

## **EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

*Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, Dublin on Thursday 8th January 1981 at 6 p.m.*

### **PRESENT**

<p>Ald. B. Ahern T.D.,            Dr. J.D. Behan            Cllr. L. Belton T.D.,            Cllr. D. Browne            Cllr. Michael Carroll            Cllr. H. Reilly            Mrs. B. Bonar            Cllr. M. Freehill            Prof. J.S. Doyle            Cllr. B.J. Durkan            Ald. A. FitzGerald            Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn            Cllr. A. Groome            Cllr. T. Hand P.C..</p>	<p>Cllr. P. Hickey P.C.,            Cllr. F. Hynes            Mr. D.G. Kelly            Cllr. T. Leonard T.D.,            Dr. P. McCarthy            Prof. J. McCormick            Sr. Columba McNamara            Mr. M. Matthews            Dr. A. Meade            Cllr. E. Stagg            Cllr. J. Sweeney            Cllr. G. Timmins T.D.,            Dr. John Walker            Cllr. Mrs. M. Waugh</p>
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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. E. Doyle, Mr. K. Harrington  
and Ms. Noreen Kearney

**IN THE CHAIR** Cllr. Dan Browne,  
Chairman

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

<p>Mr. B. Segrave            Mr. J. J. Nolan            Mr. F. Donohue            Mr. T. Keyes            Mr. J. Clarke            Mr. P.I. Lyons            Mr. J. Reynolds            Mr. J. Sadlier            Prof. B. O'Donnel            Prof. I. Browne            Mr. P.J. Swords            Mr. F. McCullough</p>	<p>Miss A. Flanagan            Mr. C. Mansfield            Mr. E. Dunphy            Mr. M. O'Connor            Mr. A. O'Brien            Mr. C. Murphy            Mr. M. Cummins            Mr. P. O'Brien            Mr. J. Leech            Miss E. Larkin            Miss B. Kelly</p>
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1/81

### **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

(a) The Chairman, on behalf of the members, welcomed Mrs. B. Bonar as a member of the Board. Mrs. Bonar had been appointed by the Minister for Health to succeed Mr. Hugh Corrigan who had retired.

(b) The Chairman congratulated Mr. M. O'Connor, who was taking over from Mr. Canice Mansfield as Secretary to the Board, and he also congratulated Mr. Mansfield on his promotion to the grade of Senior Administrative Officer.

(c) The Chairman informed members of the recent death of the mother of Mr. P. Sheehan, Senior Executive Officer. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

#### **2/81                    CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of Proceedings of monthly meeting held on 4th December, 1980 having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Sweeney.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

Referring to Minute 192/80 Cllr. Durkan enquired if any other possible sites had been inspected for the Health Centre at Castledermot.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Donohue would speak to Cllr. Durkan on this matter.

Cllr. Stagg referring to Minute 184/80 enquired if a report was available from the Board's Medical and Allied Research Committee on Allergies. The Chief Executive Officer stated that this Committee would meet on 13th January 1981 and a report from the Committee would be before the Board in due course.

Cllr. Stagg also referred to the advertising on national television of a publication dealing with medical matters which he felt was undesirable. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Medical and Allied Research Committee.

#### **3/81                    SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr. Stagg requested permission to have Standing Orders suspended to allow him to move a motion relating to the operation of the Free Fuel Scheme and this was agreed.

A full discussion took place on the motion to which Cllrs. Glenn, Hand, Freehill, Carroll and Durkan and Prof. McCormick, Drs. Meade, Walker and Behan contributed. In the course of the discussion Prof. McCormick suggested that the word "demand" in the original motion be altered to read "be asked as a matter of urgency" and this was agreed. The motion having been amended to read as follows, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

"That the E.H.B. ask as a matter of urgency that the Minister for Health and Social Welfare make funds available immediately to the Board, to enable the Board to increase the Free Fuel Vouchers to £6.00 per week, to ensure that those qualifying for such assistance do not die from cold arising from the recent savage increases in Domestic fuel costs sanctioned by the Government, and that the Board take immediate action without waiting for the Minister's response to seek out and assist persons who have been put at risk by the fuel increases described."

#### **4/81 PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES**

The reports of the following Visiting Committee meetings having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Baltinglass Hospital on 11/12/80

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

- (b) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 26/11/80

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Cllr. Durkan the report was noted. Cllr. Durkan said he attended this meeting but was not recorded. It was agreed to record his attendance.

- (c) No. 4 Visiting Committee Meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 10/12/80

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

- (d) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Clonskeagh Hospital on 18/12/80

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Waugh the report was noted. Cllr. Sweeney suggested that Miss Audrey Wilson, Supervisory Gardener at Clonskeagh Hospital, be congratulated on obtaining for the hospital the Bord Failte 1980 Garden Competition Prize.

#### **5/81 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The following report of the meeting of the Capital Programme Committee held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 6th January 1981 was submitted:—

**MEETING OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, ST. BRENDAN'S  
HOSPITAL ON TUESDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1981  
AT 3.00 p.m.**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Cllr. D. Browne (Chairman)</b>	<b>Cllr. E. Stagg</b>
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>Cllr. M. Carroll Cllr. F. Hynes</b>	<b>Dr. J. Behan Mr. P.B. Segrave</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>Mr. F.J. Donohue Mr. P.J. Swords Mr. F.J. McCullough</b>	<b>Mr. J. Clarke Mr. J. Sadlier Mr. M. O'Connor</b>

The Chairman stated that as decided by the Board in December 1980 the Committee meeting had been arranged to review the Capital programme. The following documents had been circulated to the members of the Committee:

- (a) the Comprehensive Schedule of Capital Projects;
- (b) the Report of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th August, 1980;
- (c) an updated Progress Report - December 1980 and
- (d) a Schedule showing dates of approvals etc. for major projects as requested by the Committee.

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive Officer to introduce Report No. C.I dated 5th January, 1981. In doing so the Chief Executive Officer said that the Management Team had reviewed the Comprehensive Schedule of Capital Projects based on that adopted by the Board in September 1980 and representing an approximate total cost of £100 million at current prices.

He expected that the 1981 Capital allocation would be made shortly and he was proposing for consideration by the Committee in that context a list of 20 priority items. These had been selected having regard to:

- (a) general policy and priority decisions of the Board;
- (b) recommendations of various Committees;
- (c) the practicability of advancing the projects during 1981 if funds were made available;
- (d) the amount of the original total Government Capital allocation for Health in 1980 (£28 million for all on-going and new works) — he had no information yet of the amount to be allocated in 1981.

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He outlined the procedures to be followed by the Board under the Department's Hospital Planning Office Guidelines in planning and carrying out major capital works and drew attention to the requirement whereby it was now necessary to obtain the approval of the Department to each stage of planning before proceeding to a further stage.

The Committee requested a summary indicating the stages involved in the prescribed procedures.

Having considered the Report and reviewed the Schedules submitted the Committee decided to recommend to the Board —

- (a) that Report No. C.1 dated 5th January, 1981 be adopted;
- (b) that the Comprehensive Basic Schedule be submitted to the Minister as an indication of the extent of the accumulated backlog of Capital Works (to cost approximately £100 million) awaiting the allocation of funds — the Schedule to be subject to variation in light of future developments including decisions on reports of Committees at present considering proposals for the development of Psychiatric services and services for Disabled Persons and the Elderly;
- (c) that the Minister be informed that the Board considers the current level of Capital allocation to the Board as unrealistic;
- (d) that the Minister be pressed to receive the proposed deputation as already sought by the Board;
- (e) that the deputation consist of the members of the Capital Programme Committee;
- (f) that the deputation request the Minister to examine alternative methods of funding capital works including allowing the Board to avail of new sources and alternative methods of servicing loans."

"REPORT NO. CI

#### CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 1981

At the September 1980 meeting the Board adopted a report from the Capital Programme Committee outlining the total major Capital programme and indicating progress made on various projects. The Board also decided at that time to request the Minister for Health to receive a deputation to convey to him its concern at the inadequacy of the funds provided for capital and maintenance works. A decision on that request is awaited. A copy of the September Report was circulated to members of the Committee on 30th December, 1980 together with:-

- (a) the Basic schedule of Major Capital projects;
- (b) an updated Progress Report - December 1980 and
- (c) a Schedule showing dates of approvals etc. for major projects as requested by the Committee.

As will be seen from the Progress Report there is a large number of proposals at planning and tender stages awaiting a departmental decision to proceed. While this is so I propose, subject to the Board's approval, to now submit to the Department an updated list of top priorities relating to the Board as a whole and based on recommendations submitted by each of the programmes. The list of projects which we would hope to advance in 1981 is as follows:

**St. Brendan's Hospital. Improvements (including centralisation of Boilerhouse and Kitchens) and provision of replacement beds (250) and Day Accommodation.**

**Health Centre and Community Care Headquarters, Wicklow.**

**Vergemount Hospital, Clonskeagh. Upgrading and development of accommodation including additional beds for the elderly, extension of Psychiatric Clinic and Community Care Headquarters.**

**Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum. Youth Development Centre.**

**St. Ita's Hospital. Improvements and upgrading of accommodation (including Units V and W); provision and installation of Steam Boiler; roof replacement and renewal of electrical services.**

**Health Centre and Day Nursery, Rowlagh.**

**County Hospital, Naas. Development of Theatre, X-ray facilities and staff accommodation.**

**New Mental Handicap Centre at St. Columcille's Hospital, Lough Linstown.**

**Health Centre and Day Nursery, Ballybrack.**

**Welfare Home at Harold's Cross (and planning of two further Welfare Homes).**

**Health Centre, Blessington.**

**Cherry Orchard Hospital. Lassa Fever and Isolation accommodation.**

**Fire Alarm and ancillary works at St. Brigid's, Crooksling; St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park and District Hospital, Baltinglass.**

**St. Loman's Hospital. Improvements in patient care services including Fire Precautions, E.C.T. Unit and provision of Day Hospital.**

**Health Centre, Castledermot.**

**Health Centre, Athy.**

**St. Vincent's, Athy. Proceed with final stage of development.**

**St. Columcille's Hospital. Improvements and upgrading including Theatre, X-Ray and Dental services accommodation and mechanical services.**

**New Community Care Headquarters, Dun Laoghaire and Naas.**

**Newcastle Hospital. Improvements and upgrading including Kitchen improvements, Roof renewal and provision of new Admission Unit.**

**While there is no indication yet of the amount to be allocated for Capital Works for 1981 the attention of the Department will be drawn to the pressing need for funds to proceed with the planning of other projects, the purchase of sites for various services in all programmes and the provision of assistance for Voluntary Organisations in respect of Capital projects (See Appendix A attached).**

**in the submission of the priority list to the Department the Board's proposal to send a deputation to the Minister will be pursued. The terms of reference of the deputation are to request the Minister**

- (a) to provide sufficient funds to enable the Board to proceed with the many new projects'and maintenance and upgrading schemes now halted at various stages of planning (including accommodation for the Chief Psychiatrist's Unit and Research and Development Service at St. James's Hospital);**
- (b) to devise a coherent, balanced and equitable policy for the allocation of funds to the Board and to voluntary hospitals and other organisations providing health services and;**
- (c) to press for early approval to proceed with the planning of the proposed new Office Block and other facilities to replace accommodation to be vacated at St. James's**

Hospital. Failing this, approval will be sought to negotiate for the leasing of suitable premises. The urgency of this matter has been emphasised in earlier correspondence with the Department.

5th January ,1981.

**APPENDIX A COMMUNITY  
CARE SERVICE**

**VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS- REQUESTS FOR  
GRANTS UNDER SECTION 65  
OF HEALTH ACT, 1953**

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<b>Approved Schools</b>	
Goldenbridge 2 Group Homes	200,000
Repairs to existing accommodation	200,000
Madonna House Educational Centre	100,000
St. Anne's, Kilmacud — additional 10 places	15,000
Miss Carr's Home — additional places	45,000
Hope — purchase house to replace Harcourt Street premises	70,000
<b>Day Nurseries</b>	
Liberty Creche - replace	200,000
St. Bridget's, Mountjoy Square - Extension	30,000
St. Helena's, Day Nursery, Finglas - Upgrade	10,000
<b>Family Resource Centres</b>	
St. Dominic's, Tallaght	10,000
Weaver Square, Cork Street	60,000
Geraldstown House, Ballymun	45,000
<b>Child Care &amp; Youth Projects</b>	
Rialto Parish Development -	
1. Child & Youth Project	
2. Services for Disabled/Elderly	15,000
Inner City Child Care & Youth Projects — acquisition of premises	150,000
<b>Services for Disabled/Elderly/Homeless</b>	
Irish Wheelchair Association —	
Day Centre at Clontarf	200,000
Back Lane Night Shelter - Roof repairs etc.	75,000
Iveagh Hostel — accommodation for	
Medical/Welfare centre	15,000
Armagh Road — Day Centre	20,000
Women's Aid — Replace Harcourt Tee. premises (3/4 houses)	100,000



Hostel for homeless women and children — Bray	70,000
Salvation Army — Hostel accommodation for women	40,000
Dun Laoghaire Corporation — Day Care for Elderly, Glenageary	100,000
Assisi Trust, Navan Road — Accommodation for Elderly"	

Following discussion to which Ald. FitzGerald, Prof. McCormick, Dr. Behan, Cllr. Stagg, Cllr. Durkan, Cllr. Carroll contributed the report was adopted on a proposal by Dr. Behan seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

**6/81 HEALTH (MENTALSERVICES) BILL 1980  
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM AND  
REPORT No. 1/1981**

Report No. 1/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer having been circulated was considered. After some discussion it was agreed that the views of the Chief Psychiatrist on the Bill should be circulated to the members, and his report together with the Chief Executive Officer's report could then be discussed in more detail at the Special Meeting arranged for 15th January 1981.

**7/81 PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL  
(HEALTH) COMMITTEES**

**(a) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee held on  
19/12/1980**

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Freehill it was agreed that the report be noted. It was agreed also that Cllr. H. Reilly would serve on the Board's Committee which had been established in connection with the International Year of Disabled Persons.

**(b) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee held on  
1/12/1980**

On a proposal by Cllr. Hand seconded by Cllr. Carroll the report was noted.

**(c) Dublin City Local (Health) Committee held on  
9/12/1980**

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

Cllr. Glenn had undertaken at the Local Health Committee to draw the attention of the Board to the following two motions considered at the Local Health Committee meeting:—

- (A) "To call on the Eastern Health Board to develop a scheme for optional short maternity stays in hospitals, of 6 hours or 48 hours, hospital care to be replaced by community services based on district midwives and doctor. This would ensure the best of medical expertise at a crucial time with all the benefits of the home environment for infant and mother."
- (B) "In view of the alarming misuse of drugs as pointed out by both Dr. Kelly and Inspector Mullins, this Committee strongly recommends the updating of legislation to curb this trend so that each new drug or preparation can be put into its appropriate schedule."

In relation to motion at (a) above it was agreed, as suggested by Cllr. Glenn, that the proposal be taken into account in the development of Community Care services.

A discussion took place in relation to motion at (B) above to which Cllrs. Durkan, Glenn, Carroll, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Walker, Prof. McCormick and Prof. O'Donnell contributed. It was agreed to make the report of Dr. Kelly available to members of the Board. It was also agreed that the terms of this motion would be conveyed to the appropriate minister and that he be informed of the concern expressed by the members of the Board at the increase in the number of drug abusers. They supported the view that there is need for updated legislation.

8/81

#### MOTIONS TABLED

- (a) Dr. Behan requested permission to withdraw for the present the motion tabled in his name and this was agreed.
- (b) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney and seconded by Cllr. Hynes:—

'That this Board considers putting up a Mobile Dental Suite to serve rural areas.'

Following discussion on the motion Mr. Donohoe undertook to present a report from the Chief Dental Officer in this matter.

- (c) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. H. Reilly:

'That the wife or husband who is not the wage earner of the house be covered for full dental treatment by the social welfare contributions of the wage earner.'

