

## **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 February 1984 at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

*Dr J D Behan  
Cllr L Belton  
Mrs B Bonar  
Cllr D Browne  
Cllr M Carroll  
Mrs D Clune  
Cllr E Doyle  
air BJ Durkan TD  
Mr P Finegan  
air Mrs E Fitzgerald  
Cllr M Freehill  
Mr J Gahan  
Cllr Mrs A Glenn TD*

*air A Groome  
Cllr T Hand  
Dr R Hawkins  
Cllr P Hickey  
air F Hynes  
Mr D Kane  
Dr D I Keane  
Prof J McCormick  
Dr B Powell  
Clr E Stagg  
air J Sweeney  
air G Timmins TD  
Cllr W C Willoughby*

### **APOLOGIES:**

*Mr N Andrews TD, Dr M Butler, Prof J S Doyle*

### **IN THE CHAIR**

*Cllr Mrs A Glenn TD*

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

*Mr P B Segrave, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr F J Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care  
Mr T P Keyes, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care  
Mr P J Swords, A/Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care  
Mr J F Reynolds, Finance Officer  
Mr L P Kavanagh, Personnel Officer  
Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer  
Mr J N McNee, Management Services Officer  
Prof B O'Donne/I, Dublin Medical Officer of Health  
Mr M J O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat*

13/84

**CONDOLENCES**

The Chairman informed the members of the recent deaths of the sister of Miss Cathy Doran, Senior Executive Officer, Community Care Service and of the father of Miss Caroline Brady, Clerical Officer, and Secretary. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

14/84

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman, on behalf of the members, congratulated Dr Ray Hawkins on his election as Honorary Treasurer of the new Irish Medical Union and Mr Michael Butler on his election as Chairman of its Scientific Committee.

16/84

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON 6 JANUARY 1984 AND OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 1984**

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

It was agreed to record in the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January that Mr Gahan had voted against the proposal contained in Report No. 1/1984

16/84

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

- (i) **Medical Card Guidelines.**  
The guidelines for the issue of medical cards will be changed with effect from 1/7/84 as set out hereunder

The changes will have the effect of retaining eligibility for elderly persons in receipt of non-contributory old age pensions whose pensions will be increased from 1 July 1984

	Effective from 1/1/84 per week	Effective from 1/7/84 per week
Single Person up to 65 years living alone	£59.00	£59.00
Single Person from 66 -79 years living alone	£59.00	£64.00
Single Person aged 80 or over living alone	£59.00	£67.00
Single Person up to 65 years living with family	£50.00	£50.00
Single Person between 66-79 years living with family	£50.00	£55.00
Single Person aged 80 or over living with family	£50.00	£58.00
Married Couple up to 65 years	£85.00	£85.00
Married Couple from 66 - 79 years	£85.00	£95.00
Married Couple Aged 80 or over	£85.00	£101.00

**Cheeverstown House Ltd.**

Cheeverstown Convalescent Home was established in 1904 as a charitable body to provide post-hospital care in the Dublin area for deprived children discharged from hospital. It was managed by a committee and the service was organised in co-operation with the Queen Victoria Jubilee nurses. Funds were obtained from Dublin Corporation and fund-raising. Initially the service was provided from a house in Clondalkin but in 1933 the committee purchased a house and 9 Yi acres in Templeogue. The service ceased in 1968 when it became clear to the committee that there was no longer a need for it.

On the cessation of the service the committee decided that their energies and resources should be devoted to the care and welfare of mentally handicapped persons and St Michael's House were permitted to use the property for day purposes for a period.

In 1975 a Project Team was established by the Minister for Health to plan a new centre at Cheeverstown. it included representatives from the Department of Health, Cheeverstown House Ltd and St Michael's House. Mr T Keyes, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, was invited to act as Chairman of the Project Team.

The new centre includes 130 residential and 150 day places and will open on a phased basis with effect from 1 May 1984. The final cost will be approximately £6 million. Funds for the project were provided by the Minister for Health. Persons to be admitted to Cheeverstown will be drawn in the main from our Board's emergency waiting list of over 300 and as agreed between the Board's Director of Mental Handicap and the Medical Director of the centre. It is also agreed that the centre will generally provide services for the local area (Community Care Areas 2, 3, and 4). In addition, we expect to have some of the young mentally handicapped adults who are now not suitably provided for in the Children's Unit in St Loman's Hospital placed there.

Cheeverstown House Ltd was incorporated as a Limited Company in 1975. it has eleven directors. Mr T Keyes, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, is, by invitation, a director and a member of the executive committee.'

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHEEVERSTOWN HOUSE LTD.**

<b>Mrs E Clarke, Chairman</b>	<b>'Pirton', Syndeham Villas, Dundrum, Dublin 14</b>
<b>Mr J J Daly, Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Bloomhill, Woodside Road, Sandyford, Co Dublin</b>
<b>Mr J F O'Higgins, Secretary</b>	<b>8, Wynnsward Park, Dublin 14</b>
<b>Mr P Rickard Clarke</b>	<b>51, Rathgar Road, Dublin 6</b>
<b>Mr R J Dennis</b>	<b>71. Park Avenue, Dublin 6</b>
<b>Mr W Kennedy</b>	<b>1, Greenhills Road. Tallaght, Co Dublin</b>
<b>Mr I Lyons</b>	<b>29. Springfield Road, Dublin 6</b>
<b>Mr A F Rice</b>	<b>83, Lower Churchtown Road, Dublin 14</b>
<b>Mrs V E Gill</b>	<b>(St Michael's House)</b>
<b>Miss I Richardson</b>	<b>(St Michael's House)</b>
<b>Mr T P Keyes</b>	<b>Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care (Eastern Health Board)</b>

(ii) **St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.****1. Staffing**

I am pleased to advise the Board that Comhairle na nOspideal has now approved the creation of the following permanent wholetime consultant posts at St Columcill's Hospital:-

- 1 General Surgeon
- 1 General Physician
- 1 Anaesthetist
- 1 Radiologist

Our Board's application for posts of Obstetrician/Gynaecologist and Physician in Geriatric Medicine respectively, are still under consideration by an Comhairle. Pending approval to these latter 2 posts, immediate steps are now being taken to obtain final clearance from the Department of Health to have the other 4 posts advertised at an early date by the Local Appointments Commission.

**2. Facilities**

Since my last Report we have had further meetings at St Columcille's Hospital involving representatives of the Department of Health and the Design Team Architect. A detailed work programme is currently being taken up with a view to having the various detailed planning stages for the new Operating Theatres and Out-Patients Department completed by the end of this year so that tenders may then be invited for the necessary construction work.'

17/84

**COMMITTEE ON SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR UNWANTED PREGNANCIES**

The following report off a meeting off the Committee hold on 14 1883 had been circulated:-

The meeting was called pursuant to the decision at the last meeting of the Committee, in 1982 that the overall situation be reviewed in twelve months.

It was noted that the rise in numbers continues with a total of 4,351 illegitimate births in 1982 against 1,963 in 1972 which accounted for 6.1 % and 2.8% respectively of total births.

Following presentation of statistical data by Dr Powell a detailed discussion took place on the circumstances of the unmarried mother of to-day.

From a survey of attendances by single pregnant girls at St James's Hospital a number of disturbing factors were noted, as follows:

- (i) the large numbers who do not present for ante-natal services until very late in pregnancy
- (ii) considerable lack of knowledge regarding contraception, menstrual cycle and sex education in general

- (iii) infant mortality figures, on a par with national figures, are high for young mothers.

Cllr Mrs Glenn drew attention to the need to ensure that the provision of services for the unmarried mothers and their children did not create anomalies for other parents and their children in similar circumstances.

It was noted that copies of the report of the Committee and addendum, as adopted by the Board, had been circulated to the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Health Education Bureau.

It was considered, however, that in view of the continuous rise in numbers more publicity including TV slots and greater action was desirable.

There was agreement that the proposal in the Committee's report regarding St Patrick's Home should be implemented.

It was suggested that the proposals of the Committee would be given greater impetus if the representation was more broadly based: an action group whose members included nominees of all eight health boards, of the Department of Health, of the Health Education Bureau and Federation of Services for the the Unmarried Parent was mooted.

Following a discussion to which Dr Powell, Professor McCormick, Cllr Freehill, Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Stagg, Dr Hawkins, Dr Keane, Cllr Durkan and the Chairman contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a masting should be arranged with representatives of the Department of Education and of the Health Education Bureau with a view to having the Committee's recommendations implemented. It was also agreed that the Committee's reports should be considered by the Programme Manager, Community Care Service, in consultation with the Community Care Programme Managers from the other seven health boards.

18/84

#### REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON SELECTIVE BENEFITS

The following report No. 2/1984 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

At the January meeting of our Board it was agreed that the attached Report of the Working Party on Selective Benefits should be reviewed.

The Working Party was established by our Board at its February 1981 meeting with the following terms of reference:-

To examine the anomalies that exist in the selective administration of health and social benefits and make recommendations for their correction.'

The members of the Working Party were Dr J Behan, Mrs B Bonar, Professor J S McCormick and Dr J Walker.

Our Board, having considered the Report of the Working Party at its December 1981 meeting, adopted the following resolution:-

That the Report of the Working Party on Selective Benefits be accepted in principle and that copies be sent to the Minister and other Health Boards as a basis for consultation.'

Copies of the Report were circulated in accordance with the terms of the resolution.

Following a discussion to which Professor McCormick, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Freehill, Cllr Stagg, Dr Bohan, Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, Mr Kane, and Cllr Hynes contributed, it was agreed to send the Report off the Working Party to the Commission on Social Welfare, to include for consideration the Disabled Parsons Rehabilitation Maintenance AHowanca and to inform the Commission of our Board's wish to make an oral submission.

19/84

#### 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 General Hospital, Naas on 15 December 1983.  
On a proposal by Cllr Stagg, seconded by Cllr Groome, the report was noted.
- (ii) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held in St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park on 3 January 1984  
On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Carroll, the report was noted.
- (IT) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held in St Columcille's Hospital, on 17 January 1984.  
On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, the report was noted.

20/84

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

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

- 1. Kildare Local Committee meeting held on 4 November 1983.  
On a proposal by Cllr Stagg, seconded by Cllr Groome, the report was noted.
- 2. Wicklow Local Committee meeting held on 18 November 1983.  
On a proposal by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Hynes, the report was noted.
- 3. Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 10 January 1984.  
On a proposal by Cllr Willoughby seconded by Cllr Carroll the report was noted.
- 4. Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 12 January 1984. On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Hickey, the report was noted.

The members congratulated Cllr Carroll on his election as Chairman of the Dublin County Local Committee.

21/84

## NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mrs Glenn

That mis Board recommends to the Minister for Health that the condition known as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus be included in the Scheme for Long Term Illnesses.'

The motion was seconded by Mrs Bonar and, following a discussion to which Cllr Mrs Glenn, Profassor McCormick and Mrs Bonar contributed, and to which Professor O'Donnall, Dublin Medical Officer of Health replied, was agreed.

- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Hand:-

'That this Board makes available (as a matter of urgency! a mobile hospital as per the Geriatric Care Report • Medium Term Programme for Capital Development.'

The motion was seconded by Cllr Carroll and following a discussion to which Cllrs Hand, Carroll and Stagg contributed, was agreed.

- (iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Freehill, seconded by Prof McCormick, and agreed:-

That the Chief Executive Officer give this Board a report on the activities of the Foundation for Human Development: the amount of funding it receives from the Eastern Health Board and when and how often Board meetings are held.'

- (iv) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Stagg:

That this Board requests the Minister for Health to restore the right to medical cards and to General Medical Services to all those from whom it was recently withdrawn i.e. persons between 16 - 25 years who are dependent on their parents and whose parents do not qualify for such cover, and that such cover continues until the promise to review our health care services for young people is completed and the recommended reforms implemented.'

The motion was seconded by Dr Powell and following a discussion to which Cllr Stagg, Or Powell, Dr Behan, Cllr Willoughby, Cllr Sweeney, Profassor McCormick, Cllrs Hynas, Durkan and Mrs Fitzgerald contributed, and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service replied, was defeated by 11 votes to 9, the voting being as foHows:-

For: 9

Dr Behan, Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, Mr Gahan, Cllr Groome, Mr Kane, Prof McCormick, Dr Powell, Cllr Stagg, Cllr Sweeney.

Against: 11

Cllr Berton, Mrs Bonar. Cllr Carroll. Mrs Clune, Cllr Durkan. Cllr Mrs Glenn, Cllr Hand, Cllr Hickey, Cllr Hynes, Dr Keane, Cllr Willoughby.

22/84

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Letter dated 5 January 1984 from the Department of Health requesting an alternative nomination to that of Mr J J Nolan for appointment to the St James's Hospital Board was considered. Following a discussion to which CNr Sweeney, Dr Bahan, Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, Cllr Hickey, Dr Powell and the-Chairman contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, the members agreed that the attention of the Department of Health should be drawn to the Law Agent's opinion dated 27 July 1977 that it was open to the Health Board to nominate persons for appointment to the St James's Hospital Board who are neither members of the Health Board or officers of the class referred to in Article 5 (a) of the St James's Hospital Board (Establishment) Order 1971. The members also requested that the Department be advised of the role played by Mr Nolan on the Board of St James's Hospital (member of the Executive Committee and Task Force, Vice-Chairman of the Project Team for the new Hospital and Chairman of the St James's Liaison Committee) and reaffirmed their nomination of Mr Nolan for appointment as a member of the St James's Hospital Board.
- (ii) Letter dated 16 January 1984 to Comhairle na nOspideal conveying the Board's views on the discussion document 'Development of Ear, Nose and Throat Services', copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

**CORRECT: P B Segrave**  
Chief Executive Officer

Chairman