'Donnell as one of the ten representatives of the Eastern Health Board on the St. James's Hospital Board will terminate on 16th October 1980.

It is now necessary for the Health Board to nominate a person to the Minister for Health for appointment to represent the Health Board on the Hospital Board from 17th October 1980 for such period, not exceeding 3 years, as may be determined by the Minister."

On a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. Carroll it was unanimously agreed to re-nominate Professor Brendan O'Connell as a Board representative on St. James's Hospital Board.

**121/80 APPOINTMENT OF HANDICAPPED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Following discussion it was agreed that a report could be prepared before the next meeting of the Board identifying the areas to be examined by the Committee and that the Committee would then be selected with these needs in mind.

**122/80 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTATION TO MINISTER FOR HEALTH ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY**

On a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn seconded by Cllr. Connolly it was agreed that seven members be nominated to the deputation. The following members were selected:

Cllr. Mrs. Glenn	Cllr. Stagg
Dr. Meade,	Cllr. Hynes,
Dr. Behan,	Dr. Walker,
Cllr. Carroll	

It was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer would select the necessary officers to accompany the deputation.

**123/80 BUDGET ALLOCATION**

The Chief Executive Officer told members that the Budget figures at the end of June showed that the Board's expenditure both on pay and non-pay was running at an average of 104% of allocation. While inflation was accountable for the non-pay excess, the Pay expenditure was causing concern and he was having an examination done of overtime being worked and of substitutes being employed for absence on leave etc. As the Board's special economies were only introduced from March onwards following notification of the allocation, he considered that the figures relating to the period to July would be more indicative of the situation and he would provide a detailed report to the September meeting, based on that information.

**124/80 USE OF IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE CONDUCT OF BOARD BUSINESS**

The following letter dated 7th July 1980 from the Department of Health was submitted:

**"A Phriomh-Oifigigh, A Chara**

**Taim ag scríobh chugat chun cabhair a lorg uait i bhfor-bairt na h-  
oibre ata idir lamhaibh ag Bord na Gaeilge i la'thair na h-uaire.**

**As you will be aware from previous discussions Bord na Gaeilge has been established by the Government to promote the use of Irish throughout the community. The Chairman of the Board is Liam O Murchu and it has recently appointed a Chief Executive Officer, Sean O Cleirigh and other staff who are located in 7 Merrion Square, Dublin.**

**The Minister is anxious that health boards should co-operate to the maximum extent possible in promoting the use of Irish both within the Board and in contact with members of the public availing themselves of the boards' services. In the Appendix to this letter certain procedures are suggested which might be set in train in order to achieve the Government's objective.**

**The Minister is writing personally to Chairmen of Health Boards to seek their support in promoting the use of Irish. I am enclosing a copy of his letter for your information.**

**Members of health boards who are also members of Local Authorities will be aware that a special Steering Committee, comprising members and officers of those authorities and of the Department of the Environment, has been established to promote the use of Irish in the Local Authorities. They will also have received copies of a document issued by the Steering Committee. I enclose for your information two copies of that document, further copies of which may be obtained on request from Bord na Gaeilge. The Board is anxious to obtain information about specific activities being undertaken in the Public Service and would welcome suggestions about ways in which their objectives might be pursued.**

**I should be glad to hear from you in due course about the action which you have taken in regard to this matter. If there is any further information you require I shall of course be glad to make it available. The advice and assistance of Bord na Gaeilge would also be available in relation to any practical problems which may arise.**

**Mise le meas**

**B. Hensey**

Mr. Nolan said that it was Government policy to foster and assist the use of Irish in the conduct of business. While it would be a primary process for management to encourage the use of Irish he would like the views of the Board on possible applications. Dr. Behan agreed that the Board should encourage the greater use of Irish and suggested that the Board and Hospitals with which it was associated should introduce Irish on their headed paper. Cllr. Stagg said that it would be possible also for officers to use the Irish form of their title in correspondence. Prof. Doyle noted that Bord na Gaeilge was prepared to offer advice and suggested that this be taken. It was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should proceed as discussed and consider the general position in conjunction with Bord na Gaeilge.

**125/80 OFFICES-OUTLINE PLANNING  
PERMISSION FROM DUBLIN CORPORATION FOR  
DEVELOPMENT AT ST. BRENDAN'S HOSPITAL**

Mr. Nolan informed the members that outline Planning permission to the Board's proposals for an office block at St. Brendan's site had now been received subject to more detailed planning being submitted for full permission. As he had told members at the last meeting there was no immediate prospect of capital funds for this project from the Department as yet and it might be necessary to seek rented accommodation, as the office staff might have to be moved off the St. James's site before the new office block is ready. It was agreed that pending further representations to the Minister for funds to provide a new office block, enquiries should continue to be made for suitable rented accommodation.

**126/80 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Nolan referred to the appointment of this committee at the July meeting and said that a number of matters were being placed before the meeting now for disposal by resolutions or by referral to the Capital Development Committee for consideration. He suggested that items 10 and 12 on the Agenda be taken together and this was agreed. Item 10 relates to the disposal of land and the following four letters were submitted:

- (a) Letter 17/6/80 from St. Michael's House group, requesting a site at St. Clare's for development — units for mentally handicapped:

"Re: Mental Handicap Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 9.

Dear Mr. Nolan,

Please find enclosed herewith St. Michael's House Brief for the above development, which has today been submitted to the Department of Health for consideration and progress to the next stage of planning.

I hereby formally request you to consider making available the lands necessary for this development at St. Clare's, Ballymun. The area required is all that land east of the current boundary fence running from the entrance at St. Canice's Road towards the Griffith Avenue Extension. I have outlined this boundary in red. I would be grateful for a decision at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

P. H. Moloney,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR"

(b) Letter 16/7/80 from E.H.B. Staff's Sports Club Ltd. requesting site at St. Brendan's for development of recreation complex:

"Company Registration No. 76131 Dublin

"Dear Mr. Nolan,

Further to our meeting with you on 17th April last I wish to advise you that we have now assumed a corporate identity and have been formed into a company limited by guarantee.

On behalf of the company I wish to make a formal application to you for the lease of 3.50 acres at St. Brendan's Hospital.

Detailed requirements are as follows:

Item	Dimensions + Details	Area (Sq. Ft.).
Main Building	Will include Functions Room, Bar. Games Room. 1 Toilets and Storage	10.000
Phase 1	2 x 32' x 21' plus changing area	
Squash Courts	6 x 78' x 36' plus 10 ft. Runback and 3ft. between courts	3.000
Tennis Courts	2 x 14m x 26m plus 2m around each court	25.000
Basketball	120' x 100' plus 6.000 sq. ft. for changing wet area/storage.	12.000
Gymnasium	82:4' x 42' plus 12 ft. on all sides plus associated facilities 5.000 sq. ft.	18.000
Swimmma Pool	Say 30 + ft. wide around the above	12.000
Circulation	8V x 12' per car: 200 spaces not required if office car park available for use.	40.000
Car Park		31.000
	<b>Total</b> Divided by 43,560 or excluding car park	<b>151,000 sq. ft.</b> 3.46 acres 2.75 acres

Note: No provision is made for a small garden or lawn areas.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Carr,  
Hon. Secretary."

- (c) Letter 3rd December 1979 from Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, for development of school unit by C.B.S. North Brunswick Street.

"You may recall that at the Management Team I mentioned that the Christian Brothers were seeking a site at St. Brendan's Hospital to build a school to replace their existing Secondary School at North Brunswick Street. I have met Brother Quinian and Brother Creedon and they are looking for about six acres of land. Their problem is that the facilities at North Brunswick Street are totally inadequate and they have absolutely no room for expansion. They may have to leave the area unless they can obtain a site to build a new Secondary School and personally I feel that their leaving the area would be a most retrograde step for the area where there are large numbers of children. The amount of land available in St. Brendan's for any development is limited and portions are already committed for the Sports Complex and the proposed Office Block. However,

it may be possible to facilitate the Christian Brothers as well and could I suggest at this stage that an Architect would be appointed to examine the land available and to submit recommendations that might facilitate the three proposals that are now in front of us. Perhaps you might like to have this discussed at the Management Team meeting."

- (d) Letter 17th July 1980 from Prof. Howie, requesting site at St. James's Hospital for development of Clinical Sciences Complex and Dental Hospital/School by St. James's Hospital Board.

"Dear Mr. Nolan,

I am glad to say that I have now had a letter from Mr. John Wilson, T.D., the Minister for Education in which he confirms that his Department "through the HEA and TCD, will be responsible for funding the Clinical Science Complex (at St. James's), including the dental hospital". He goes on to say that the Department of Education's Building Unit will advise on "the Brief, a budget cost limit, the terms and conditions for appointment of the Design Team and apportionment of cost for central services with the hospital".

These decisions are of very great assistance and they will allow us to make orderly progress with regard to the planning of the overall development at St. James's.

When we met last week I said that I had been in touch with Dr. Hensey saying that I would want to discuss with him the problems which would arise in relation to the availability of the St. James's Street site given that I could get the sort of declaration which has just been made by the Minister for Education. I have now written to Dr. Hensey to arrange an appointment hope that you will be able to obtain from the Eastern Health Board a decision to transfer the St. James's Street site to the hospital and subsequently the College, if this were done I think we would now be in a position to make substantial progress.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

D. I. D. Howie

Items 12 relates to proposals regarding the Garden Hill Site at St. James's Hospital as set out in the letter dated 8th July, 1980 from the Department of Health, as submitted to the meeting.

**"A Chara**

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to previous correspondence and discussions regarding the relocation of buildings from the Garden Hill site at St. James's Hospital.

On 2 May, 1980, the St. James's Hospital Board wrote to the Department setting out a proposed format of agreement on the matter. A copy of the Board's letter is attached for your information. The Department has informed the hospital board that there is no objection, in principle, to the proposals in respect of the Biological and Medical Research Institute, the Irish Foundation for Human Development and the Psychiatric Professorial Unit as set out in the letter from the St. James's Hospital Board, subject to:

- (a) the understanding that the transfer of the Psychiatric Professorial Unit, mentioned in paragraph (1) under the heading "Eastern Health Board" on page 2 of the letter, does not imply agreement on the permanent location of the Professorial Unit, as such will be a matter for further consideration.
- (b) the formal agreement of all the parties involved to the proposals and,
- (c) the understanding that the proposals will not involve the Department in any expenditure prior to mid-1981 at the earliest and that the bulk of expenditure would fall to be met at a later date.

The Department would wish to be informed when all the parties involved have agreed to the proposals and would also require the final drafts of the Legal Instruments to be submitted for the Minister's approval prior to completion.

Mise le meas

S. Hensey"

Mr. Nolan said that he would like if the members would dispose of items 10 (d) and 12 at this meeting. Items 10(a), (b) and (c) might be referred to the Capital Development Committee.

Item 10 (a): The request for a site at St. Clare's for development of units for mentally handicapped for St. Michael's House related, he said, to the Board's policy to consider sympathically such applications from groups whose activities supplemented Board services. The Board was also

sympathetic to the request for a site at St. Brendan's Hospital for the development of a recreation complex for the Staff Sports Club Ltd. The request from the Christian Brothers for a site for a school on the St. Brendan's lands could only be considered, however, after the Board's own proposals for an office block and the sports complex on the site. He said he would propose that a meeting of the Capital Development Committee would be called within a matter of ten days and that the Committee would be able to examine these matters more fully with the advice of all the officers concerned.

In reply to an enquiry from Cllr. Carroll, Mr. Nolan said that the Board had already agreed in principle to provide a site for the staff Sports Complex at St. Brendan's. Cllr. Carroll said he considered that the site should be disposed of to the Staff Sports Club without any further delay as they were the first to make application and had brought their arrangements to an advanced stage. He was supported by the Chairman and Cllr. Glenn and after some further discussion the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Stagg and seconded by Cllr. Connolly:

"It was hereby resolved that the Eastern Health Board agrees to transfer to the Eastern Health Staff Sports Club Ltd., 3.50 acres at St. Brendan's Hospital for the purpose of providing a sports and recreational facility as indicated in the letter of application dated 16th July, 1980."

The resolution was put to the members and carried by nine votes to eight, the following being the voting —

**FOR:** Cllrs. Stagg, Carroll, Connolly, Mrs. Waugh, Browne, Mrs. Glenn, Dr. McCarthy, Dr. Kelly and Ms. Kearney. (9).

**AGAINST:** Cllrs. Sweeney, Hynes, Groome, Durkan and Drs. Doyle, Walker, Sheehan and Behan. (8).

On a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn seconded by Dr. Walker it was agreed to refer the request for a site at St. Clare's for the St. Michael's House Group and the request for a site at St. Brendan's for a school for the Christian Brothers at North Brunswick Street to the Capital Development Committee.

With regard to items 10 (d) and 12, Mr. Nolan said that he is examining at present the draft agreements submitted by the Law Agent and would discuss them with officers of related units before submission to the Minister. Dr. Behan said that the letter of 8th July 1980 from the Dept. of Health was a very acceptable response to the Board's proposals except in regard to the reference to the location of the Chief Psychiatrist's Unit in paragraph (a). He pointed out that the

Board has already decided the location of this Unit and its views should be reiterated to the Department. Dr. Behan also referred to letters of 17th and 30th July 1980 from Professor Howie regarding the proposals to proceed with a Clinical Sciences Complex at the site at St. James's on the funding of the Department of Education. He considered that the control of medical education should not be with the Department of Education but with an education section of the Department of Health which could integrate all under-graduate, graduate and post-graduate medical training with the services that are being provided on the ground. On the suggestion of the Chairman he agreed to put forward a motion in these terms to a later meeting. The following motion was then proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Dr. Behan and passed unanimously:

"It is hereby resolved that the Eastern Health Board, anxious to expedite development of the new St. James's Hospital

1. Agrees to transfer to the St. James's Hospital Board the Balance of the site fronting on to James's Street provided the Hospital Board can arrange to make available with the agreement of the Department of Health adequate suitable alternative accommodation for the offices, stores, dental clinics, pharmacy etc. at present occupied and used by the Eastern Health Board on that site;
2. Agrees to the proposals embodied in the Department's letter of July 8th regarding the Garden Hill site/building and authorises preparation of the necessary legal documents incorporating said proposals for submission to the Department;
3. Agrees to press the Minister for early approval to provision on the site, as already requested and agreed, of a headquarters unit and an adequate Research and Development Service for the Chief Psychiatrist.

In that regard generally, the Board wish to be informed, as soon as possible, of the specific proposals of the Irish Foundation for Human Development for accommodation on the site, to meet their existing and anticipated requirements."

127/80            **ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG  
CHRONIC SICK/DISABLED PROPOSED UNIT  
AT ST. PATRICK'S HOME**

The following letter dated 30th May 1980 to the Department of Health was submitted:

"I wish to refer to the Board's letter of 15th June 1979, and previous correspondence regarding confinements at St. Patrick's Home, Navan Road. Confinements ceased earlier this month and the alternative arrangements whereby the facilities at St. James's and other Maternity Hospitals are availed of, are working satisfactorily.

The Maternity Unit, which has ward accommodation for 18 persons, is being examined with a view to making it available as a self contained unit for "Young Chronic Sick". The Unit, which was constructed in 1933, is in very good structural order and has been well maintained and should accommodate about 18 "Young Chronic Sick" at ground floor level providing easy access to the grounds of the Home. Catering, lighting, heating etc. are already available but certain alterations will be needed such as the provision of ramps, certain alterations to toilets, bathrooms to permit access by wheelchairs etc. The Board proposes that the alterations be financed by using monies which we will receive during the current year from the disposal of lands. The Religious Community has indicated willingness to make available a Sister who has been receiving training in the care of "Young Chronic Sick", the redeployment of staff within the Home would provide the basis of our staff needs for the changed use of the Unit.

The Department will already be aware of the lack of specific in-patient accommodation for "Young Chronic Sick" and the proposal to avail of the Unit at St. Patrick's has been under consideration for some time. The Board would like to take advantage of the opportunity now afforded by the transfer of all deliveries from St. Patrick's and also to avail of the co-operation which the religious community has indicated in making available one of its Sisters.

The Board is also examining the possibility of discontinuing the Isolation Unit as such at the Home. It is considering at this stage that this Unit could be made available as an extension to the new welfare home close by. We would thus provide additional residential accommodation for welfare cases, as well as day space.

The Department will be advised of developments in this matter."

Mr. Nolan said it was already explained to the Board there was accommodation and staff available at the Home to provide this facility but, as indicated in their letter of 29/7/80 circulated to members, the Department had turned down the Board's proposals. He said he had already written back to the Department reiterating the Board's wish to proceed with

this facility at St. Patrick's site. In reply to Or. Kelly he said that the proposed Unit at St. Patrick's Home would link with the three north-side hospitals and that he was seeking another site on the south-side to link with the hospitals there at a later date.

**128/80                   HYGIENE STANDARDS AND  
POLLUTION - ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Nolan referred to previous discussions on this matter and said that Dublin Corporation and Eastern Health Board had each appointed their members to the Committee and he recommended that the Board now fix a date for the first meeting. The Chairman suggested 6 p.m. on 8th September in the Boardroom St. Brendan's Hospital and this was agreed.

**129/80                   PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL  
(HEALTH) COMMITTEES**

The reports of the following meetings of Local (Health) Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

**(a) WICKLOW LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEE meeting  
held on 16/5/1980**

On a proposal by Cllr. Timmins seconded by Cllr. Sweeney the minutes were noted. Dr. Meade asked if the Board's Working Party on Hospital Services in South County Dublin and Wick low would continue now that the Department had established a Working Committee on the same lines. Mr. Lamb replied that Professor McCormick is anxious that the Board's Committee continue in existence.

**(b) DUBLIN CITY LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEE  
meeting held on 12/6/1980**

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

**(c) KILDARE LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEE meeting  
held on 19/6/1980**

On a proposal by Dr. McCarthy seconded by Cllr. Durkan the minutes were noted. Cllr. Durkan again drew the Board's attention to disquiet in the Kildare area over the lack of geriatric beds for patients from North Kildare. It had not

proved possible to have any admissions to Dublin hospitals and as a result elderly patients were blocking beds in the Naas Hospital. He suggested that a quota of beds in St. Mary's and St. James's be allotted to the North Kildare area and said he would be putting forward his proposals when the information he had sought for the next Local (Health) Committee meeting was provided. Dr. Meade said he was surprised to see that there was a reported shortage of nurses in the Board's service as he was aware that nurses were emigrating from the country. Mr. Swords said that the shortages were mostly in the area where nursing was heavy and unattractive such as nursing the elderly in St. Mary's and St. Brigid's. Dr. Meade said that if the Board's shortage of staff was because of onerous conditions in the nature of the duties there should be some financial consideration given for this type of nursing.

Cllr. Durkan asked about the position of the change of use of two Units in Cherry Orchard to long-stay accommodation. Mr. Lamb explained the current position arising from the need to transfer patients from unsafe units in St. Brendan's Hospital. Cllr. Groome said he understood that there was still a block in Cherry Orchard being used as a store and he considered that it would be better used housing patients. Mr. Nolan said that Comhairle na n-Ospideal had written to the Board regarding the handling of infectious diseases case generally and wish to meet officers of the Health Board on the matter. Harcourt Street Hospital had also expressed an interest in liaison with Cherry Orchard Hospital in relation to paediatric services and the Board would be informed of these developments in due course.

Cllr. Sweeney referred to the announcement of the operation of the new Winter Fuel Scheme for the coming year and said he considered that guidelines had been too stringent last ye?-. He suggested that the Minister should be asked to broaden guidelines to include eligible pensioners who had a small income

**(d) DUBLIN COUNTY LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEE**  
meeting held on 7/7/1980

On a proposal by Ms. Kearney seconded by Cllr. Carroll the minutes were noted. Ms. Kearney asked if the guidelines for the granting of supplementary welfare allowances could be made known as otherwise applicants refused would not know whether to appeal or not. Mr. Donohue said these guidelines were provided by the Department of Social Welfare and he did not know if the status of these documents was such as to allow their publication. He said he would pursue the matter and report to the next meeting.

**(e) DUN LAOGHAIRE LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEE**  
meeting held on 9/7/1980

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

Cllr. Mrs. Waugh drew the members attention to the concern expressed by the Committee as minuted in paragraph 2 that there was little local input to developments in the hospital area where these are funded direct by the Department of Health. Mr. Nolan said that this matter had been considered at previous Board meetings and there was an endeavour by the Board to seek membership on Boards of such hospitals for representatives of the Health Board.

Dr. Sheehan also mentioned the lack of involvement of the local Directors of Community Care in decisions relating to other services such as hospital and psychiatric services in their area. He said that the Board should examine the situation where the Director finds he is not in a position to involve himself in all the health services relating to people in his area. Dr. Walker said that such an involvement would mean a complete restructuring of the way in which the Board's management for community care services was organised at present. He was satisfied that each Director kept an eye on the activities of the other programmes in his area and any gaps arising were filled on this basis. Mr. Donohue said he appreciated that the Directors should be more closely associated with the hospitals and thought this could be done through their membership of the Boards or medical committees of the hospitals. Some hospitals have already invited the Directors to participate at different levels and these moves would be encouraged.

Professor Doyle said that the reply given to Cllr. Brady's question on page 2 of the minutes was erroneous as a great amount of attention is given to the care of the aged in the training of student doctors. The Chairman asked that this information be conveyed to the next meeting of the Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee.

130/80

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Waugh:

"To consider the possibility and feasibility of setting up in Belfield a sub-health centre for Community Care Area 5".

Speaking to the motion Cllr. Mrs. Waugh said this arose from the Community Care Visiting Committee at Baliinteer where the Director, Dr. Barry, pointed out that the student population of Belfield was equal to the population of the rest of the area. As most students had medical cards she suggested that a sub-health centre be set up at Belfield to avoid students having to go to Baliinteer to get services.

Mr. Donohue said that if students had medical cards they would be on the panel of a doctor near to their home or lodging. There may be a need to find a way of simplifying students applications for medical cards and he said he would examine the situation and report on this and on the current medical resources available at the Belfield complex to a later meeting.

(b) The following motion was proposed by Dr. McCarthy:

"That the location of the doctor in Dunlavin Health Centre be as outlined in Drawing No. DH/977/3 which was submitted to the Planning Department of Wicklow County Council on 11th October, 1977."

Speaking to the motion Dr. McCarthy said he brought it so that Board members would be able to decide that Board property be not developed in a way that would be detrimental to the future development of the health services. Mr. Donohue said that when planning permission was first sought for the Health Centre in 1975 the rooms were allocated as indicated by Dr. McCarthy but as the general practitioner at the time did not want accommodation it was subsequently decided to change the usage and the internal lay out was revised.

A discussion followed to which Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, Durkan, Sweeney, Timmins and Dr. Meade and Dr. Warde contributed. It was agreed by the members that they had not enough information available to them to decide on this matter and they requested that a report from the Director of Community Care, Technical Services Officer and Programme Manager be submitted to the next meeting when a decision would be made.

{c} With the permission of the members. Dr. Behan introduced the following motion, which had been deferred from the July meeting and had inadvertently been omitted from the notice for the August meeting:

"That the Health Board, with the objective of assuming its proper role in the planning, development and coordination of an integrated Health Service for the Community, should establish a Policy Committee to meet regularly in order to assist and advise the Board in formulating its overall policy objectives and plans for the development of the Health Services."

Speaking to the motion Dr. Behan said that he was proposing that a sub-committee be established to consider in greater depth and detail matters of policy relating to the Board's activities and to advise the Board in these matters. Mr. Nolan told members that this proposal was in line with

the approach being pursued by Or. Behan arising from the view that the Health Board is not being consulted sufficiently or being given the opportunity to consider adequately matters which affect the Board's policy and activity. This committee will give members an opportunity to be more involved in policy making. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Glenn and agreed. Selection of the committee was deferred to the next meeting.

131/80

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary read the following letter which had been received in the Board's offices on 7th August 1980 and had been circulated to the members at the meeting.

"A Chara

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to your letter of 14th July, 1980 regarding the appointment of members of the Tallaght Hospital Board.

I am to point out that article 5 (1) of the Tallaght Hospital Board (Establishment Order) 1980 provides, inter alia, for the appointment of two members from a panel of four persons nominated by the Eastern Health Board. As the health board has not nominated the specified panel of representatives the Minister is not in a position to proceed with the appointment of representatives of the health board to the Tallaght Hospital Board.

The Minister is concerned with the delay in finalising the membership of the Tallaght Hospital Board and I am to request that the health board submit a panel of representatives as specified in the Establishment Order.

In the meantime, the Minister proposes to proceed with the appointment of the other members of the hospital board, that is, the representatives of the other nominating bodies and the five other members as specified in the order.

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It was agreed that as the notice was too short to consider this matter it would be deferred to the next meeting and the Department should be informed accordingly.

The following correspondence which had been circulated with the notice and agenda for the meeting was noted:—

- (a) Letter 20/6/1980 from Department of Health regarding the role of the Medical Co-Ordinator in the Major Accident Plan for Dublin and submission of the Board's views in that regard.
- (b) Memo 2/7/1980 and attached correspondence from Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, in relation to a request from Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee on a report on Drug Abuse.
- (c) Letter 11/7/1980 from the Minister of State, Department of the Public Service advising that Health Boards would be brought within the remit of the Ombudsman.
- (d) Letter 15/7/1980 from the Secretary, Beaumont Hospital Board, with which were submitted copies of Accounts of that Board for 1977, 1978 and 1979 together with a copy of the discussion document on the development of specialist services in Dublin hospitals.
- (e) Letter 16/7/1980 from the Department of Health regarding the Mobility Allowance.
- (f) Letter 22/7/1980 from the Department of Health regarding the review of the organisation of Community Care Services by Imbucon Ltd.
- (g) Statutory Instrument No. 213/1980 enabling members of the staff of the National Rehabilitation Board to be members of that Board.
- (h) Address by Dr. Michael Woods, Minister for Health at the Inaugural Meeting of the National Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons on 11/7/1980.
- (i) Memo 15/7/1980 from Mr. Lamb advising of a Bequest of £1,000 to the Hospital.

The following correspondence had been dispatched to members under separate cover from the notice and agenda for the meeting.

- (a) Memo 1/8/1980 from the Secretary advising members of communications from the Department of Health providing
  - (1) an allocation to allow An Grianan, Ballymun and Geraldstown House, Santry to open, and
  - (2) commissioning of a number of health centres, hostels and other units.

- (b) Letter 19/7/1980 from the Department of Health already referred to at the meeting turning down the Board's proposals regarding use of a Unit in St. Patrick's Home for young chronic sick.

The following correspondence was circulated to members at the meeting.

- (a) Memo dated 23/7/1980 and other correspondence from Mr. McCullough, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care Programme, advising of the appointment of Professor Levi, Director of the Clinical Stress Research Laboratory in the Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, to carry out an evaluation of the Psychosomatic and Health Care Unit at the St. James's Hospital Complex.

Mr. McCullough said that it had been a condition in the Department of Health's Approval of May 1977 to the Establishment of the Unit that an independent evaluation of the scheme be made after three years. He had been advised that Professor Levi was an eminent person in this field of medicine and was available to conduct an evaluation and the Department had approved of this proposal. Professor Levi would be available to meet the Committee if required.

Dr. Behan enquired as to how this assessor was selected and said he considered that such an arrangement should have been handled by the Medical and Allied Research Committee and not the Department of Health.

Dr. Behan was supported by Professor Doyle and Dr. Meade and after further discussion it was agreed that a meeting of the Medical and Allied Research Committee would be convened to consider the matter.

Regarding An Gria:ijn, Ballymun, Cllr. Mrs. Glenn said that a lot of work had gone into the report on Children Living and Sleeping Rough and that the Dublin Corporation was living up to its commitments in regard to an assessment centre there but she understood now that the Board was not planning to use the Centre as originally agreed. She said she would like a report on the matter to the next meeting and it was agreed that a report would be provided.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.