

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

21/5/1981

Minutes of Proceedings of Special Meeting of the
Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom,
St. Brendan's Hospital, on Thursday 21st May 1981
at 6 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. L. Belton T.D.,	Cllr. T. Leonard T.D.,
Mrs. B. Bonar	Or. P. McCarthy
Cllr. D. Browne	Or. A. Meade
Cllr. M. Carroll	Dr. B. Powell
Cllr. Mrs.A. Glenn	Cllr. H. Reilly
Cllr. A. Groome	Dr. B. Sheehan
Or. K. Harrington	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Cllr. F. Hynes	Cllr. G. Timmins T.D.,
Or. D. G. Kelly	

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Freehill, Cllr. Hickey, Ms. Kearney
Dr. McCormick and Dr. Walker

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr D. Browne, Chairman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

MR P. B. Segrave	Mr. J. Doyle
Mr F Donohue	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr T Keyes	Mr. M. O'Connor
Mr J. Reynolds	Mr. C. Murphy
Mr. P. J. Swords	Mr. P. Sheehan
Mr. J. Clarke	Mr. R. Keane
Mr. J. Sadlier	Mr. M. Cummins
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Mr. J. Leech
Mr. F. McCullough	Mr. T. Mahon
	Miss E. Larkin

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members that the working group established by the Minister for Health in August 1980 to consider the future organisation of the general hospital services in south-east Dublin and east Wicklow had issued its report.

The report will be pieced on the agenda for a future Board meet and in the meantime, a copy of the report will be sent to each member for consideration.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEES

Reports of the following Local (Health) Committee meetings having been circulated were dealt with as follows:

(i) Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee
held on 10th March 1981.

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

(ii) Wicklow Local (Health) Committee
held on 20th March 1981

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

(iii) Kildare Local (Health) Committee
held on 26th March 1981

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

(iv) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee
held on 6th April 1981

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

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NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney,
Seconded by Cllr. Hynes, and agreed:

"That owing to the lack of facilities in the area, this Board proceed as quickly as possible to provide

- (b) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Sweeney, and seconded by Cllr. Timmins

"That this Board recommend to the Minister for Health the provision of a Hospital near or within a reasonable distance of Arklow in the future."

The Chairman stated that the members would have an opportunity to discuss the Report of the working party on Hospital Services for South-East Dublin and East Wicklow at a future meeting of the Board and following discussion to which Cllr. Sweeney, Cllr. Timmins, and Cllr. Carroll contributed, the motion was agreed unanimously.

- (c) The following motion, which had been tabled by Cllr. Freehill, was moved by the Chairman Cllr. Browne, at her request.

"That Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance continues to be paid to chronic psychiatric patients while in hospital, and that a system be established whereby the patient can make a contribution from their allowance towards their hospital maintenance."

Cllr. Browne suggested that, having regard to the limited number of patients involved and the legal implications the motion might be referred to the Programme Managers Special Hospital Care and Community Care for discussion with Cllr. Freehill. If a satisfactory solution cannot be found, Cllr. Freehill could re-submit the motion to a future meeting. The members agreed with the Chairman's suggestion.

- (d) The following motion which had been tabled by Cllr. E. Stagg was, in his absence, on the suggestion of the Chairman and with the agreement of the members, referred to Mr. Keyes for attention.

"That the grant from the E.H.B. to Kare (Kildare Association for Handicapped Children) be increased to £251,000 which is the amount required to cover the day to day running costs of that organisation in 1981. In the event of these funds not being available from the E.H.B. that the Board Mould ask the Minister for Health to make the extra monies available."

- (e) The following motion was proposed by Mrs. Bonar and seconded
Cllr. Mrs. Glenn:

"That the Eastern Health Board supports the 'PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT CAMPAIGN' to amend the Constitution of Ireland in order to guarantee protection for the right to life of the unborn child from conception."

Following a discussion to which Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Glenn, Dr. Powell, Dr. Harrington, Cllr. Groome and Cllr. Sweeney con tribu the motion was agreed. It was also agreed that the terms of the motion should be circulated to the other health boards.

The Chairman suggested that points raised by Dr. Powell during the discussion might be the subject of a separate motion at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

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FINAL REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE SERVICES - REPORT No. 15/1981

The following Report No. 15/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"The Task Force was set up by the Government in 1974 and under the co-ordination of the Department of Health was given the following terms of reference:-

- (i) to make recommendations on the extension and improvement of services for deprived children and children at risk;
- (ii) to prepare a new Children's Bill, up-dating and modernising the law in relation to children;
- (iii) to make recommendations on the administrative reforms which may be necessary to give effect to proposals at (i) and (ii) above.

An Interim Report was published in 1975 specifying the aspects of child care then considered to be the most in need of urgent attention. Considerable progress has been made towards implementint those initial recommendations.

The Final Report, a copy of which has been sent to each Member, consists of (1) a main report to which all the members at tine of publication subscribed (2) a supplementary report by two members and (3) four reservation reports by individual members.

The main report lists a total of 97 recommendations, setting out its detailed consideration of administration (national and regional) social services, family support services, day care, foster care, residential care, the Constitution, juvenile justice and other areas of child care. It does not contain recommendations on adoption, which it considers should be studied separately.

A minority report disagrees with this view and makes its own recommendations. The task force did not prepare a new Children's Bill.

There is also a very extensive minority report which could, in many respects, be considered as an alternative to the main report. There are also recommendations outside the current scope of Health legislation and some within the ambit of other Departments of State.

As these raise basic issues, it may be necessary to have broad policy decisions at national level before useful decisions can be taken or the role and function of our Board in relation to the report can be determined".

The Chief Executive Officer, in introducing his report, described the Final Report of the Task Force on Child Care Services as an important Report and made the following observations in relation to broad policy implications for the Board:

- (a) The report envisages Health Boards providing a lead role in Child Care Services.
- (b) However some of the recommendations could involve the Board in a supervisory rather than a caring role.
- (c) Other responsibilities proposed for health boards are for services now provided by other Departments and which they are finding difficult to provide and to manage.
- (d) Many of the services proposed for transfer to Health Boards are very expensive to provide and the Board would have to be satisfied that adequate resources would be made available to it at the same time as additional responsibilities were placed on it.
- (e) Broad policy decisions may have to be taken at national level before the role and function of the Health Board can be determined.

Cllr. Mrs. Gleen suggested that the members should have an opportunity to discuss the Report in a meaningful way and requested that a summary of relevant sections of the Report should be prepared for their information. The members agreed with her suggestion.

The meeting concluded at 6.45 p.m.

CORRECT. P.B. Segrave

Chief Executive Officer

Signed....


CHAIRMAN