

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting
of the Eastern Health Board held in
St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co Kildare
on Thursday 5 May, 1983 at 6 pm

PRESENT

Dr J D Behan
Cllr L Belton
Dr J Buttimer
Cllr M Carroll
Mrs D Clune
Cllr E Doyle
Mr P Finegan
Cllr M Freehill

Mr J Gahan
Cllr Mrs A Glenn TD
Cllr A Groome
Cllr T Hand
Cllr F Hynes
Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy
Cllr E Stagg
Cllr J Sweeney

APOLOGIES:

Ald B Ahern TD, Mrs B Bonar, Cllr D Browne, Dr R J Draper, Cllr B J Durkan, Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald, Dr R Hawkins, Cllr P Hickey, Cllr G Timmins, TD, Cllr W Willoughby,

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr Mrs A Glenn TD

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P B Segrave
Mr F J Donohue
Mr K J Hickey
Mr T P Keyes
Mr J F Reynolds
Mr G Brennan
Mr J N McNee
Prof B O'Donnell
Mr F J McCullough
Mr J Doyle
Dr L P Murphy
Sr Canice

Dr J O'Neill
Miss A Flanagan
Mr A O'Brien
Mr C Mansfield
Mr K Ward
Mr M O'Connor
Mr J Leech
Mr T Mahon
Mr P Galvin
Mrs B Travers
Miss A O'Keefe

41/83 CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman, a vote of sympathy was expressed with the following: (i) Mr T Mahon, Section Officer, Secretariat, on the recent death of his brother: (ii) Dr E Malone, Radiologist, on the recent death of his sister, (iii) The relatives of Miss M Doherty, former Matron, Bru Chaoimhin and St Clare's Home: (iv) The Sisters of Mercy, St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on the recent death of Sr Margaret.

42/83

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members that, as agreed at the April meeting of the Board, the June meeting of the Board would be held in St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum on 2 June, 1983.

43/83

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL, 1983.

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

(a) Matters arising from the Minutes

CMr reehill referred to item No. 36/83 regarding Foster Care Services end to the making of a special vidio film for use by the Fostering Resource Group in their campaign to recruit foster parents. Following a discussion to which Cllr Stagg contributed and to which the Programme Manager, Community Care Service and the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that the film would be available for viewing on the occasion of the June meeting.

44/83 QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Mr Finegan, it was agreed that the question lodged should be answered:

Cllr F Hynes

QUESTION

"Please give the following information:-

The number of patients in St Brendan's Hospital in December 1974.

The number of nurses employed in December 1974.

The number of patients in the Hospital in December 1982.

The number of nurses employed in December 1982."

REPLY

"In the period December 1974 to December 1982 the population in the catchment area served by St Brendan's has grown by 18%, the nursing staff by 11 % and the number of in-patients has been reduced by 18%.

The following chart gives the statistical information requested:

	In-Patients	Nurses
31/12/1974	1103	590
31/12/1982	936	653*

(*includes 70 nurses working in the community)

A number of significant developments in the service since 1974 has affected the in-patient and nursing numbers and arrangements.

1. EXPANSION OF SERVICES

It is now our Board's firm policy to develop services within the community.

The implementation of this policy has reached a stage where in-patient numbers have been reduced as a result of the development of a network of day hospitals, day care centres, hostels and community nursing services.

A total of 70 nurses now work in the community in providing services which are enabling an increasing number of persons to be maintained within their own communities.

2. NURSE TRAINING

The development of the nurse training syllabus has resulted in a nurse training programme which, in its implementation, has 20 of our student nurses in a general hospital on a continuing basis and therefore not available for duty in St Brendan's.

3. IMPROVED SERVICES FOR PATIENTS IN ST BRENDAN'S

In an effort to improve the quality of service to individual patients in St Brendan's some wards have been divided - particularly wards for disturbed patients. There has also been some additional nursing provision at night.

4. IMPROVED STAFF CONDITIONS

Annual leave for psychiatric nurses has been increased from 5 to 7 weeks in the period and maternity leave has been introduced. These developments have required the employment of 35 additional nurses."

45/83

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- (i) "We have circulated to the members a copy of the 'Guidelines on Procedures for the Identification, Investigation and Management of Non-Accidental Injury to Children (Revised Edition) dated February, 1983"

(ii) "We have been advised by Gerard J Quinn & Co., Solicitors, that a sum of £5.000 has been bequeathed to our Board by the sister of one of our patients at present in St Brendan's Hospital as a contribution towards his continuing care and maintenance. There are no other conditions to the bequest. The acceptance of gifts is a statutory function of the Board and I recommend that this gift be accepted with thanks."

(Hi) "We have circulated to the members a Report on Farmers Health Contributions as requested by Cllr Stagg at the April meeting, together with a copy of letter dated 28 April, 1983 Ref. K504/11 from the Department of Health regarding the assessment and collection of farmers' health contributions."

On the suggestion of Cllr Stagg it was agreed that item no. (iii) would be placed on the agenda for the June meeting of the Board.

46/83

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

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

- (i) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held in Neas Hospital on 1 February, 1983.
On a proposal by Dr Buttimer, seconded by Cllr Stagg, the report was noted.
- It was agreed, on the request of Dr Buttimer, to record in the minutes that facilities for Community Care Services will be provided in the Naas Hospital development.
- The Chairman referred to the priority proposals of the Capital Programme Committee and stated that the Minister for Health had confirmed that he wished to meet with the Chairman and members of the Management Team on 20 May.
- (II) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Area 5 (Cherry Orchard Hospital) on 22 March, 1983.
- On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, the report was noted.
- In a discussion on the operation and organisation of the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme, to which Cllrs Hynes, Doyle, Stagg, Groome and Freehill contributed, and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service replied, some members indicated that they were unaware of the difficulties which had arisen and Mr Donohue was requested to avail of opportunities to keep the members informed of developments in this regard.
- (iii) No 3 Visiting Committee meeting held in St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 29 March, 1983.
- On a proposal by Cllr Hand, seconded by Cllr Stagg, the report was noted.

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Groome, Stagg, Hand, Hynes, Freehill, Carroll, Mrs Clune and Dr Buttimer contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed, on a proposal by Cllr Hand, seconded by Cllr Stagg, that the recommendation of the Visiting Committee that the services in the Maternity Unit should be limited to four beds and isolation, be accepted by the Board. The members also accepted the need for and approved of the development of an admission unit for the elderly, including assessment/rehabilitation facilities.

- (iv) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Area 6 (St Brendan's Hospital) on 19 April, 1983.

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

Cllrs Sweeney, Stagg and Mrs Clune drew the attention of the members to the references in the report to the problems caused by staff shortages in the case of Public Health Nurses, Dentists and Occupational Therapists.

The Chief Executive Officer referred to the dilemma which had been created for the Board by a number of issues -

- (1) Both the Board and the Minister for Health were anxious to pursue a policy of moving resources from acute hospital/institutional care to community care.

Our Board had no major acute hospital from which to move resources and our other institutions were generally under financed.

- (2) Services in the Community Care area were almost totally provided through people. Additional services meant more people working in the community.

In addition to the problem of not having resources to transfer from acute hospital services for this, the Board was faced with a reduction in staff numbers of 5%.

- (3) As a result of the economic difficulties there were rapidly increasing demands on many of our Board's Community services arising particularly from family stress and unemployment.

He said that priority services would have to be identified as it would not be possible for the Board to continue to cope with increasing demands and expenditures.

47/83

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The reports of the following Local Committee meetings having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:-

- (i) Kildare Local Committee meeting held on 10 March, 1983.

On a proposal by Dr McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Stagg, the report was noted.

- (ii) Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 14 April, 1983.

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

In response to an enquiry from Cllr Carroll regarding the provision of out-patient clinics in Tallaght in advance of the new hospital, Mr Hickey, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care, reported on progress which had been made since the last meeting of the Board. At a meeting between representatives of the Department of Health, the Meath, Adelaide and National Children's Hospital and the Health Board, the commitment to establish out-patient clinics in Tallaght had been renewed, a plan of action had been worked out and is being followed up.

48/83

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, who was unable to attend the meeting, had requested that the motion in her name be deferred to the June meeting of the Board.
- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Stagg, and seconded by Cllr Freehill:
- "That the facilities for homeless persons provided by the Board at Usher's Island be made available for that purpose on a permanent basis and that the temporary facilities now in use in Bru Chaoimhin, be closed"
- Having heard a report from Mr T Keyes, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, on the development of the services at Usher's Island and the steps which had been taken by officers of the Board who had examined the possibility of providing those services from alternative accommodation, the members agreed to defer taking a decision on this matter until the examination of the alternatives had been completed.
- (iii) &- The two motions which had been tabled by Ald A Fitzgerald, who was
(iv) unable to attend the meeting, were at his request, deferred to the June meeting of the Board.

48/83 CORRESPONDENCE

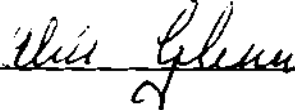
The following letters, which had been circulated, were noted:

- (i) Circular No. 6/83 dated 8 March, 1983 from the Department of Health regarding the promotion of vaccinations and immunisations.
- (ii) Letter dated 6 April, 1983 from the Department of Health notifying the maximum rates of allowances and capitation rates with effect from 1 July, 1983.
- (iii) Letter dated 11 April, 1983 from the Department of Health regarding the Poisons Regulations 1982.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

CORRECT: P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris Glenn", is written over a horizontal line.