

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held in
the Boardroom, St Brendan's Hospital
on Thursday, 2 September 1982 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT

**Mr N Andrews TD
Dr J D Behan
Cllr L Belton
Mrs B Bonar
Cllr D Browne
Dr M Butler
Dr J Buttimer
Cllr M Carroll
Prof J S Doyle
Dr R J Draper
Cllr B J Durkan
Mr P Finegan
Ald A FitzGerald. TD
Cllr M Freehill
Mr J Gahan**

**Cllr Mrs A Glenn
Cllr A Groome
Cllr T Hand
Dr R Hawkins
Cllr P Hickey
Cllr F Hynes
Mr D Kane
Dr D I Keane
Cllr T Leonard
Dr B Powell
Cllr E Stagg
Cllr J Sweeney
Cllr G Timmins, TD
Cllr W C Willoughby**

APOLOGIES

Prof J McCormick

Cllr H Reilly

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr Mrs A Glenn

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

**Mr P B Segrave
Mr F J Donohue
Mr K J Hickey
Mr J Reynolds
Mr L Kavanagh
Mr F J McCullough
Miss A Flanagan
Mr A O'Brien
Mr P J Swords
Mr T McManus
Mr K Ward**

**Prof T Lynch
Mr E Butler
Miss N Greene
Miss C Doran
Mr M O'Connor
Mr C McQuaile
Mr M Cummins
Miss E Larkin
Mrs B Travers
Mr R Keane
Mr J Leech**

116/82

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the members of the recent deaths of Mrs Patricia O'Donnell wife of Professor Brendan O'Donnell and of Dr Denis Bradley former medical officer, St Brendan's Hospital. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

117/82

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- (i) The Chairman referred to the letters which had been received from the Department of Health regarding a revised allocation of non-capital expenditure for 1982 and reductions in staff numbers and stated that the Minister for Health had arranged to meet with the Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers of Health Boards on 21 September 1982. The members agreed with her suggestion that a special meeting to consider cuts in the budget should be held on 16 September 1982 at 6 pm. It was also agreed that the National Community Development Agency Bill 1982 and the statement issued by the Minister for Health in relation to the Sutton and O'Brien cases should be on the agenda for the special meeting.
- (ii) The Chairman informed the members of Cllr Hickey's request that meetings of the Community Care Visiting Committee which had been arranged for 15 and 22 September should be rearranged for 16 and 21 September 1982 at 10 am. It was agreed that the meetings should be rearranged as requested.

118/82

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 5 AUGUST 1982**

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

Dr Behan noted that the Department of Health had not replied to the three questions which he had tabled for the August meeting of the Board and that the urgent meeting which had been sought by the Board with the Minister for Health to obtain a 50% share of the Board of Management of the new hospital at Beaumont had not been arranged. He expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Department of Health had failed to provide the information requested by the Board and suggested that the Department should be informed that replies are required before the next meeting of the health board. Cllrs Carroll and Stagg expressed their agreement with Dr Behan's remarks.

119/82

QUESTION

On a proposal by Cllr Hand, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed that the question lodged should be answered.

Dr R J Draper

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to explain the criteria used to determine the fate of small GMS lists upon the death of the participating doctor or his withdrawal from the service for other reasons."

Reply

Consideration is given to the following factors when vacancies arise in the GMS (Medical Card) Service when a doctor ceases to participate:

1. The number of medical card holders and dependants covered by the GMS panel of the doctor who has ceased to practise.
2. The geographical spread and the age pattern of people on the panel and the type of area covered (e.g. urban, rural etc).
3. The number of doctors participating in the scheme remaining in the area and the choice available to the eligible patients.
4. The number of persons covered by the scheme in the area and the average number of patients per participant doctor in the area.

120/82

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report, which was agreed by the Board:

"Allergy Clinic

For some time our Board has sought to establish a consultant clinic for persons suffering from allergies.

The Board's Medical and Allied Research Committee also considered the matter and agreed that a clinic should be established.

Professor Doyle finally agreed to provide a weekly clinic and following discussion with St. Laurence's Hospital I am pleased to advise the Board that arrangements have been finalised for a clinic to be conducted by Professor Doyle at St Laurence's Hospital on Thursdays at 2 pm for patients referred from their family doctor.

The clinics commenced today and progress will be reviewed in light of demand for the service."

121/82

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT KILROCK HOUSE, HOWTH

The following Report No. 28/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"The ESB has requested that a small site be made available on this property for the establishment of a 10KV Sub-Station to improve the electrical distribution network in the area. The proposed site, as indicated on the attached OS

1:1,000 map, measures 10 ft x 8 ft approximately and would be used to erect two prefabricated sealed units approximately five feet high overall mounted on a concrete base. Access to the site would be through a new gate which the ESB proposes to supply and erect in the existing boundary wall thereby ensuring there would be no encroachment for maintenance works on the Board's property.

The improvements in electrical distribution resulting from the establishment of a Sub-Station will be of immediate benefit to Kilrock House which has been subject to temporary disconnections for some years due to lack of capacity in the area.

It is proposed subject to the Board's approval to lease the site as detailed to the ESB for a term of 100 years at a nominal rent of 5p per annum and a consideration of £200. The ESB will be responsible for all legal costs subject to the preparation of a formal lease by the Law Agent.

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

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of the 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 shall 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 Sweeney, Groom* and Hynes contributed it was proposed by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Sweeney, and agreed that the proposal outlined in Report No. 28/1982 be adopted. The members also agreed with a suggestion that the Chief Executive Officer should negotiate a nominal rent of £20 per annum from the ESB.

122/82

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST ITA'S HOSPITAL, PORTRANE

The following Reports Nos. 30/1982 and 31/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer were submitted:

"Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 83, Local Government Act 1946 that it is proposed to dispose of 1.5 acres of land at St Ita's Hospital, Portrane as set out in the attached map to the Parish Priest at Portrane for the purpose of building a church, a priest's house and community hall.

Consideration proposed in respect of this disposal is:

(a) £22,500 or

(b) Land or property of equal value required by the Board and made available to the Board by the Church Authorities.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of the 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 shall be carried out, the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be carried out in the manner set out above."

"Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 83, Local Government Act 1946 that it is proposed to dispose of 1.24 acres of land at St Ita's Hospital, Portrane as set out in the attached map to St Joseph's Hospital, Clonsilla for the purpose of building a holiday home for mentally handicapped adults from that hospital.

Consideration proposed in respect of this disposal is a licence at a nominal rent with provision that the property revert to the Board if the site and building are not used for the purpose stated.

Section 83 provides that at the first meeting of the Eastern Health Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of circulation of this report the Board may resolve that the disposal of the 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 shall 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 Stagg, Groome, Sweeney and Hynes contributed it was agreed that the proposals contained in the two reports should be referred back to the No. 3 Visiting Committee and that an early meeting of that Committee should be arranged.

123/82

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEE

The report of the No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Newcastle Hospital on 17 June 1982

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

124/82

LONG-STAY ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED BY PRIVATE NURSING HOMES AND VOLUNTARY BODIES

At the Chairman's request the Chief Executive Officer introduced the Report 'Long-stay accommodation provided by private nursing homes and voluntary bodies' and set out the background to it.

He referred to our Board's concern about the need in our area for services for elderly citizens and to the Report which the special committee chaired by our current Chairman, Cllr Mrs Alice Glenn, submitted to the Board in April 1980, which was adopted by our Board and which set out specific policy guidelines for the development of a comprehensive service for the elderly in our area.

The Report recognised what it described as "time of great financial stringency" and stated further that "it is evident that in regard to many of the recommendations some time must elapse before they could be put into effect.

There are some which should be tackled at once however. Services such as providing extra assessment/rehabilitation beds, welfare homes, day hospitals and adequate transport". We have been endeavouring to tackle these priorities as identified by the Board. In relation to day hospitals and adequate transport facilities, developments at St Colman's, Rathdrum, St Clare's, Ballymun and St Vincent's, Athy and at Baltinglass District Hospital, while relatively modest are nonetheless significant and we are encouraged by the great interest and support shown by members of the Board in relation to these efforts which have significant local community understanding and support for what we are doing.

In relation to the provision of other facilities identified as priorities by our Board he advised the members that the Minister for Health has now agreed to the establishment of a small group to formulate a practical medium term development programme for our area in relation to geriatric assessment/rehabilitation beds, long stay nursing care beds and welfare places. It will be the task of the group to prepare specific development proposals for consideration and approval by our Board and subsequent submission to the Minister.

With regard to services provided by private homes and voluntary bodies in our Board's area a number of important issues have been raised by members during the course of the Board's deliberations over the past two years but he felt that there was a need to obtain factual information on the overall picture in our area so as to be in a position to adequately advise our Board on the matter. He had, therefore, asked the Programme Manager, General Hospital Care, to report to him on the current situation in our area. He had circulated the report to the Board members for their consideration as it dealt in detail with a number of significant aspects of the important services provided by private nursing homes and voluntary bodies, including those raised by Board members, and also contained proposals in relation to how these might be tackled in the future.

In the course of a lengthy discussion on the Report, to which Cllrs Freehill, Stagg, Browne, Willoughby, Hand, Carroll, Durkan and Hynes, Drs Hawkins, Butler and Behan, Mr Finegan and Mr Gahan contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer and Mr Hickey, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care replied, the members welcomed the Report and congratulated Mr Hickey and those responsible for its production. In the course of the discussion the following points were made by members:-

- more links with the local community should be established and in particular school children should be encouraged to visit residents in nursing homes
- closer links should be established with public libraries
- formal links should be developed between the Board and each nursing home
- difficulties could be expected in the implementation of the recommendation regarding comprehensive screening of applicants prior to their admission to long-stay accommodation.
- the proposed two tier structure of contributions was likely to present problems
- responsibility for the Care of the Aged should be transferred from the General Hospital to the Community Care Programme.
- the proposal in paragraph 6.6 of the draft revised standards that there should be one wc per 8 patients was felt to be inadequate as was the proposal that there should be not less than one bath for every 15 patients.

At the conclusion of the discussion the following motion was proposed by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, and agreed:

"That the report 'Long-stay Accommodation provided by Private Nursing Homes and Voluntary Bodies' be noted."

125/82

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

On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed that this item should be adjourned to a special meeting to be arranged when the Programme Manager, General Hospital Care, has completed his Report.

126/82

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 29/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At meeting held on 3 June 1982 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 September 1982.

It is considered that similar overdraft accommodation may be required during the December quarter 1982.

Accordingly, I request that the Board consents to borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 31 December 1982 to a maximum of £1.5 million."

On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Professor Doyle, the following motion was agreed:

'That the Board consents to the proposal contained in Report No. 29/1982 re Temporary Borrowing'.

127/82

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN SLEEPING ROUGH

On a proposal by Cllr Freehill, seconded by Cllr Stagg, it was agreed that Ms Noreen Kearney, whose membership of the Board ceased on 30 June 1982, should continue to represent the Board on the Joint Committee for Children Sleeping Rough.

128/82

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

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

- (i) Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 13 July 1982

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

- (ii) Dublin City Local Committee meeting held on 11 August 1982

On a proposal by Cllr Browne, seconded by Dr Behan, the report was noted.

129/82

HEALTH (LOCAL COMMITTEES) REGULATIONS 1972 AND 1977

It was agreed that consideration of Report No. 25/1982, which had been adjourned from the August meeting of the Board, should be further adjourned to the October meeting.

130/82

**MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND -ST
BRENDAN'S HOSPITAL PROJECT**

The following Report No. 32/1982 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"In 1979 the St Brendan's Hospital Branch of the Mental Health Association of Ireland was founded with the objective of availing of the interest and dedication of civic-minded citizens to help improve the social amenities of the hospital and to support and work in partnership with the hospital staff.

The Mental Health Association of Ireland is a national body incorporated in 1966 and works through its 32 local Mental Health Associations throughout the Republic. These local Mental Health Associations are made up of groups of people from all walks of life who believe that members of a community should care for one another and help attempt to find way of lightening the burden on a family which has a member who is mentally ill. They bring company into the lonely lives of many people in mental hospitals and of others who have been discharged from hospital.

The local associations, many of whom work through branches in their area, co-operate with all other voluntary organisations who share their aims and many participate in and help with educational activities and local fund-raising efforts.

Through the work of the local associations the patient, his or her family, employer, colleagues, friends and neighbours are brought into an understanding relationship, helpful to the stay in hospital and, most important, the patients discharge and rehabilitation.

The national and local associations also play a major role in the education of the public on mental health.

Since its foundation the St Brendan's branch has been active in organising entertainments and other social activities for the patients. These activities included bringing groups of patients on holidays and outings, attending shows, organising games such as bowling, all of which were paid for out of funds raised by the branch.

In the course of their activities, the members of the branch identified a need for a recreational and social centre in the hospital for the use of the patients and their visitors. They launched a fund raising programme with a target of £30,000 for this purpose and approached the Board with a request for a matching contribution from the Board's funds. Parallel with this local development, the Mental Health Association of Ireland had been considering the desirability of establishing, on the campus of a mental hospital, a National Mental Health Resource Centre the purpose of which would be to help in the improvement of the quality of life for the in-patients of psychiatric hospitals, as well as providing facilities for out-patients and young people at risk within their nearby communities. The concept was that a multi-purpose National Pilot facility should provide for the following:

Long-Stay Patients

Improving the quality of life-style by the addition of better living facilities.

Short-Stay Patients

Rehabilitative, educational and guidance programmes for re integration into the community.

Day Patients

Recreation and social centre for patients who can be treated on a day attendance basis.

Community Involvement

Providing the environment for local association members and members of other interested organisations to establish relationships with patients and gain knowledge of rehabilitative programmes and techniques.

National Pilot Resource Facility

For psychiatric professionals and local Mental Health Association members to observe and assess the Centre's activities with a view to establishing similar centres in their own areas. Patients from other hospitals would also be trained there.

Following consultations with the local St Brendan's branch of the Association, it was agreed that, if possible, the local plan for a new facility at St Brendan's Hospital should be subsumed into the proposed National Pilot Resource Centre. The proposed new scheme far out-reached the original plan and immediately posed what appeared to be an insoluble problem in finding the funds to pay for it.

At this point the National Mental Health Association decided to apply jointly with its St Brendan's branch to the National Dairy Council with a view to having this project and other programmes proposed by the Mental Health Association of Ireland for development on a national basis (e.g. information, education, research) selected to benefit from the proceeds of the 1983 Milk Run being organised by the Council to take place next March.

Since 1979 when the National Dairy Council sponsored the first Milk Run it has raised over £700,000 for charity and it has become a major event in the national calendar.

The National Dairy Council responded generously to this request and, from among competing claims, has selected the Mental Health Association of Ireland as the charity to benefit from the proceeds of the 1983 run. The National Dairy Council has expressed as its aim that the 1983 Milk Run will have a powerful impact on the development of a modern community mental health care programme in Ireland.

Following these developments, I have been approached by the Mental Health Association, through its St Brendan's Hospital branch, to make available a site of 1 Vi to 2 acres at St Brendan's for the proposed National Mental Health Resource Centre, which would serve as a prototype for similar projects throughout the country. The Mental Health Association of Ireland has drawn up preliminary sketch plans for the proposed Centre and these will be available for inspection by the members of the Board at the monthly meeting in September.

While an accurate budget figure for the project is not yet available, it is estimated that the cost will be of the order of £350,000 to £400,000.

The question of how the proceeds of the Milk Run will be distributed among the different programmes proposed by the Mental Health Association of Ireland and the amount of any shortfall which may have to be bridged in relation to the St Brendan's project cannot be determined until the amount of the proceeds of the Milk Run are known. However, our Board has been asked for a commitment to contribute to any shortfall which might arise in the project.

In view of the importance of this development, I propose, if the members agree in principle at this stage, that a site at St Brendan's be made available for this project by way of licence and at a nominal rent, subject to compliance with the usual statutory requirements for the disposal of land and with the normal conditions to protect the Board's interests.

Ownership of the Centre, when completed, would be vested in the Association. If the project is agreed to in principle by the Board, matters relating to management etc will require further discussions in detail with the Association. The Board will be kept informed of progress."

Following a discussion to which Cllr Willoughby, Or Behan, Cllr Hynes and Dr Draper contributed, the following motion was proposed by Dr Behan, seconded by Cllr Hynes, and agreed.

'That the proposals outlined in Report No. 32/1982 be welcomed and adopted with the understanding that they do not exonerate the Department of Health from its obligation to provide and develop a comprehensive community based psychiatric service in the Eastern Health Board area.'

It was also agreed that the project should not interfere with the playing facilities at St Brendan's Hospital.

131/82

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence, which had been circulated, was noted:

- (i) Letter 5 Lunasa 1982 Reference A D 5/82 from the Department of Social Welfare regarding the National Fuel Scheme 1982/83.
- (ii) Letter 4 Lunasa 1982 Reference A117/252 from the Department of Health regarding the emergency telephone repair service.
- (iii) Letter 12 August 1982 from the Association of Health Boards of Ireland recommending that each health board urgently and actively tackle all aspects of prevention of illness, especially self induced illness, and encourage education of the population against overuse of and dependence on medication and drugs.
- (iv) Letter 18 August 1982 from Wicklow County Council advising the Board of the following resolution which had been adopted by the County Council at their meeting on 21 June 1982 "That the Council agree to offer whatever help is necessary and also to use whatever pressure it can to see that a general hospital is provided in the County."
- (v) Letter 25 Lunasa 1982 from the Department of Health enclosing a table showing a breakdown of the amounts approved for voluntary and joint Board hospitals and homes for the mentally handicapped in respect of services provided for eligible patients from the Eastern Health Board area for 1980, 1981 and 1982.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

CORRECT: P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN