

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St Brendan's Hospital,
on Thursday 6 August 1981 at 6 pm.**

PRESENT

Dr J D Behan

Cllr L Belton

Mrs B Bonar

Cllr D Browne

Cllr E Doyle

Cllr B J Durkan TD

Cllr A Groome

Mr K Harrington

Cllr P Hickey PC

Cllr F Hynes

Ms N Kearney

Dr P McCarthy

Sr Columba McNamara

Cllr H Reilly

Dr B Sheehan

Cllr G Timmins TD

Cllr J. Sweeney

APOLOGIES

Prof J S Doyle Ald A FitzGerald Dr J Walker

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr D Browne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P B Segrave

Mr F Donohue

Mr M Hayden

Mr T Keyes

Mr J Clarke

Mr J Sadlier

Mr PJ Swords

Prof B O'Donnell

Prof I Browne

Mr J Doyle

Mr F McCullough

Mr M Cummins

Miss E Larkin

Miss S Keegan

Miss R Carolan

Mr J Brennan

Mr J Leech

Mr K Ward

Mr J Cregan

103/81

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members of the recent death of Or W Snow who was a Medical Officer on the Board's G.M.S. panel.

The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

104/81

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF (a) Proceedings of 11th Annual Meeting of Eastern Health Board held on 2 July 1981 and

(b) Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Eastern Health Board on 2 July 1981

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

105/81

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The reports of the following Visiting Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:

- (a) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 24 June 1981

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

Cllr Hickey was advised by Mr Swords that work had commenced on the building of the Special Isolation Unit for Tropical Diseases. The actual building is scheduled for completion in about 8 weeks and to be fully fitted out in a short time afterwards.

Or McCarthy enquired about the number of patients refused admission to the Hospital to date this year. Mr Swords informed him that all urgent cases were admitted.

- (b) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St Mary's Hospital on 1 July 1981

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

Mr Harrington stated that he was pleased at the progress being made at St Mary's Hospital and stated that it was important that the Board should give its continued support to the post-graduate training courses for nurses.

- (c)' No. 2 visiting Committee meeting held at Usher's Island on 8 July 1981

On a proposal by Cllr E Doyle seconded by CHr Hynes the report was noted.

CHr Browne stated that he was agreeably surprised at the renovations carried out since his last visit. Professor Browne informed the Board that there is now a very active programme for day patients at the Centre. He is preparing a draft report on this which will shortly be ready for the Board.

- (d) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St Loman's Hospital on 15 July 1981

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

Mr Harrington referred to the condition of the roads in the Hospital, some of which are impassable in wet weather. He asked if money from the sale of lands could be utilised to finance work on the roads. Cllr Hynes supported this suggestion. Mr Segrave in reply stated that while there was a problem in providing the necessary funds out of the limited allocation available, he would be reluctant to recommend the spending of Capital funds for this work. He would have the matter further examined with a view to expediting the necessary repairs. Ms Kearney enquired about progress on the planning of the Child Psychiatric Unit. Mr Keyes. in reply, stated that the brief for the Unit was submitted to the Department last year and clearance was awaited.

106/81

STAFFING - COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

The following report no. 24/1981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

Further reports based on the 0 ft M survey of the case loads of Community Welfare Officers have been received. I have accepted recommendations on the need for two posts of Community Welfare Officer to serve in the Parnell Road, Terenure and Finglas areas. I have also accepted a recommendation that a further post is required for an initial period of six months to deal with arrears of work.

I request the Board's approval to the creation of the three additional posts, which will require the sanction of the Minister for Health.

The report was agreed unanimously.

107/81

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL (HEALTH) COMMITTEES

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

- (a) Wicklow Local (Health) Committee Meeting held on 15 May 1981

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

Ms Kearney was pleased to note that the fire safety aspect in relation to these homes was being investigated.

Following discussion to which Ms Kearney, Sr Columba, Cllr Browne and Dr Behan contributed. Mr Donohue stated that the final draft of a report of a Working Party on Geriatric Services was in course of preparation.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should continue his efforts to have suitable and adequate regulations introduced by the Dept of Health for the operation of private nursing homes in which the Board contributed to patients' maintenance, and report back to the Board in due course.

(b) Dublin City Local (Health) Committee Meeting held on 23 June 1981

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

Dr Behan considered that the motion in the name of Dr B McCaffrey -

That the Eastern Health Board provide facilities for Mother-and-Baby Unit in all of its acute psychiatric in-patient treatment centres

should be considered at a future meeting of the Board. It was agreed that this would be done when the legal implications are investigated.

108/81

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD - REPORT FOR YEAR 1980

The following report no. 2571981 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

The Report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board for 1980 has been circulated to the Board. The report shows that a total of £56,616,485 was paid to doctors and pharmacists for the year ended 31 December 1980 compared with a total of £46,770,461 paid the previous year, representing an increase of 21%.

GROSS EXPENDITURE (DOCTORS FEES AND MEDICINES)

	1978	1979	1980	%Increase on 1979
	£	£	£	
E.H.B.	9,839,923	11,449,729	13,817,308	21%
National	39,479,575	46,770,461	56,616,485*	21%

FEES PAID TO DOCTORS

	1978	1979	1980	%Increase on 1979
E.H.B.	3,004,409	3,551,659	4,072,791	15%
National	12,817,303	15,404,548	18,005,725	17%

INGREDIENT COST OF MEDICINES (INCLUDING V.A.T.)

	1978	1979	1980	%Increase on 1979
E.H.B.	4,918,195	5,684,625	7,154,667	26%
National	17,543,460	20,606,568	26,118,985	26%

* A sum of £76,142 for needles and syringes is included.

DISPENSING FEES PAID TO PHARMACISTS

	1978	1979	1980	% Increase on 1979
E.H.B.	1,867,493	2,154,640	2,514,070	17%
National	6,173,103	7,348,199	8,640,013	18%

STOCK ORDERS (INGREDIENT COST, DISPENSING FEE & V.A.T.)

	1978	1979	1980	% Increase on 1979
E.H.B.	49,067	58,805	75,780	29%
National	2,886,488	3,262,054	3,775,620	16%

ADMINISTRATION

For the year 1980 the cost of administration in the Payments Board was £696,703 (1.26% of the total expenditure) of which approximately £ 183,372 (26.32%) was apportioned to the Eastern health Board. The cost of administration of the service in the offices of the Eastern Health Board was £320,000. The total cost of administration for the services in the Board's area for 1980 was therefore £503,372.

PARTICIPATING DOCTORS

Table 1 page 11 shows that at the 31 December 1980 there were 432 doctors (including 53 former District Medical Officers) participating in the Scheme in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow representing 33% of the total number of doctors participating in the Scheme.

PARTICIPATING PHARMACISTS

Table 2 page 12 shows that at the 31 December 1980 there were 381 pharmacists in the Board's area - 34% of the total pharmacists participating in the Scheme.

PERSONS COVERED BY MEDICAL CARDS

The number covered by medical cards in each of the Health Board areas is shown in Table 4 page 14. The figure for the Eastern Health Board as at the 31 December 1980 was 256,217 (22% of the total population) as against 274,371 (23.58% of the total population) as at 31 December 1979.

Overall payments per person {total cost of consultations together with total cost of prescriptions divided by total of persons on doctors panels J

	1978	1979	1980
E.H.B.	37.67	43.39	53.41
National	32.40	38.62	47.35

NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS BY DOCTORS PAID BY FEE

Table 8 page 18 lists the number of consultations by doctors paid by fee in each Health Board area. It will be noted that for the year ended 31 December 1980 the number of consultations by doctors in the Board's area was 1,627,687 of which 1,249,884 were surgery consultations and 377,803 were domiciliary visits. The number of consultations in the Eastern Health Board area represents approximately 24% of the total (6,849,576) for the country.

In Table 22 page 32 it will be seen that the average payments to doctors per consultation for the Eastern Health Board area for year ended 31 December 1980 was £2.50 which was almost 5% below the national average of £2.63.

VISITING RATES

In Table 10 page 20 it will be noted that the average visiting rate of doctors (paid by fee) in the Board's area for year ended 31 December 1980 was 6.46 as against 6.15 for the previous year. The national average visiting rate for 1980 was 5.84. The surgery and domiciliary visiting rate in the Eastern Health Board area was the highest in the country and was 10% above the national average.

Table 11 page 21 shows that the visiting rates of 303 doctors in the Board's area were in the range 1 - 7.9, 56 in the range 8 - 9.9, 13 in the range 10 - 11.9 and that 3 doctors had a visiting rate of 12 and over.

Tables 11-18 inclusive allow of a comparison of visiting rates of doctors in the range 4 - 8.99 in the eight Health Board areas as follows:

HEALTH BOARD	VISITING RATE OF DOCTORS			
	4.0 -5.9	6.0 - 7.9	8.0-9.9	10 and over
Eastern	134	149	56	16
Midland	44	28	6	2
Mid-Wtstem	64	29	3	1
North Eastern	46	42	13	2
North Western	45	36	5	1
South Eastern	102	36	6	
Southern	76	99	13	1
Western	95	53	3	

Consultation Fees paid to doctors in the period from January 1980 to December 1980 inclusive:

NUMBER OF DOCTORS	INCOME RANGE	
	From	To
	£	£
73	0	2,600
75	2,501	5,000
57	5,001	7,500
55	7,501	10,000
46	10,001	12,500
32	12,501	15,000
29	16,001	17,500
18	17,501	20,000
30	20,001	26,000
4	25,001	30,000
2	30,001	36,000
2	36,001	40,000
2	40,000	46,000

Income ranges of Pharmacists based on dispensing fees paid in the period from 1 January 1980 to 31 December 1980

NUMBER OF PHARMACISTS	INCOME RANGE	
	From £	To £
82	0	2,000
94	2,001	4,000
75	4,001	6,000
46	6,001	8,000
29	8,001	10,000
25	10,001	12,000
18	12,001	14,000
13	14,001	16,000
6	16,001	20,000
5	20,001	25,000
5	25,001	30,000
1	30,001	35,000
1	Over £35,000	

MOST COMMONLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS

Table 35 page 45 sets out the thirty most commonly prescribed drugs in the order of their prescribing frequency in 1980.

In Table 36 page 46 there is an analysis of prescribing frequency according to therapeutic classification.

Distribution of drugs and medicines according to therapeutic classification for the year ended 31 December 1980

In Table 37(pages 47 to 51 inclusive) the distribution is shown under the headings of therapeutic class, prescribing frequency, percentage of scheme total and ingredient cost.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Table 38 page 52 is a summary of statistical information on the Choice of Doctor Scheme in the eight Health Board areas for the five years ended 31 December 1980.

OTHER INFORMATION

In 1980, the circumstances relating to claims for remuneration by five doctors from the Eastern Health Board area were investigated by investigating groups. In one case it was decided that no action be taken and in the remaining four cases it was decided that a deduction from remuneration be made. The case of one other doctor was awaiting consideration by an investigating group at the end of the year.

In all cases in which the decision was a deduction from remuneration the doctors concerned exercised their right of appeal. The appeals had not been heard at the end of the year.

Over the past two years five persons were prosecuted and found guilty by the court under Section 75 of the Health Act 1970 for either knowingly making a false statement or knowingly furnishing a false document or withholding vital relevant information for the purpose of obtaining a medical card.

following a discussion to which Dr Behan, Dr Shaehan, Mr Harrington, Ms Kearney, Mrs Bonar and CHr E Doyle contributed the report was noted.

109/81

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Minister for Health concerning Refund of Medicines Scheme having been circulated was read.

110/81

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Durkan referred to a report in a newspaper that the Eastern Health Board was negotiating with the Midland Health Board for the provision of general hospital services at Portlaoise Hospital for persons living in the southern part of County Kildare. He stated that the Board should now reiterate its decision that Naas Hospital should be developed to full general hospital status and that the newspaper report referred to should be refuted. Cllr Groome agreed with Deputy Durkan's sentiments.

Mr Segrave stated that he had written to the Chief Executive Officer of the Midland Health Board primarily concerning the possibility of an arrangement with that Board for the provision of services for mothers and babies in Portlaoise Hospital. A report on this had already been agreed by the visiting Committee and adopted by the Board. The aim was to provide the best possible service for the people of the area. Present arrangements involved, in some cases, the hardship of a long journey to Dublin. This could be avoided if the facilities in Portlaoise could be availed of. With regard to the provision of general hospital services, any discussions with representatives from the Midland Health Board would be for the purpose of ensuring that the best possible arrangements might be made for persons who found it more convenient to avail of such services in Portlaoise. Traditionally a number of the residents of South Kildare had looked to Portlaoise to provide this service and presumably, they would continue to do so. Discussions on the service would be against that background. He assured the Board that it was never his intention, nor that of any of the officers concerned, to formulate any plans for the change of present arrangements without first coming back to the Board. He would be happy to discuss the matter fully with the Kildare representatives and clarify any confusion that might have arisen.

Cllrs Durkan and Groome accepted the Chief Executive Officer's reply.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

CORRECT PB Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

Chairman

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St Brendan's Hospital,
on Thursday 3 September 1981 at 6 pm.**

PRESENT

*DrJD Behan
Cllr L Benton
Mrs B Bonar
Cllr D Browne
Cllr M Carroll
Deputy B Durkan
Ald. A FitzGerald
Cllr M Freehill
Cllr A Groome
Cllr T Hand*

*Mr K Harrington Cllr
F Hynes
Ms N Kearney
Dr D G Kelly
Mr M Matthews
Dr A Meade
Dr B Powell
Cllr H Reilly
Dr B Sheehan
Cllr J Sweeney
Deputy G Timmins
Dr J Walker air
Mrs M Waugh*

APOLOGIES

Prof J S Doyle Sr Columba McNamara

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr D Browne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

*Mr P B Segrave
Mr F Donohue
Mr T Keyes
Mr K Hickey
Mr J Reynolds
Mr J Clarke
Mr J Sadlier
Mr P I Lyons
Prof B O'Donnell
Mr P J Swords*

*Miss A Flanagan
Mr A O'Brien
Mr M O'Connor
Mr K Ward
Mr M Cummins
Mr J Leech
Miss E Larkin
Miss B Kelly
Miss M Curtis*