

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in
St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, on Thursday 15 December, 1983 at 6 p.m.

Dr. J.D. Behan	Cllr. A. Groome
Cllr. L. Belton	Cllr. T. Hand
Mrs. B. Bonar	Dr. R. Hawkins
Cllr. D. Browne	Cllr. P. Hickey
Dr. M. Butler	Cllr. F. Hynes
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mr. D. Kane
Mrs. D. Clune	Dr. D.I. Keane
Prof. J.S. Doyle	Prof. J.S. McCormick
Mi. P. Kinegan	Dr. B. Powell
Cllr. Mrs. E. Fitzgerald	Cllr. E. Stagg
Cllr. M. Freehill	Cllr. J. Sweeney
Mr. J. Gahan	Cllr. W. Willoughby
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn, T.D.	

APOLOGY RECEIVED FROM: Dr. J. Buttimer

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn, T.D.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P.B. Segrave,	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. K.J. Hickey,	Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr. T.P. Keyes,	Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr. J.J. Doyle,	A/Programme Manager, Community Care Services,
Mr. J.F. Reynolds,	Finance Officer,
Mr. L.P. Kavanagh,	Personnel Officer,
Mr. J.N. McNee,	Management Services Officer,
Mr. J. Brennan,	Technical Services Officer,
Prof. B. O'Donnell,	Dublin Medical Officer of Health,
Mr. M. J. O'Connor,	Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

123/83

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman informed the members of the recent deaths of the mother of Mr. Noel Keogh, Engineering Officer, and of the mother of Dr. Dick Whitty, Consultant Psychiatrist, St. Brendan's Hospital. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

124/83

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman, on behalf of the members, congratulated Cllr. Tom Leonard, a member of the Board, on his election to Dail Eireann.

The Chairman informed the members that Mr. F.J. Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The members requested that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to Mr. Donohue.

125/83

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER, 1983

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

126/83

QUESTION

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

Cllr. Mrs. E. Fitzgerald

"What steps has the C.E.O. taken to implement the motion passed at this Board some months ago in relation to providing better publicity for the Supplementary Welfare Allowances scheme, including posters in Health Centres; in relation to making applicants aware of their right to appeal; and in ensuring that all community welfare officers have a supply of the forms on which this right to appeal is printed".

Reply

"In light of the recent motion, discussion and comment at recent Board meetings it is clear that some Board members consider that access to some of the Board's services is inhibited through the absence of suitable methods of communication for advising those who may need such services, of their availability.

The Programme Manager, Community Care has therefore appointed a small group of staff to look at the problem in Supplementary Welfare and to make appropriate proposals and recommendations with a view to bridging the communications gap. The group has met on several occasions and prepared some initial draft material. It hopes to report in early January.

We would also hope to have some of the completed drafts available for the February 1984 Board Meeting.

Forms upon which applications are made for Supplementary Welfare Allowances state that the applicant has a right to appeal".

127/83

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board:-

"ALLOCATION FOR NON-CAPITAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE 1984

I have circulated to the members a copy of the Department of Health's letter of allocation dated yesterday, 14th December, 1983 for the information of the Board.

The allocation for direct expenditure by our Board excluding our Board's allocation of £22.680 m. for the General Medical Services (Choice of Doctor Scheme) is £170.130 m.

The allocation of £147.450 for direct expenditure by our Board is approximately £4 m. short of the amount which officers of our Board consider to be the minimum allocation required to maintain our Board's existing services at their current level throughout 1984.

In the letter our Board is asked to assess the impact of the allocation on the level of the services we provide and sets out guidelines within which this assessment should be made.

The letter states that Health Boards should secure the necessary reduction in expenditure in the institutional service area to the maximum degree possible and to protect, as far as it is possible to do so, the non-institutional community services.

The letter also states that the Government has decided that throughout 1984 the arrangements whereby two-thirds of all vacancies occurring in the Civil Service are held open will continue in force and that measures at least equivalent in effect in terms of the numbers of posts which must remain unfilled and their cost will be applied in health agencies.

The Government has also transferred to our Board administrative responsibility for Children's Homes in our area with effect from 1 January 1984. The letter of allocation includes a provision based on the present capitation rates payable to the homes. This provision will be supplemented later when the 1984 running costs of homes have been agreed by officers of our Board and officers of the Department of Health.

In addition the Minister has arranged to meet with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officers on Monday next December 19th.

Our Board's expenditure will be limited by the application of Section 31 of the 1970 Health Act. The implications of the restricted allocation in the context of the available information and policy guidelines contained in the letter will now be reviewed in a report which I shall present to our Board as soon as possible."

(ii) "ST. COLUMCILLE'S HOSPITAL, LOOGLINSTOWN

Since our meeting with the Minister for Health regarding St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown on October 19th last, significant progress has been made under two headings.

Medical Staff Appointments

The financial implications relating to the following medical staff appointments have been cleared with the Department of Health. This has enabled us to make formal application to Comhairle na nOspideal for approval to permanent consultant appointments.

Applications have now been made for the following posts:-

- 1 General Surgeon
- 1 General Physician
- 1 Obstetrician/Gynaecologist
- 1 Anaesthetist
- 1 Radiologist
- 1 Physician in Geriatric Medicine

Comhairle has been asked to consider these applications as a matter of urgency.

Improvements to Hospital Facilities

Officers from the Department of Health have been meeting with the Programme Manager and members of the hospital staff and agreement has been reached on draft briefs for an additional Operating Theatre and Out-Patient Departments respectively.

Proposals are now being made to the Department of Health for approval to the appointment of a Design Team to draw up detailed plans for the proposed improvements".

(ii i) "DISPENSARY AT BALLINACOR WEST

Our Board, at a meeting held on 1 May, 1975 decided, in principle, to sell the dispensary residence and adjoining land to the occupant, Dr. D.P. Birmingham.

In August 1977 it was agreed to sell the property and one acre of land to Dr. Birmingham at a price of £13,000 which was the valuation obtained at that time. Dr. Birmingham accepted this offer.

Difficulties intervened in the matter of the Board's need for land for further service needs.

The matter came before the Board again in August 1982 when it was agreed that if possible, an improved offer should be sought. Legal proceedings for specific performance were initiated by Dr. Bermingham, who has now retired.

A further offer of £15,000 was made recently and prior to a High Court hearing in the matter.

On the basis of equity and the legal advice available to me I recommend that the Board proceed with the sale of property.

Against this background I propose to circulate a Section 83 notice in relation to the property for consideration by our Board at the January 1984 meeting".

128/83

COMPOSITION OF PROPOSED MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

The following report No. 20/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

1. "Our Board, at their last meeting, considered a report which set out the organisation of the Dublin general hospital service, identified the catchments to be served by the six major acute hospitals, three on the north side and three on the south side, and generally identified the catchment areas to be served by each hospital.

In discussing the report, members pointed to the importance of identification of a catchment area for each hospital, which is something new, and discussed in general the most appropriate composition of the Boards of such new hospitals.

Reference was made to the composition of the 'Beaumont Planning Board' and to the reference by the Minister for Health at the time to the likely role for our Board in relation to the new 'Management Board' which is to be established prior to Beaumont Hospital being commissioned.

It was suggested that our Board make its views on the likely composition of the new Beaumont Board known to the Minister for his consideration prior to reaching a conclusion in the matter.

This document sets out some of the considerations which might be taken into account by our Board should it decide to advise the Minister in the matter.

2. The Beaumont Hospital Board (Establishment) order 1977 provides, inter-alia, that the functions of the Board are, subject to the overall direction of the Minister, (a) to plan, build, equip and furnish a general hospital and (b) from a day to be determined by the Minister as the date of the commissioning of the hospital, to conduct, maintain, manage and develop services at the hospital

Provision was made in the Establishment Order for appointments to the Board to be made by the Minister, on the nomination of various bodies.

In the period prior to commissioning the Board consists of 14 members, of whom 9 are nominated as follows:

- 2 by the Eastern Health Board
- 3 by the Board of Governors of St. Laurence's Hospital
- 3 by the Committee of Management of Jervis Street Hospital
- 1 by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Provision is made in the Establishment Order that, on and from commissioning day, the Board shall consist of such number of members as the Minister shall determine after consultation with the above named nominating bodies.

In nominating two persons for appointment to the Beaumont Hospital Board for the pre-commissioning period, our Board, in August, 1977, expressed disappointment at the number of nominations allowed to it. In the course of a meeting with the Minister he indicated that the restriction of our Board's representatives to two members would not prejudice adequate

representation for our Board when the constitution of the Beaumont Hospital Board for the post-commissioning management stage came to be considered.

3. Perhaps the most significant development related to the establishment of the six major Dublin Hospitals has been the identification for each of a specific catchment area to which the hospital will have a primary responsibility for the provision of acute care, particularly in the non regional or non national specialties.

Although these catchment areas have been identified for some time, little practical action has yet been taken to try and ensure that in the development and organisation of services by the six major hospitals, due account will be taken of local community services needs through formal expression at hospital board level.

There is a unique opportunity in relation to the new Beaumont Hospital Board to provide for a linking together of the community and all hospital services in the catchment area.

This linking together can probably best be achieved through the statutory health bodies, i.e. the health board and the local health committees.

Through this means, in addition to elected members or management of the health board, the inclusion of the Director of Community Care, a local General Practitioner and Clinical Director, Psychiatric Services could be considered. In this context also it would be important to recognise the contribution made by local voluntary organisations. There is an accepted consideration as well that staff of the hospital might be represented.

The development of a nucleus of this kind which would in fact represent the entire health services of the hospital catchment area could be a very interesting and useful pioneering development."

Following a discussion to which Dr. Behan, Professor McCormack, Cllr. Freehill, Professor Doyle, Mr. Finegan and Cllr. Stagg contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed, on the proposal of Professor Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Stagg, to adopt the report.

It was also agreed to raise with the Minister for Health at his meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officers of the Health Boards to be held on 19 December 1983, Professor Doyle's request to have the Beaumont Board reconvened as soon as possible. It was also agreed to ask the Minister to receive a small deputation from our Board to discuss the composition of the proposed Management Board for Beaumont Hospital.

129/83

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCIES ON LOCAL COMMITTEES

The following Report No. was submitted:- 22/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer

"At the November meeting of our Board I informed members that casual vacancies had arisen on local Committees as set out hereunder and that a report regarding their filling would be submitted at the December meeting. The following persons, each of whom has been duly nominated, are recommended for appointment as members of the appropriate local committees:

Local Committee	Vacancies	Persons recommended for appointment
Dublin City	Voluntary organisation representative	Mrs. Eda Cafolla, c/o Sancta Maria Day Centre Cabra West, Dublin 7.
Dublin County	Consultant in a general hospital	Dr. J. Gardiner, 2, Neville Road, Dublin 6.
Dublin County	Registered dentist	Dr. J. Power, 56, Stillorgan Park, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.
Wicklow	Public Health Nurse	Ms. T. Henry, "Cherry Garth- Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow."

On the proposal of Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Cllr. Stagg, the report was agreed.

I 30/83

HEALTH (FAMILY PLANNING) ACT 1979

The following Report No. 23/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At our November meeting the Board considered Report No. 19/1983 and background material relating to the Health (Family Planning) Act 1979 and its implementation.

Following consideration of the Report and the options for extended implementation contained therein the Board passed the following resolution:-

'That the Board explore Option (c) in Report No. 19/1983 by (a) contacting the listed organisations (b) enumerating the availability of Health Board facilities, (c) looking at cost implications, (d) trying, if possible, to quantify unmet demand for these services'.

Since then officers of our Board have had preliminary meetings with the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (C.M.A.C.), the National Association for the Ovulation Method in Ireland (N.A.O.M.I) and the Irish Family Planning Association (I.F.P.A.) advising them of the Board's decision and discussing the feasibility of increasing the number of family planning centres available to the public. The organisations undertook to consider the matter.

The I.F.P.A. have indicated that while they are not in a position to provide new and additional centres at this time they would be very willing to assist in the establishment of further centres by training personnel, providing literature etc. and providing on-going support. They would also be prepared to staff a centre while other staff are being trained.

The C.M.A.C. are at present considering how far they could become involved and whether they would be in a position to staff services at a health centre or other local premises as part of a wider family planning service.

N.A.O.M.I, have indicated that it is unlikely that they would be able to participate significantly in the development of services as envisaged in option (c) in Report 19/1983.

A group of family doctors is considering the establishment of a family planning clinic which might be located in an Eastern Health Board health centre and with local referral arrangements from colleagues etc.

In light of the responses received to date and the discussion at the last Board meeting further consideration has been given to the feasibility of the option of providing some family planning services directly by our Board. It has been found possible to include a family planning component in the special screening and advisory service for women being developed by one of our community care teams. Two advisory clinics at Coolock and Kilbarrack are being so extended. Demand for the services provided will be monitored closely in the coming months.

In the meantime officers of our Board will continue to have follow-up discussions with the organisations referred to in the Report. I would propose to report back to the Board in due course".

Following a discussion to which Hrs. Bonar, Prof. McCormick, Cllrs. Freehill, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Stagg and Carroll and Dr. Powell contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that the report be adopted.

131/83

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following report No. 24/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At meeting held on 1 September 1983 the Board consented to the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft up to an overall limit of £1.5 million during the quarter ending on 31 December 1983.

As similar overdraft accommodation may be required during the March quarter 1984, I request that the Board consents to the borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 31 March 1984 to a maximum of £1.5 million".

On the proposal of Cllr. Stagg, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, it was agreed that the report be adopted.

132/83

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

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

- (i) Community Care Visiting Committee meeting held in Area 3 (Lord Edward Street) on 18 October, 1983.

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

Cllr. Stagg drew the attention of the members to the Committee's recommendation that an extra post of Community Worker be created for each Community Care area to relieve the current social work caseload and requested that the position in each area be reviewed.

- (ii) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held in St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park on 24 October, 1983.

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

- (iii) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy on 25 October, 1983.

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

The members agreed with Dr. Powell's request for a report regarding the maternity services provided in hospitals under the control of our Board.

- (iv) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held in Naas General Hospital on 28 October, 1983.

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

133/83

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 8 November, 1983

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

Mrs. Bonar's request that copies of the report on heroin users in the Borough of Dun Laoghaire should be circulated to Board members was agreed.

(ii) Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 10 November, 1983

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

(iii) Dublin City Local Committee meeting held on 14 November, 1983

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

134/83

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Fitzgerald:

"That this Board expresses its grave concern at the possible implications of the Windscale nuclear plant and other nuclear plants in Britain for public health in this country; that the implications of the continuing dumping of nuclear waste in the Irish sea be assessed; and that the Chief Executive Officer should present a full report on these issues to the next meeting of the Eastern Health Board".

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kane and following a discussion to which Cllr. Cllr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Kane, Prof. McCormick and Dr. Behan contributed, and to which Prof. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health replied, was agreed.

The members agreed that, having regard to the terms of the motion and to the time which would be needed to prepare the report, the Chief Executive Officer's report would be presented to a later meeting of the Board.

135/83

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 30 November, 1983 from the Department of Health regarding the future position of the casualty service and drug centre at present based at Jervis Street Hospital and the Board's request for a comprehensive review of the General Hospital Development Programme and General Hospital Service in the Eastern Health Board area, copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

The meeting concluded at 8 p.m.

CORRECT: P.B. Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN