

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held in
the Boardroom, St Brendan's Hospital
on Thursday, 5 August 1982 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Mr N Andrews
Dr J D Behan
Cllr L Belton
Cllr D Browne
Dr J Buttiner
Cllr M Carroll
Dr R J Draper
Cllr B J Durkan
Mr P Finegan
Cllr M Freehill
Mr J Gahan
Cllr Mrs A Glenn
Cllr A Groome

Cllr T Hand
Cllr P Hickey
Cllr F Hynes
Mr D Kane
Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy
Prof McCormick
Cllr H Reilly
Cllr E Stagg
Cllr J Sweeney
Cllr G Timmins, TD
Cllr W C Willoughby

APOLOGIES

Ald B Ahern T D

Dr R Hawkins

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr Mrs A Glenn

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P B Segrave
Mr F J Donohue
Mr P J Swords
Mr M Hayden
Mr R Keane
Prof B O'Donnell
Mr J Doyle
Mr F J McCullough
Prof I Browne

Mr A O'Brien
Mr K Ward
Miss N Greene
Miss C Doran
Mr T Brady
Mr M Cummins
Miss L Larkin
Mrs B Travers

103/82

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- (a) The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the new members who had been appointed by the Minister for Health and were present;
Dr Niall Andrews, TD,
Mr David Kane

- (b) Condolences

The Chairman informed the members of the recent death of Dr D Henry LDS, Dental Officer, Wicklow and Mr James Travers father of Mr Matt Travers, Assistant Section Officer, Cherry Orchard Hospital. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

104/82

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF

- (a) **PROCEEDINGS OF 12 ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON 1 JULY 1982**

The minutes, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Reilly seconded by Cllr Carroll.

- (b) **PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 1 JULY 1982**

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

Dr Behan asked that (a) his concern and the concern reflected in the discussion at the July meeting regarding the changes in the emergency telephone repair services arrangements for doctors introduced by the Department of Posts & Telegraphs and (b) his query regarding the Eastern Health Board representation on any interview board established to appoint a consultant surgeon to Loughlinstown/St Vincent's be recorded. This was agreed.

105782

QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr Hynes and seconded by Cllr Hickey it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer seek the information requested as follows:-

Dr J Behan

1. "To ask the Chief Executive to obtain from the Department of Health a list of the numbers of General Hospitals currently being built or extended in the functional area of the Eastern Health Board stating also the original, the current and the projected final costs for these hospitals with dates of completion."

Dr J Behan

2. "To ask the Chief Executive Officer to obtain from the Department of Health a statement of the original, current and projected final cost of the new General Hospital at Beaumont together with its proposed date of completion and commissioning."

Dr J Behan

3. "To ask the Chief Executive Officer to obtain from the Minister for Health a list of all the voluntary, corporate and related bodies in the

functional area of the Eastern Health Board showing the title, date and number of their establishment order (if any) together with a list of their Board members, stating by whom they were appointed and the date when appointments to these bodies will next take place, if any."

106/82

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

(a) Committee on Children Sleeping and Living Rough

The Chief Executive Officer informed the Board that as Ms Noreen Kearney was no longer a member of the Board there was a vacancy on this committee. It was agreed that the filling of the vacancy would be on the agenda for consideration at the September Board meeting.

(b) Letter from Department of Health dated 27 July 1982 regarding bad numbers and specialties at Naas Hospital was circulated and agreed.

It was agreed further that the Minister be asked (a) to expedite the establishment of a project team to prepare a brief for the development of the hospital and (b) to consult with the Board on the composition of the project team prior to its establishment.

It was also agreed that the adequacy of the bed provision in medicine and surgery should be monitored during the planning process to ensure that the needs of the growing population in the catchment area were being met.

(c) Letter from Department of Health and Minister's statement in relation to the measures proposed to reduce public expenditure in 1982.

It was agreed that the matter be considered by a special meeting of the Board to be called when detailed information was made available to the Board by the Department and the implications for our Board assessed.

(d) Disposal of Land at St Ita's Hospital

The Chief Executive Officer informed the Board of the proposed sale of land at St Ita's Hospital to the Parish Priest, Portrane (1.5 acres) and the proposed lease of 1.24 acres to St Joseph's Hospital, Clonsilla. It was agreed that an option to exchange land with the Church authorities be included in the arrangement. The Chief Executive Officer also informed the members that a formal proposal to grant a lease to the ESB for a small site at Kilrock House, Howth would also be included on the agenda for the September meeting.

(a) The Chief Executive Officer referred to the statement issued by the Minister for Health in relation to the Sutton and O'Brien cases.

It was agreed that the Board should consider the matter. However, in light of the fact that the Board was continuing to provide care for the families and for persons mentioned in the report it was decided that the matter should be discussed by the Board in committee. It was agreed further that the matter might be discussed at the special meeting to be held in connection with our Board's finances.

107/82

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The reports of the following visiting committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:-

- (i) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Emmet House on 23 June 1982

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

Cllr Glenn complimented Cllr Hickey on arranging the meeting. A discussion followed to which Cllr Hickey, Cllr Hynes, Cllr Stagg and Dr Keane contributed. The members referred particularly to the dental service to the shortage of dental officers. The question of using dental hygienists was raised in this regard. Mr Donohue stated that the Board's officers were examining the problem to seek possible solutions.

- (ii) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held in St Columcille's Hospital on 14 July 1982

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

Arising out of the report a discussion took place to which Dr McCarthy, Dr Behan, Cllrs Carroll, Sweeney, Hand, Mr Finegan, Professor McCormick and Mr Gahan contributed.

It was agreed that the Report of the Working Group on the "Organisation of General Hospital Services in the South-East Dublin and East Wicklow area" would be put on the agenda for consideration at the September meeting. The following motion was proposed by Dr J Behan and seconded by Cllr Carroll

"That no further discussions be entered into by the Board or its officers on St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown until the Board has an opportunity to review its policy on the future development of St Columcille's and to review the report of the Working Party - Hospital Services in South East Dublin/East Wicklow."

The motion was adopted with Professor McCormick dissenting.

- (iii) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Area 8 (Coolock) on 21 July 1982

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

Cllr Hynes raised the matter of the public health nurse's involvement in the free fuel service. Cllr Stagg also referred to this matter as being undesirable. Mr Donohue stated that he appreciated the views expressed by the members and outlined the importance of having all relevant information available when decisions on individual applications were being made.

- (iv) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held in District Hospital Wicklow on 23 July 1982

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

The Board congratulated the Patients Committee on the fund raising activities for the Day Unit.

108/82

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CHERRY ORCHARD HOSPITAL

The following Report No. 23/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"The Board has received an application from Dublin Corporation to purchase land at the rear of the Hospital for housing purposes and adjacent to the 42 acres which was sold to them in 1972.

The area which the Corporation is interested in acquiring has been surveyed jointly by the Board and the Corporation and it is considered that in order to ensure a satisfactory boundary line to the remaining land in the possession of the Board it would be appropriate to dispose of approximately 16.9 acres of land instead of the 15.3 acres as originally proposed.

The Corporation has offered the Board the sum of £339,000 (which includes the cost of construction of a permanent boundary fence) plus a site of approximately one acre of serviced land for a Welfare Home.

The Dublin Fever Hospital Board became owners of approximately 136 acres of land in October 1938 and the property was subsequently transferred to the Dublin Health Authority/Eastern Health Board. The present holding is subject to a Land Commission Annuity of £63.18 per year.

The land remaining to the Board, taking into account previous disposals and the disposal now proposed, is approximately 75 acres.

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of this property as proposed shall not be carried out or that it shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution.

If the Board resolves that the disposal shall not be carried out it shall not be carried out.

On the other hand, if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal should be carried out the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above."

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Glenn, Hynes, Sweeney, Groome and Carroll contributed, it was agreed on a proposal by Cllr Hynes seconded by Cllr Sweeney to dispose of the land as set out in the report.

109/82

**SUPPLY OF DRUGS FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS
AT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS**

The following Report No. 24/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"The Board at the last meeting asked for greater detail regarding the proposal to phase out the storage of drugs at health centres (Report No. 20/1 982 dated 22 June 1982). At the meeting it was stated that the objective would be to implement fully the policy of the Board to have patients who attend consultant out-patient clinics referred back to their general practitioner for medication requested through the normal pharmaceutical outlets.

The specific proposals set out at the meeting are as follows:

1. Two pilot areas will be chosen, Tallaght and Finglas. Consultants who provide psychiatric out-patient services there will be asked to refer their patients back to their general practitioners to provide their medication through the normal outlets.
2. In order to deal with any emergency cases in those areas and also to give time to safeguard patients who might be at risk because they could not be relied on to get their medication, consultants will be allowed, for a limited period, to write prescriptions to be dispensed by retail chemists who will be paid by the Board in the same way as for drugs supplied under the long term illness scheme.
3. Since psychiatric patients are legally entitled to have medicine supplied at consultant clinics (the only patients so entitled) those without medical cards may have to be dealt with in the way outlined above.
4. The Chief Psychiatrist will develop a demonstration model in St Brendan's Hospital.
5. The results of these pilot schemes will be studied after one month and a further report submitted to the Board.

These proposals are recommended for approval."

Following a discussion to which Dr Behan, Cllrs Freehill, Stagg, Sweeney, Mr Gahan and Dr Draper contributed, on a proposal by Cllr Stagg seconded by Dr Behan the proposals outlined in the report were agreed.

110/82

HEALTH (LOCAL COMMITTEES) REGULATIONS 1972 and 1977

The following Report No. 25/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"Report No. 22/1982 submitted to the July Board meeting set out the results of the recent elections.

The filling of vacancies remaining after the election is a function of the Board. Under the regulations 3 doctors and 1 person from each of the other named professions may be appointed.

The filling of two vacancies from among persons associated with voluntary organisations is also a matter for the Board.

The current position in relation to these vacancies is as follows:

(a) Profession - Doctor

DUBLIN CITY	All vacancies filled.
DUBLIN COUNTY	Medical union nominated Dr Terry Hynes. No other nominations received to fill the two remaining vacancies. Previous appointees Dr Heffernan, St Ita's and Mr James O'Neill, 14 Rostrevor Terrace, Dublin 6.
DUN LAOGHAIRE	Dr B Sheehan seeks re-appointment. No nominations for two remaining vacancies, which were not filled in the period 1977 -1982.
KILDARE	One vacancy filled. No nominations received. Previous appointees were Dr Cowhey, Dr Brian Maguire and Dr M Waldon. As the vacancy filled is held by a general practitioner a selection between Drs Cowhey and Maguire is necessary. Dr Waldon is eligible to fill the consultant vacancy.
WICKLOW	Two vacancies filled by general practitioners. The last vacancy should be from the consultant grade. Dr Miriam Brennan seeks this assignment.

(b) Profession - Dentist

Two organisations represent this profession. The Irish Dental Association has indicated that it will submit nominations following their Council meeting in September. The Local Government and Public Services Union has not, as yet, replied to invitation to nominate.

The dentists serving on the Committees up to June last were as follows:

DUBLIN CITY	Mr M J Walsh, BDS
DUBLIN COUNTY	Mr S O'Hick
DUN LAOGHAIRE	Mr S Connell
KILDARE	Mr C Benson, BDS
WICKLOW	Mr V Delahunt

(c) Profession - Pharmacist

The Irish Pharmaceutical Union has submitted the following nominations:

DUBLIN CITY	Mr T Miller, FRSI
DUBLIN COUNTY	Mr M Shannon, MPSI
DUN LAOGHAIRE	Mr T J Lynch, MPSI
KILDARE	Mrs C O'Connor, FPSI
WICKLOW	Mr J Tierney, MPSI

(d) Profession - Psychiatric Nurse All

vacancies filled.

(e) Profession - Public Health Nurse

The following nominations have been received to fill one vacancy on each of the Committees:

	(a) Irish Nurses' Organisation	(b) Local Govt & Public Services Union
Dublin City	Miss M Fitzsimmons	Miss Honors Sheehan
Dublin County	Miss E Fitzpatrick) Ms Mgt Cottar)	Miss Phil Stynes
Kildare	Ms N Campbell	
Widclow	Ms Teresa Henry) Ms W Gallagher)	
Dun Laoghaire	Miss A Hanley	Ms M Boland (assigned as Health Education Coordinator)

The following nominations have been received from the local authorities to fill two vacancies from among persons associated with voluntary organisations concerned with social services.

DUBLIN CITY	Sr Claude and Mr Gleeson
DUBLIN COUNTY	Mr A Devine and Mr J Byrne
DUN LAOGHAIRE	Sr Clare Murray, Little Sisters of the Assumption, Mr Thomas Holden, Chairman, Cuala GAA Club
KILDARE	No nominations Previous appointees Sr M Carmel, Moore Abbey and Mr M Bermingham, KARE
WICKLOW	Mrs I Hynes, Bray Old Folks Association, Mrs P McNamara, Co Wicklow Association for the Mentally Handicapped."

'Health (Local Committees) Regulations, 1972 Par 5 (1) (e)

'...a consultant in a general hospital serving the functional area of the committee and two other registered medical practitioners practising in its functional area, at least one of whom shall be a general practitioner.'

The Chief Executive Officer pointed out to the members that vacancies still exist on some local health committees. On a proposal by Cllr Freehill seconded by Dr Buttimer consideration of the report was deferred to the September meeting.

111/82

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BILL 1982**

The following Report No. 26/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"In considering my report on this Bill at the meeting on 1 July 1982 the Board decided to deliberate this matter further at their meeting on 5 August 1982. I am now circulating copies of the Bill as introduced by the Minister for Health and the Explanatory Memorandum which accompanied it.

I have already, in my previous report, summarised the general provisions in the Bill and detailed the functions of the proposed Agency.

The Agency's most important roles will, in my view, be the carrying out of their functions in relation to identifying communities with special needs, coordinating programmes involving other bodies and promoting community self-help to meet the needs identified, advising the Minister in relation to policy matters and promoting research into social deprivation and community self-help.

It is to be expected that the work of the Agency in co-ordinating programmes involving statutory and other agencies will provide increasing opportunities for co-operation between health boards and e.g. local authorities as housing bodies, educational bodies and voluntary bodies in meeting the needs of selected areas of population.

Since the functions of the Agency, as outlined in the Bill, will impinge so directly on the work of health boards it would be expected that the Board will be given a significant involvement in the councils of the Agency."

Following a discussion to which Dr Behan, Cllrs Glenn, Freehill, Stagg and Durkan contributed, it was agreed that the implications of the Bill for our Board might be considered at a Special Meeting of the Board. It was agreed that in the meantime the Chief Executive Officer would write to the Minister for Health indicating our Board's interest and concern and requesting representation on the Agency to be established under the Bill.

112/82

**GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD
REPORT FOR 1981**

The following Report No. 27/1982 from the) Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"The report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board for 1981 has been circulated to the Board. The report shows that a total of £71,103,201 was paid to doctors and pharmacists for the year ended 31 December 1981 compared with a total of £56,616,485 paid the previous year, representing an increase of 25.6%.

GROSS EXPENDITURE (Doctors' fees and medicines)

	1979 £	1980 £	1981 £	% Increase on 1980
EHB	11,449,729	13,817,303	17,435,097	26.2%
National	46,770,461	56,616,485	71,103,201	25.6%

FEES PAID TO DOCTORS

	1979 £	1980 £	1981 £	% Increase on 1980
EHB	3,551,659	4,072,791	4,754,562	16.7%
National	15,404,548	18,005,725	20,919,078	16.2%

INGREDIENT COST OF MEDICINES (including vat)

	1979 £	1980 £	1981 £	% Increase on 1980
EHB	5,684,625	7,154,625	9,578,664	33.9%
National	20,695,568	26,118,985	35,034,800	34.1%

DISPENSING FEES PAID TO PHARMACISTS

	1979 £	1980 £	1981 £	% Increase on 1980
EHB	2,154,640	2,514,070	3,012,378	19.8%
National	7,348,199	8,640,013	10,343,295	19.7%

STOCK ORDERS (ingredient cost, dispensing fee & vat)

	1979 £	1980 £	1981 £	% Increase on 1980
EHB	58,305	75,780	89,503	18.1%
National	3,262,054	3,775,620	4,713,953	243%

*A sum of £92,075 for needles end syringes is included.

Ingredient Cost of Medicines

The total amount paid for the ingredient cost of medicines i.e. cost exclusive of pharmacists fees accounted for 54% of the total of £71,103,201 paid for consultations and medicines for 1981. The total amount paid for the ingredient cost of medicines in the Eastern Health Board area also accounted for 54% of the total of £17,435,097 paid for consultations and medicines.

Administration

For the year 1981 the cost of administration in the Payments Board was £995,657 (1.38% of the total expenditure) of which approximately £244,334 was apportioned to the Eastern Health Board. The cost of administration of the service in the offices of the Eastern Health Board was £361,000. The total cost of administration for the services in the Board's area for 1981 was therefore £605,334.

Participating Doctors

Table 1 page 11 shows that at the 31 December 1981 there were 454 doctors (including 49 former district medical officers) participating in the Scheme in Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare representing 33% of the total number of doctors participating in the Scheme.

Participating Pharmacists

Table 2 page 12 shows that at the 31 December 1981 there were 384 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 1981 was 271,276 (22.73% of the total population) as against 256,217 (22% of the total population) as at 31 December 1980.

Overall payments per person (total cost of consultations together with total cost of prescriptions divided by total of persons on doctors' panels)

	1979	1980	1981
	£	£	£
EHB	43.39	53.91	65.85
National	38.62	47.35	58.73

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 1981 the number of consultations by doctors in the Board's area was 1,710,441 of which 1,322,696 were surgery consultations and 387,745 were domiciliary visits. The number of consultations in the Eastern Health Board area represents approximately 24% of the total (7,175,201) for the country.

In Table 22 page 32 it will be seen that the average payments 10 doctors per consultation for the Eastern Health Board area for year ended 31 December 1981 was £2.78 which was almost 5% below the national average of £2.92.

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 1981 was 6.54 as against 6.46 for the previous year. The national average visiting rate for 1981 was 6.03. The surgery and domiciliary visiting rate in the Eastern Health Board area was the highest in the country and was 8% above the national average.

It should be noted that, based on current costs, an increase of 0.1% in the average annual visiting rate for all doctors in the country results in extra payments of approximately £1.2 million in the year.

Tables 11-18 inclusive allow of a comparison of visiting rates of doctors as follows:

HEALTH BOARD	VISITING RATE OF DOCTORS			
	Up to 5.9	6.0 - 7.9	8.0 - 9.9	10 and over
Eastern	155	144	67	16
Midland	38	34	9	2
Mid-Western	52	44	3	1
North Eastern	49	42	10	5
Northwestern	43	35	9	-
South Eastern	94	47	6	1
Southern	72	100	12	4
Western	84	62	4	-

Number of Prescriptions Dispensed by Pharmacists

In Table 23 page 33 it will be noted that the total number of items dispensed in the Board's area for the year ended 31 December 1981 was 3,590,633. The total number of items dispensed nationally was 12,267,954 and included in the latter figure are 3,024 million items which can be purchased in a pharmacy without a doctor's prescription. The cost of these items exclusive of the doctors consultation fees came to £8.412 million.

Consultation fees paid to doctors in the period from January 1981 to December 1981 inclusive:

No. of doctors	Income range	
	From	To
	£	£
76	0	2,500
52	2,501	5,000
52	5,001	7,500
59	7,501	10,000
37	10,001	12,500
37	12,501	15,000
32	15,001	17,500
20	17,501	20,000
43	20,001	25,000
19	25,001	30,000
4	30,001	35,000
1	35,001	40,000
1	40,001	45,000
1	45,001	50,000
2	50,001	55,000

Income ranges of pharmacists based on dispensing fees paid in the period from 1 January 1981 to 31 December 1981

No. of pharmacists	Income range	
	From £	To £
69	0	2,000
60	2.001	4.000
94	4.001	6.000
40	6,001	8.000
32	8.001	10.000
27	10.001	12.000
23	12.001	14,000
15	14.001	16.000
21	16.001	20,000
3	20.001	25.000
8	25.001	30.000
3	30.001	35.000
2	35.001	40,000
1	Over £40.000	

Most commonly prescribed drugs

Table 35 page 45 sets out the thirty most commonly prescribed drugs in the order of their prescribing frequency in 1 981.

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 1981

In Table 37 (pages 47 to 51 inclusive) the distribution is shown under the headings of therapeutic class, prescribing frequency, % 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 1981.

Other Relevant Information

In 1981, the circumstances relating to claims for remuneration by one doctor from the Eastern Health Board area was investigated by the Investigation Group. It was decided by the Group that a reduction from remuneration be made. The doctor concerned exercised his right to appeal but the appeal had not been heard at the end of the year.

The appeals of four doctors in the Eastern Health Board area against the Investigating Group's decision for a reduction of their remuneration was heard during 1981. In all cases the appeals were rejected."

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Sweeney, Glenn, Freehill and Dr Behan contributed the report was noted.

113/82 PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The reports of the following local committee meetings having been circulated were dealt with as follows:-

- (i) Wicklow Local Committee meeting held on 21 May 1982

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

- (ii) Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 8 July 1982

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

- (iii) Kildare Local Committee meeting held on 24 June 1982

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

114/82

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Stagg, seconded by Cllr Durkan and agreed:

"That the Eastern Health Board provide canteen facilities for the staff of St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, to the same standard as those pertaining at the General Hospital, Naas and that pending the completion of such facilities improved temporary facilities be provided forthwith."

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Stagg and Durkan contributed. Mr Swords informed the members that the Board is examining the possibility of providing a temporary dining accommodation at St Vincent's, Athy as an interim measure and pending the implementation of the development plan for the hospital.

- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Stagg and seconded by Cllr Durkan and agreed:

"That the 'pocket money' allowance paid to Old Age Pensioners in long term care be increased in line with the increases in pensions payable to such Old Age Pensioners."

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Stagg and Durkan contributed the Chief Executive Officer informed the members that the Board's officers determine the allowance paid to each individual, taking into account his/her capacity to use the allowance, his/her personal requirements and other relevant factors. Every effort is made to fix the allowances to meet the needs of individual patients. The Chief Executive Officer said that he would examine individual cases raised by Cllr Stagg.

- (iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Hickey and seconded by Deputy Andrews and agreed:

"That consideration be given to the extension of the facilities for training speech impaired or language disordered children, available in the Language Unit, Ballinteer Health Centre, to embrace the full primary school programme (up to age 12, at least)."

- (iv) The following motion proposed jointly by Cllr Hynes and Cllr Sweeney and seconded by Dr Buttimer, was considered in committee as this matter is at present sub judice.

"That this Board acquire the former dispensary residence at Ballinacor, Kilbride, Wicklow, for use as a hostel for psychiatric patients, and by so doing help to relieve the overcrowding at Newcastle Hospital."

It was agreed that a further report in the matter would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

- (v) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Sweeney and seconded by Cllr Hynes:

"That this Board agreed to seek to have St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum upgraded to the status of County Hospital."

It was agreed that the motion should be deferred to enable alternatives to be considered.

- (vi) The following motion was proposed by Dr Behan and seconded by Cllr Carroll and agreed:

"That in view of the imminence of completion and commissioning of the new General Hospital at Beaumont, and cognisant of its responsibility to the public to develop a balanced integrated health service, the Eastern Health Board seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Health to obtain a fifty per cent share of the Board of Management of the new hospital on the lines of the existing St James's Hospital and as proposed for Tallaght."

115/82

OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Stagg enquired as to whether or not the Board had received details of the 1982 83 Free Fuel Scheme and whether they incorporated the Board's proposals for improvements. The Board was advised that no details of the 1982 83 scheme had as yet been received. On the proposal of Cllr Stagg the Board agreed to request the Minister for Social Welfare to increase the allowance made under this scheme to the value of £6 per week for 1982/83.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

CORRECT P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN

