

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, Dublin 7, on Thursday 5th March 1981 at 6 p.m.

PRESENT

Or. J.D. Behan	Cllr. F. Hynes
Mrs. B. Bonar	Ms. N. Kearney
Cllr. D. Browne	Sr. Columba McNamara
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mr. M. Matthews
Cllr. B.J. Durkan	Dr. A. Meade
Alderman A. FitzGerald	Cllr. H. Reilly
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. A. Groome	Cllr. J. Timmins, T.D.
Cllr. T. Hand P.C.	Dr. J. Walker
Mr. K. Harrington	Cllr. Mrs. M. Waugh
Cllr. P. Hickey. P.C.	

APOLOGIES

Prof. J.S. Doyle and Cllr. M. Freehill

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr. D. Browne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P.B. Segrave	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. J. J. Nolan	Mr. L. Dockrell
Mr. F. Donohue	Miss A. Flanagan
Mr. T. Keyes	Mr. C. Murphy
Mr. P.J. Swords	Mr. M. O'Connor
Mr. J. Reynolds	Mr. M. Cummins
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. J. Leech
Mr. P.I. Lyons	Miss M. McGahern
Prof. I. Browne	Miss S. Keegan
Mr. J. Doyle	Miss B. Kelly
Mr. F. McCullough	

25/81

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed members of the recent deaths of Mr. Jimmy Moran who had been employed as General Foreman at 1 James's Street for over 30 years and of Mr. Michael Cunningham who had been a member of the first Eastern Health Board and of Kildare County Council. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

26/81 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) The Chairman advised members that Miss T. McDonagh, Supervising Catering Superintendent, had recently won the "Caterer of the Year" award. The members requested that their congratulations be conveyed to Miss McDonagh.

(b) The Chairman informed the members of the Minister for Health's expression of thanks to the staff of the Board for the manner in which they had responded following the recent tragic fire in Artane. The members added their thanks to the staff concerned and requested that they be informed accordingly.

**27/81 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 5th
FEBRUARY 1981**

Minutes of monthly meeting held on 5th February 1981 having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

28/81 QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr. Sweeney, seconded by Cllr. Hynes it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer answer the questions lodged.

(1) Question - CLLR. B J. DURKAN

'That the Programme Manager would indicate the number of children in County Kildare seeking speech therapy and further indicate the number of sessions each child can expect in a year, and to state whether or not the situation is satisfactory.'

Reply

"As Speech Therapists are in short supply, it has not been possible to assign more than one of them to Kildare for the provision of services there. At the end of January 1981, there were 291 children awaiting assessment, and these were being seen at the rate of 5 per week. There are 225 assessed children in need of regular therapy and these are also being attended to at the rate of 5 per week. Four Speech Therapists being sponsored by the Board are expected to qualify this autumn, and in an effort to reduce the waiting list in Kildare, it may be possible to assign one of these to that area."

(2) Question - CLLR. B J. DURKAN

'To ask the Programme Manager to indicate the current waiting list of children seeking orthodontic treatment in

- (a) The Board's entire administrative area
- (b) In County Kildare
- (c) In County Wicklow

and also to indicate the measures to be taken to reduce the numbers seeking treatment of this nature and also to inform the Board of the projected time factor for dealing with the matter."

Reply

At present orthodontic treatment is provided in the following manner:—

Dublin

- (a) by Dental Officers in Health Board Clinics
- (b) by Dental Officers in Health Board Clinics after consultation with an Orthodontist
- (c) by the Dublin Dental Hospital

Kildare

- (a) by Dental Officers
- (b) by an Orthodontist — on a sessional basis
- (c) in the Dublin Dental Hospital

Wicklow

- (a) by Dental Officers
- (b) by an Orthodontist — on a fee per case basis
- (c) in the Dublin Dental Hospital

Children requiring complicated orthodontic treatment are referred to the Dublin Dental Hospital, or to an Orthodontist (Wicklow and Kildare). In addition, children with simple defects, who are suitable for student teaching purposes, are treated at the Dublin Dental Hospital. In July, 1980 there were 138 Health Board patients undergoing orthodontic treatment at the Dublin Dental Hospital. However, the Hospital has closed its waiting list, and it will not be re-opened for some time. Consequently all patients awaiting complicated orthodontic treatment are at present put on a waiting list pending the appointment of a Consultant Orthodontist.

The Eastern Health Board has created a post of Consultant Orthodontist as part of its plans to improve the Orthodontic services, and the Minister for Health indicated recently (at the opening of Dental Health Week) that this post would be advertised by the Local Appointments Commission within a few months, after discussions with interested organisations. It is not possible to indicate how long it will be before the person appointed takes up duty, as this will depend on

factors outside the Board's control. When the Consultant is appointed a number of Senior Clinical Dental Surgeon Posts in Orthodontics will be created. The persons appointed will work on a full-time basis providing orthodontic treatment, after an initial period of training under the guidance of the Consultant. It is hoped to create four of these posts initially. In addition, the Consultant Post will have a link with the Dublin Dental Hospital, with a training pathway for future Consultants and consequently. House Officers and Registrars will be available to treat the Board's patients. It is not possible to put a time scale on these developments as they will depend to a large extent on factors outside the Board's control.

Concomitant with the development of the orthodontic services, will be the need to employ hygienists whose duties will be in the oral hygiene field and who will work to the Consultant and the Senior Clinical Dental Surgeon. An amendment to the Dentists Act, 1928 (or a new Dentist Act) will be needed however before the Board can employ hygienists.

Children are provided with orthodontic treatment only if they fulfil the following conditions:—

1. The orthodontic defect must be such that it affects mastication or speech, or that it is likely to damage other structures in the mouth or that it makes the patient feel at a disadvantage socially or psychologically.
2. Oral hygiene must reach a satisfactory standard.
3. All conservative treatment and reparative work must be completed.
4. The child and the parents must be aware of the implications of orthodontic treatment and must give a guarantee that the patient will attend at regular intervals for a period of 18 months to 3 years. The pattern of the child's attendance at the clinic prior to the commencement of active orthodontic treatment is an important factor in determining whether orthodontic treatment should be provided or not.

The following indicates the numbers on waiting lists in Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare:—

Dublin

No. referred for treatment and awaiting assessment

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. in Health Board Clinics by Dental Officers | 347 |
| 2. in Dental Hospital | 75 |
| 3. by Consultant Orthodontist | 130 |

Wicklow	
No. referred for treatment and awaiting assessment	100
Kildare	
No. awaiting assessment	90
No. on waiting list	1,200

This last number includes many who are not yet ready for assessment and is an indication of the number of children with orthodontic defects rather than the number who are ready for treatment. Patients are taken off the waiting lists and assessed for treatment by the Consultant Orthodontist when he requires new patients.

It could be said that more than 50 per cent of children have some dental irregularity, but less than half of this number really require any active appliance therapy. Many cases in which the predominant aetiological factor is a disproportion between tooth and jaw with consequent crowding may be satisfactorily resolved by appropriate extractions without any active appliance therapy. The fact that a patient has not a perfectly aligned set of teeth does not mean that active appliance therapy is necessary, and in these circumstances the demand for treatment often exceeds the real need."

(3) Question-DR. J. BE HAN

"Would the Chief Executive Officer please list the institutions under the Board's control, stating when they were last inspected for fire safety; by whom; whether they have been certified by the Chief Fire Officer as safe for use, listing in full the guidelines and laws upon which the safety is decided."

Reply

Attached herewith is a list of the Hospitals/Homes under the control of the Board. The Board's Fire Prevention Officer, Mr. L. Dockreli, has visited all these institutions within the last six (6) months as part of an on-going programme of work. He is in regular consultation with senior medical and nursing officers in all matters pertaining to fire safety. Staff awareness to the potential dangers of fire and how to deal with an actual incident should one arise is of paramount importance to effect good fire prevention. Lectures, films, demonstrations and simulated exercises coupled with the issue of fire prevention leaflets and the posting of Fire Orders and signs are an integral part of the awareness programme.

For existing buildings the 1940 Fire Brigades Act provides that an authorised officer of each Sanitary Authority is entitled to inspect any building which "he believes or suspects to be a potentially dangerous building". This Act also empowers such an officer to issue a fire precautionary notice. There does not appear to be any legal provision for the certification that any health building is "safe for use".

In regard to new buildings approval for planning permission is subject to meeting the requirements of the Chief Fire Officer of the Local Authorities concerned. In addition we submit any major schemes of alteration or improvement to the Chief Fire Officer for his approval even though these schemes do not require an application for planning permission under the relevant legislation.

The main guidelines which we follow are:-

1. Specific requirements of the appropriate Chief Fire Officers.
2. Fire Protection Standards — Department of Local Government.
3. Relevant Irish and British Standards.
4. Rules of Fire Officers Committee.
5. Draft Buildings Regulations.
6. Technical Memoranda — Department of Health and Social Security.

LIST OF HOSPITALS/HOMES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD

St. Brendan's	St. Colman's
St. Ita's	St. Mary's
St. Loman's	St. Vincent's
Central Mental Hospital	St. Clare's
Newcastle	St. Patrick's
Clarehaven	Bru Chaoimhin
St. Broc's	Naas Co.
The Orchard	Wicklow
Cherry Orchard	Legion of Mary
Clonskeagh	Baltinglass
St. Columcille's	St. Brigid's

(4) Question - DR. J.D. BEHAN

"Would the Chief Executive Officer please state in respect of each of the institutions under the Board's control whether the level of fire prevention is adequate, whether adequate communications, access to and escape routes from the institutions exist, whether the staffing levels are sufficiently high to ensure adequate surveillance, whether materials of a flammable nature are used in furniture and bedding and whether, under the guidelines and laws on fire safety, the Chief Fire Officer has certified this to be so."

Reply

In order to obtain the views of the Chief Fire Officers, I have requested the Managers of the appropriate Local Authorities in our region to have all our institutions inspected in relation to fire safety.

29/81 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 Newcastle Hospital on 21st January 1981

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

Cllr. Sweeney stated that some maintenance work was urgently required in Newcastle Hospital, and, following a discussion to which Cllrs. Timmins and Waugh contributed, the Chairman stated that he has requested the Chief Executive Officer to examine this matter as soon as possible.

- (b) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Area 8 on 27th January 1981

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

**30/81 LETTER 9.1.81 FROM
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ENCLOSING EXTRACTS
FROM DAIL DEBATES**

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME - REPORT ON DEPUTATION TO
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

It was agreed that these two items on the Agenda should be taken together.

The following report on the Deputation to the Minister for Health on 23rd February 1981 had been circulated to the members.

The Minister for Health had invited the deputation to meet him to discuss the Board's priority listing of Capital Projects.

PRESENT:

The Minister for Health, accompanied by Dr. B.J. Hensey, Secretary, Mr. L. Flanagan, Assistant Secretary, Mr. D. Devitt, Principal Officer, Mr. T. Enright, Mr. J. Geary.

Cllr. D. Browne, Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn, Vice-Chairman, Dr. J. Behan, Cllr. M. Carroll, Cllr. F. Hynes, Mr. P.B. Segrave, Chief Executive Officer, accompanied by Mr. F. Donohue, Mr. T. Keyes, Mr. P.J. Swords, and Mr. J. Sadlier, and Mr. J. Clarke.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. E. Stagg.

The Minister welcomed the deputation and expressed his regret for an unavoidable delay in arrival. He stated that he wished to avail of the opportunity to formally convey to the Board his appreciation of the part played by the Board's services in the implementation of the Major Accident Plan in the recent tragic fire in Artane.

The Chairman thanked the Minister for receiving the deputation. He had asked the Chief Executive Officer and the Programme Managers to prepare submissions outlining and elaborating upon the priority listing already submitted with the Board's letter of 12th January, 1981 and set out in the accompanying report No. C1 dated 5th January, 1981.

The Chief Executive Officer outlined the problems facing the Board in endeavouring to meet the needs of the area and dealt with them under the following headings:

- (a) providing services for one-third of the population of the State in an area with unique problems and major population shifts and changes;
- (b) emerging new towns on the perimeter of Dublin City far removed from existing services and in other growth centres in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow;
- (c) emerging problems in the inner City area;
- (d) growing dependancy ratios in population, particularly in the numbers of the elderly and children;
- (e) the deterioration in the condition of what are, in the main, old buildings and an inadequate level of maintenance funding over a long period.

He pointed out that the Board had over a period of years developed plans to meet these needs and it was imperative that money be provided to enable these plans to proceed.

The Programme Managers in their submissions have

- (a) a profile of their Programmes;
- (b) an outline of needs and
- (c) an outline of plans prepared to develop services and to upgrade premises and provide new facilities together with examples of the problems involved in doing this.

Mr. Keyes dealt with the Psychiatric and Handicap services and as examples of proposals in the priority listing outlined the following:

- (a) development of Community Services, improvement in St. Brendan's Hospital (including boiler house and kitchens) and the provision of 250 replacement beds;
- (b) provision of beds for adult mentally handicapped including 208 places at St. ColumciHe's Hospital, Loughlinstown.

Mr. Swords spoke of the progress made over the last ten years in providing beds for the elderly and gave details of plans to develop further urgently needed facilities in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow. He emphasised the role played by voluntary organisations in the provision of services and urged that adequate financial assistance be made available to enable them to continue and develop their work.

Mr. Donohue described the organisation of Community Care services and gave particulars of the facilities necessary (including Health Centres, community facilities, Welfare Homes and Area Headquarters) in a Community Care Area. He detailed the problems which had to be faced in servicing the new towns, the other growth centres in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow and in the inner City area.

In a discussion to which all members present contributed the following points in particular were made:

Cllr. Mrs. Glenn, speaking as Chairman of the Housing Committee of Dublin Corporation assured the Minister that full co-operation would be forthcoming in the provision of sites and in joint efforts to provide for e.g. the elderly. While wonderful improvements had been achieved in St. Ita's Hospital over recent years, she questioned the wisdom of spending money in trying to improve very old buildings, and advocated the provision of new purpose-built facilities. She was particularly anxious to see progress on the Board's plans for the development of services for the elderly.

Cllr. Carroll emphasised the importance of going ahead with necessary work on the boiler houses and the risks involved in deferring this work. He pressed the Minister to provide for the appointment of two Health Board representatives on the Board of Leopardstown Hospital and spoke of the acute shortage of beds for old people in the South Dublin area.

Cllr. Hynes requested that approval be given, as a matter of urgency, to the tender for the new Health Centre and Community Care Headquarters in Wicklow.

Dr. Behan pointed out that in addition to the twenty items on the priority listing, the Board was very concerned about the many other schemes halted at various stages of planning,

including accommodation for the Chief Psychiatrist's Unit and Research and Development Service at St. James's Hospital, as well as the new office block and other facilities required to replace accommodation to be vacated by the Board at St. James's. The needs of the Eastern Health Board were fundamentally different from those of other Boards. A radical change was required in the method of providing funds for Capital Works and he felt that finances should be provided on the basis of separate Capital Programmes, each to deal with a specific area of need, e.g. Psychiatric Services, Care of the Elderly, Mental Handicap, Community Care and maintenance of buildings. It was imperative that a new emphasis be placed on the development of Community Psychiatric Services.

The following points were made by the Minister in the course of the meeting:

He noted that while the Board had submitted a listing of priority items, these were not necessarily each in priority order;

He expressed interest in further development of an arrangement with the local authorities concerned whereby sites would be ear-marked by them in new housing developments for the full range of community health facilities;

He enquired if any of the stock of unsuitable or surplus premises might be disposed of;

He pointed out that the amount of money available was limited and that he would communicate further with the Board in the matter.

He proposed that a project team be set up to examine the whole question of the future of St. Brendan's Hospital and its role in the context of the continuing development of community services. The Committee would consist of officers of the Department of Health and officers of the Board. (Members of the deputation expressed concern that urgent items of repair and upgrading essential to a proper standard of patient care might be held up unduly pending completion of such an examination. They were particularly concerned to ensure that work on fire precautions, re-roofing and work on new boiler houses would be completed before next Winter. The Minister, however, envisaged that the team would complete its task within a period of two months).

The Chairman in thanking the Minister for receiving the deputation expressed the wish of the Board that such meetings would be held on a continuing basis and so facilitate a close working relationship between the Department and the Board. The Minister said he hoped to be able to arrange dis-

cussions on Community Care services and on services for the aged on which topic the Board had already sought the reception of a deputation."

Following a detailed discussion on the contents of the Dail Debates of 17th December 1980 relating to conditions in St. Brendan's Hospital and on the report of the Deputation to the Minister for Health on 23rd February 1981 to which the following contributed: Councillors Durkan, Carroll, Browne, Hynes, Mrs. Glenn, Ald. FitzGerald, Mrs. Waugh, Dr. Behan, Dr. Walker and Ms. Kearney, the following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan, seconded by Cllr. Durkan:—

"Proposed that the establishment and composition of a Project Team for St. Brendan's, as outlined in the report of the deputation of the meeting on 23rd February 1981, be postponed pending the receipt of the specific terms of reference of the Project Team from the Minister so that the Board has an opportunity of participating in the establishment of the brief and terms of reference of the Project Team and so that the Board has the opportunity of establishing the policy context in which the Project Team is to work and report."

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr. Durkan, seconded by Alderman FitzGerald:—

'That in light of the Minister's statements in the Dail, on 17/12/1980 regarding the running of the psychiatric services by the Eastern Health Board, this Board proposes to postpone participation in the Project Team proposed by the Minister when he met a Board deputation, pending the preparation of a comprehensive reply by the Board to the Minister's statements of 17/12/1980."

Cllr. Durkan's amendment was put to the meeting and on a show of hands was declared lost. Dr. Behan's motion was then put to the meeting and on a show of hands was declared lost.

The following motion was then proposed by Alderman FitzGerald, seconded by Cllr. Durkan:—

'That an early financial statement be prepared on St. Brendan's Hospital dealing in particular with the Minister's statement on the Board's apparent ability to freely spend over £1 million in the three years 1977—1979"

and unanimously agreed.

In the course of the discussion on the Dail Debates of 17th December, 1980 it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Minister for Health requesting clarification of the matters referred to in the Report of the Debate.

The members of the deputation accepted the report as an accurate record of the meeting with the Minister (Dr. Behan dissenting, and the Board agreed to the establishment of a project team as set out in the report.

**31/81 HEALTH (MENTAL SERVICES) BILL 1980-
MEMORANDUM FROM DR. J. BEHAN**

On a proposal by Cllr. Glenn, seconded by Cllr. Hickey it was unanimously agreed to hold a special meeting on 19th March 1981 at 6.00 p.m. to consider further the Health (Mental Services) Bill 1980. It was agreed that the report of the Chief Psychiatrist should also be available to the members at the Special Meeting.

**32/81 SUB-COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN IN CARE AND THE
SERVICES BEING PROVIDED FOR THEM -
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

It was unanimously agreed that this item should be placed on the Agenda for the April meeting of the Board.

**33/81 TEMPORARY BORROWING -
REPORT NO. 6/1981**

The following report No. 6/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"At meeting held on 4th December, 1980 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £1.5 million during the quarter ending 31st March, 1981.

It is considered that similar overdraft accommodation may be required during the June quarter 1981.

Accordingly, I request that the Board consents to borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 30th June 1981 up to a maximum of £1.5 million."

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Hickey, the Board consented to the proposals contained in the report.

**34/81 NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF THE
MEATH HOSPITAL - REPORT NO. 7/1981**

The following report No. 7/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

"Under the Meath Hospital Act 1951 and the Health Act 1970 (Adaptation) Regulations 1972 the Eastern Health Board appoint eleven members to the Meath Hospital Board. The year 1981 is an election year and the period of office of the present Health Board members expires on 6th April, 1981.

For the information of the members the following are its current representatives:—

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	67 Shantalla Rd., Dublin 9
Cllr. D. Browne	70 Ramillies Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.
Mr. P.J. Burke	251 Swords Rd., Santry, Dublin 9.
Cllr. M. Carroll	122 Deansgrange, Kill Lane, Foxrock.
Ald. A. FitzGerald	13 Merrion Row, Dublin 2
Dr. G.D. Hurley	X-Ray Dept., Meath Hospital
Dr. A. McInemey	Huntstown House, Mulhuddart
Mr. T. McManus	S.E.O., Eastern Health Board
Mr. J.J. Nolan	Deputy C.E.O., Eastern Health Board
Mr. P.J. Swords	Programme Manager, Eastern Health Board

Mr. H. Corrigan, 80 Malahide Road, Dublin 3, who also represented the Health Board, resigned from the Health Board in September 1980.

The Meath Hospital have requested that the Board nominate eleven members to serve on their Board for three years from April, 1981. It is a matter for the Board to so arrange."

The following were nominated to serve on the Board of the Meath Hospital for three years from April 1981.

Mr. P.J. Burke	Cllr. A. Groome
Dr. J.D. Behan	Ms. N. Kearney
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mr. T. McManus
Mr. F. Hynes	Mr. J.J. Nolan
Cllr. D. Browne	Mr. P.J. Swords
Ald. A. FitzGerald	

35/81 **CREATION OF TWO POSTS OF
SUPERVISING HEALTH INSPECTOR -
REPORT NO. 8/1981**

The following report No. 8/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"A Working Party set up under the Local Government Staff Negotiations Board recommended a new grading structure for Health Inspectors outside the Dublin Area.

The Department of Health approved the recommendations of the Working Party and suggested that each Health Board create a post of Supervising Health Inspector in each Community Care Area. The Programme Manager, Community Care, agrees with the creation of posts in Wicklow and Kildare.

I recommend that the Board approve the creation of two posts of Supervising Health Inspector, one each of which should be assigned to Wicklow and Kildare."

On a proposal by Dr. Walker, seconded by Dr. Behan, the proposals contained in the report were approved.

**36/81 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND
MEDICINES (TRIDENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS)**

It was unanimously agreed that this item should be placed on the Agenda for the April meeting of the Board.

**37/81 PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL (HEALTH)
COMMITTEES**

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

(a) Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee
meeting
held on 13/1/1981

On a proposal by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Waugh, the report was noted.

(b) Wicklow Local (Health) Committee meeting held
on
16/1/1981

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

(c) Kildare Local (Health) Committee meeting held
on
22/1/1981

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

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Glenn and agreed unanimously:—

"That this Board recommends to the Minister for Health that, in the fight of recent food price increases, he make . arrangements for the introduction of a food subsidy scheme to cater for Social Welfare recipients."

**(d) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee meeting
held on 2/2/1981**

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

The following motion, which had been agreed at the meeting held on 2nd February 1981, was proposed by Mrs. Bonar, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and unanimously agreed:

"That the Minister for Health increase the number of inspectors of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland by three".

38/1981 NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) The following motion was proposed by Mrs. Bonar, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and unanimously agreed:—

"That this Board wants to know the reason why a Report of the N.D.A.B. (National Drugs Advisory Board) 197701978, on the side effects of Hormones has not been published."

(b) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Groome:—

"That this Board would request the Minister for Health to specify an income level of assessment to be used in determining entitlements under the Free Fuel Scheme."

Following a discussion to which Ald. FitzGerald, Cllrs. Carroll and Sweeney contributed the motion was agreed.

(c) The following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan, seconded by Ald. FitzGerald.

"That in line with the Minister for the Environment's recent directive to local authorities and to fire safety authorities to inspect and close down any place of public entertainment or utility which is, in their opinion, a fire hazard, the Board arrange to have carried out a similar survey and inspection of its institutions and to remedy or close down forthwith any institutions not complying with fire safety regulations and requirements, unless otherwise*directed by the Minister for Health: and to achieve this that the Board now arrange for an independent fire safety inspector to inspect and report forthwith upon the safety of all its institutions."

Following a discussion to which Dr. Behan, Ald. FitzGerald, Cllr. Durkan and Mr. Matthews contributed the Chairman

stated that the Chief Executive Officer had requested the Managers of the appropriate Local Authorities in the region to have all Health Board institutions inspected in relation to fire safety. Or. Behan agreed to await the report of the Chief Fire Officers.

(d) The following motion was proposed by Dr. Behan:—

'That the Board mandate the Chief Psychiatrist to take such steps as are necessary to establish forthwith and co-ordinate an adequate level of crisis intervention, treatment and support service for those persons suffering from psychological distress and illness consequent on the recent fire disaster in North Dublin.'

Mr. Keyes, Programme Manager, reported that he had discussions with Prof. I. Browne, Chief Psychiatrist and that the Clinical Director and three Consultant Psychiatrists who are responsible for the particular area are dealing with the situation in co-operation with the Director of Community Care & Medical Officer of Health. The matter is being kept under daily review. Following a discussion to which dlr. Glenn, Dr. Walker, Ms.Keamey contributed it was agreed to note the terms of Mr. Keyes's report.

39/81

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive Officer advised the members that strike notice to take effect from Monday 9th March 1981 had been received from the Local Government & Public Services Union on behalf of certain grades of Para-Medical staff. Two meetings had been arranged for Friday 6th March with a view to reaching a settlement and he hoped that the outcome of these meetings would be satisfactory. The members would be kept advised of the situation if a strike materialised.

Cllr. Carroll urged that support be given to a Voluntary Committee concerned with patients' welfare at St. Brendan's Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.

Correct: P.B. Segrave

Chief Executive Officer

Signed:

CHAIRMAN