

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

*Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held at St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow
on Thursday 4 June 1981 at 6 pm.*

PRESENT

*Dr J D Behan
Mrs B Bonar MPSI
Cllr D Browne
Cllr M Carroll
Cllr E Doyle
Cllr A Croome
Mr K Harrington
Cllr FHynes
Ms N Kearney*

*Sr Columba McNamara
Mr M Matthews
Dr A Meade
Dr B Powell
Cllr H Reilly
Dr B Sheehan
Cllr J Sweeney
Dr J Walker
Cllr Mrs M Waugh*

APOLOGIES

*Prof J S Doyle
Cllr B J Durkan
Ald A FitzGerald*

*Cllr Mrs A Glenn
Prof J McCormick*

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr D Browne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

*Mr F J Donohue
Mr T Keyes
Mr PJ Swords
Mr J Clarke
Mr J Reynolds
Mr J Sadlier
Mr PI Lyons
Mr J Doyle
Mr F McCullough
Mr A O'Brien
Dr. C Warde.*

*Mr M O'Connor
Mr E Dunphy
Mr K Ward
Mr M Cummins
Mr J Hempenstall
Mr J Leech
Mr P O'Rourke
Miss B Kelly
Miss M Curtis
Mr P Byrne*

76/81

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed members of the recent deaths of Mr Christopher Dootey, who had been employed as a Clerical Officer in the Engineering Services at Cherry Orchard Hospital, and of the mother of Miss Mary Geoghegan, Assistant Matron, Cherry Orchard Hospital. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

77/81

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) The Chairman suggested that the Annual Meeting of the Board should be held at 6 pm on Thursday 2 July 1981. followed by the monthly meeting at 6.30 pm and this was agreed.

(b) The Chairman informed the members that Cllr James Miley. Chairman of the Wicklow Local (Health) Committee, who had been invited to attend the meeting, was ill in hospital. The members asked that good wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to him.

78/81

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Minutes of monthly meeting held on 7 May 1981

(b) Minutes of special meeting held on 21 May 1981

The minutes, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Hynes. seconded by Cllr Sweeney.

79/81

QUESTION

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

Alderman A FitzGerald

"Will the Chief Executive Officer indicate what is being done to provide adequate office facilities for both the general public and the staff of the Superintendent Registrar's Office now housed at 191 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. This office is dealing with what I understand to be a 100% increase in the issue of birth, marriage and death certificates in the last three years. Can the report deal with what capital is available in the form of a special recognition from the Department of Health for this purpose in view of the increasing public disquiet at the long queues outside the premises and the enforced short opening hours due to inadequate premises"

ANSWER

The eventual solution to the difficulties at the Board's Pearse Street Offices will be the same as for the Board's other offices which are inadequate for its purposes i.e. the provision of new office accommodation.

Provision is being made for the Superintendent Registrar's Offices in the office facilities to replace the Board's present Headquarters at 1 James's Street, the re-location of which, is required as a consequence of the development of St James's Hospital.

A possible alternative to this has been presented with the proposals of the Department of Health to re-locate the office of the Registrar General. The feasibility of including the Board's registration facilities with the new arrangement is being discussed with the Department of Health.

The position in Pearse Street at present is that, following on the change of opening hours, arrears of work have been completely cleared. The office remains open from 9 am -1 pm for personal callers, and postal applications are then dealt with by the staff in the afternoon. Postal applications are processed within 2-3 days of receipt.

The service is being continuously monitored, and it is the Board's intention to ensure that the personal service will continue to be available to the public on a daily basis, and that the processing of postal applications will be kept up to date.

Arrangements are also in hand to carry out some work in the Pearse Street office to improve the accommodation there."

80/81

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The report of the Community Care visiting Committee meeting held in Area 2 (Clonskeagh) on 28 April 1981 on a proposal by Cllr Mrs Waugh, seconded by Sr Columba, was noted.

81/81

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON THE ORGANISATION OF GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR SOUTH-EAST DUBLIN AND EAST WICKLOW AREA

Following a discussion to which Doctors Walker and Meade, Councillors Hynes, Sweeney and Carroll contributed and to which Mr Donohue and Mr Swords replied the following motion was proposed by Dr Meade, seconded by Cllr Sweeney and unanimously agreed:-

That this Meeting authorise the immediate implementation of the interim proposals (7, 8 & 9) (quoted hereunder) contained in the Working Party Report on the Organisation of General Hospital Services for South-East Dublin and East Wicklow area."

INTERIM PROPOSALS

7. The obstetrics and neo-natal unit should continue in St Columcille's Hospital pending the provision of the new hospital. The approaches which have already been made by the Eastern Health Board to the National Maternity Hospital, Holies Street, should be urgently pursued with a view to that hospital becoming directly involved in the operation of the obstetric and neo-natal unit at St Columcille's Hospital (Paragraph 6.14)
- 8 . Paediatric services should be provided in the new hospital as well as at St Vincent's Hospital. Paediatrics should be developed as soon as possible on an out-patient level, in the interim period, in St Colmcille's as in St Michael's Hospital and both hospitals should have paediatric consultation available to their children's wards. This service should be provided in direct association with Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin pending the provision of the unit at St Vincent's Hospital. (Paragraph 6.6)

9. In the interim period, the operation of St Columcille's Hospital particularly its consultant staffing should be put on a firm basis and developed at the appropriate level. Such should be brought about through joint appointments on a permanent basis between St Columcille's and St Vincent's. (Paragraph 6.(6))"

On the suggestion of Dr Walker it was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Board should be arranged to consider the report in detail.

82/81

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 17/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

'At meeting held on 5 March 1981 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £1.5 million during the quarter ending 30 June 1981.

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

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

On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney seconded by Mr Harrington, the Board consented to the proposals contained in the Report.

83/81

STAFFING - COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

The following Report no. 18/1961 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"I have received a recommendation from the Programme Manager, Community Care, that two additional posts of Community Welfare Officer, be created to meet the increasing demand on the Supplementary Welfare Allowance services. This demand is particularly noticeable in the new housing areas and districts of high unemployment.

The Programme Manager's recommendation follows investigations carried out by the Board's O & M Officer, and I concur with the recommendation and request the Board's approval to the creation of the two additional posts."

On a proposal by Ms Kearney, seconded by Mr Harrington, the report was adopted.

SHELTERED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY - RATHDRUM

The following report no. 19/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

The Board will be aware already from reports of the Visiting Committee of the considerable involvement by the St Colman's Patients' Fund Committee in the development of services for the aged and handicapped in County Wicklow.

The Committee has now advised the Board that it has been discussing the possibility of building flatlets for the aged and has asked if the Board would provide a site on land close to the existing hospital buildings

Discussions are taking place between the Committee and the officers of the Board. A further Report will be submitted."

Following a discussion, to which Councillors Sweeney, Hynes, Groome and Carroll contributed, the report was noted.

85/81

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEES

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

- (i) Dublin City Local (Health) Committee meeting held on 14 April, 1981

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

The Chairman referred to the request of the members of the Committee to visit the Health Centres at North Strand, Botanic Avenue and Marino and the members agreed that their request should be granted

- (ii) Dublin County Local (Health) Committee meeting held on 4 May 1981

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

- (iii) Dun Laoghaire Local (Health) Committee meeting held on 12 May 1981.

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

86/81

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Dr B Powell, seconded by Mrs B Bonar:-

That the Eastern Health Board, having supported the Pro-Life Amendment Campaign to amend the Constitution, establish a Committee to investigate the areas where possibilities exist to

- (i) Improve the education of the youth vis-a-vis this problem and

- (ii) Improve and upgrade the support systems already available for the woman with an unwanted pregnancy."

The following members were then nominated to serve on the Committee: Mrs B Bonar, Dr B Powell, Or B Sheehan, Miss N Kearney, Dr J Behan, Mr M Matthews, Cllr J Sweeney.

It was agreed that officers of the Board would prepare a report for the members of the Committee containing relevant background information.

87/81

CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary read letter dated 8 May 1981 from the Corporation of Dun Laoghaire notifying the Board that the following resolution had been passed by the Borough Council at its meeting on 4 May

That this Council opposes the proposed plan to remove the ambulance service from Dun Laoghaire fire station"

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer who will be submitting a report to the Board on the Ambulance Service.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm.

CORRECT: P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer



Signed

CHAIRMAN