

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
Board Room, St Brendan's Hospital,
on Thursday 5 July 1984 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Mr N Andrews TD
Cllr L Belton
Cllr D Browne
Mrs D aune
Prof J S Doyle
Mr P Finegan
Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald
Mr J Gahan
Cllr T Hand
Cllr P Hickey
MrD Kane
Cllr T Leonard
Prof J McCormick
Cllr J Sweeney

DrJD Behan
Mrs B Bonar
Cllr M Carroll
Cllr E Doyle
Dr R J Draper
Ald A Fitzgerald
Cllr M Freehill
Cllr A Groome
Dr R Hawkins
air F Hynes
Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy
Cllr E Stagg
Cllr W C Willoughby

APOLOGIES

Ald B Ahem TD, Cllr Mrs A Glenn TD

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr J Sweeney

OFFICERS IN A TTENDANCE

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

75/84

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman on behalf of himself and the Board members congratulated Deputy Niall Andrews on his election as a Member of the European Parliament.

76/84

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 1984

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

(a) Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Hynes referred to the Item 61/84 regarding engagement of Architects and other Consultants in the building of health centres etc. for the the Board. He suggested that it might be feasible for the Board to employ an Architect for the minor works at least.

Mr Donohue agreed to consider this suggestion and to report at a future meeting.

(b) Mrs Bonar referred to the incidence of marital breakdown in the community and inquired about the activities of organisations receiving grants from the Board for family support and their effectiveness.

Mr Donohue outlined the difficulties in recording the incidence of marital breakdown among the clients of the Board's social services. It was agreed that the need for such information would be kept in mind in compiling reports in the future.

(c) Professor Doyle referred to the refurbishment of Coolkenno Health Centre and Mr Donohue outlined the Board's proposals in this regard.**(d) Use of health centre accommodation by general practitioners.**

Following a discussion on the use of health centre accommodation by general practitioners, to which Dr Hawkins, Prof Doyle, Prof McCormick, Cllr Fitzgerald contributed and to which Mr Donohue replied, it was agreed to await publication of the Report of the Working Party on the General Medical Services and then to review policy in the context of that report.

(e) The organisation of General Hospital Services

Following a discussion the following motion proposed by Dr Behan, seconded by Cllr Carroll was agreed.

'That the Board seek a further meeting with the Minister to clarify the roles of the Department of Health and Eastern Health Board in relation to the delivery of general hospital services in its area and to discuss means for achieving integration with the remainder of the health services within specified catchment areas and that the Minister be requested to defer a final decision on the restructuring of the Boards of Beaumont and St James's Hospitals until these discussion have taken

Report of National Planning Board 'Proposals for Plan 1984-87'

The following report of the meeting of a Working Group to consider the reports of the National Planning Board 'Proposals for Plan 1984-87' which was held in St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, on 28 June 1984 was discussed.

Following a discussion on the Chapter relating to Health in the Report of the National Planning Board 'Proposals for Plan 1984-87' and a background paper which had been prepared for the meeting, the following conclusions were reached:

The policy proposals in the Report are in keeping with the stated policy of our Board.

It seems unlikely that the objectives in the Report could be achieved in the time stated, i.e. before 31 December 1987.

The Health Board should develop a pilot plan to investigate the effect of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report.

The pilot plan would be related to -

- (a) St James's Hospital and
- (b) A major voluntary hospital

The implementation of the proposals would necessitate a very significant transfer of resources from hospitals to Community Care Services. In the Eastern Health Board area the staffing ratios, particularly in the key areas of Community Care such as Public Health Nursing and Social Work, are below the ratios for other health board areas and considerable difficulty is experienced in coping with existing demands. Therefore any additional workload could be only undertaken if commensurate additional resources become available.

Rationalisation of the General Hospital Programme in the Eastern Health Board area was urgently needed. The major acute hospitals operate virtually in isolation from the rest of the health services and there are no structures available to further, within the catchment area of the hospital, the orderly transfer of resources and services from the hospital to the community.

The important role of the General Practitioners in the provision of primary medical care should be emphasised. They are also the principal referring agents to secondary and other services and they should be encouraged to develop policies of referral which would ensure that individual patients are referred to the most appropriate and cost effective service and that priority is given to those most in need.

The transfer of resources from Hospital to Community services should be undertaken in a balanced way which would have regard to the fact that the population of the Eastern Health Board area is increasing faster than that of any other health board and the Board's policy to provide care for those most in need.

Health Services have not been developed in a balanced way since the establishment of the health boards because central planning has focused, in the main, on acute hospital services. In future, planning should also concentrate on the development of community services and health boards should be involved in the central planning process.

The facility for making an oral submission to the Task Force of Ministers should be sought.'

Following a discussion to which Dr Bahan, Cllr Frtzgarald, Cllr Stagg, Dr Hawkins, Cllr Hynes contributed and on a proposal by CMr Stagg, aacodad by Dr Bahan, the report was adopted. It was abto agreed that this report be forwarded to the Task Force of Ministers for their consideration.

77/84

QUESTIONS

On a proposal by Cllr Hand, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed to answer the following question which had been lodged.

Question

Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer for a report on the infectious outbreak at Leopardstown Park Hospital.

Reply

'Leopardstown Park Hospital (a non-health board hospital) accommodates some 60 geriatric patients and 30 welfare home residents.

Last month it was noted that some of the geriatric patients were suffering from diarrhoea. Specimens sent to the laboratory revealed that they had a Salmonella infection. Eventually every patient and every member of the staff both in the hospital and welfare home, had specimens taken and 72 of them were positive, ft is to be emphasised here that none of them was ill and even the patients who had the diarrhoea initially soon recovered.

Twenty patients were admitted to Cherry Orchard Hospital. They all became 'negative' after a few weeks and they have since been returned to Leopardstown Park.

The source of the infection was identified as unpasteurised milk. The hospital has since changed its milk supplier and is now using pasteurised milk.'

78/84

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- (a) Mr Donohue informed the Board of the resignation of Cllr Mrs Glenn TD, from the Board of James Connolly Memorial Hospital and in accordance with usual practice would include on the agenda for the August meeting the nomination of a replacement for her.
- (b) A letter dated 18 June 1984 from the Department of Health regarding the financial allocation for this year and next year was circulated and discussed. It was agreed that the matter would be considered further at the August meeting of the Board.
- (c) Mr Donohue informed the Board of the publication of GMS (Payments) Board Annual Report 1983 and indicated that it would be circulated together with a report by the Programme Manager, Community Care for discussion at the next Board meeting.

79/84

SALE OF LAND AT KILROCK HOUSE, HOWTH

The following Report No. 14/1984 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

The above property, having been used for a number of years as a nurses' convalescent home, was transferred to the Board, through the Department of Health in 1974.

Our predecessors in title sold a portion of the total site for housing. At the time of this transaction, and since then, it was open to some doubt as to where the exact boundary-line lay, as no permanent boundary fence was erected at the time of the division.

When a boundary fence was recently erected, the present owner of the adjoining property raised objection to the position in which part of this fence stood, and, following negotiations, it was agreed that, in re-positioning the fence, it would be mutually advantageous to exchange approximately 1,000 sq feet on either side of the original boundary (please see attached map).

As this transaction involves the sale of a plot of ground the approval of the Board is required.

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.

On a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Browne, the report was adopted.

80/84

**EASTERN HEALTH STAFF SPORTS CLUB SITE
AT ST BRENDAN'S HOSPITAL**

The following Report No. 15/1984 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

Our Board, at its meeting held on 3 June 1982 approved of the granting of a site at St Brendan's Hospital to the Eastern Health Staff Sports Club for the development of recreational facilities for staff. The site chosen was in a derelict area, removed from the main existing circulation routes and had a low rating in terms of priorities in the provision of patient care facilities.

Following the detailed consideration given to St Brendan's Hospital and its future role in the provision of psychiatric services by the Project Team consisting of officers of our Board and of the Department of Health it was recognised that a complete study of the site should be undertaken having regard to the number of significant developments proposed for the area. As well as an orientation towards the development of community based

psychiatric facilities, proposals existed for the development of a purpose-built headquarters for our Board, for the development of the National Mental Health Resource Centre, for the new Resocialisation Unit, for the Sports Club premises, central kitchen/staff dining facilities, centralisation of boiler plant, provision of residential accommodation for 100 patients, and an extension to St Dymphna's Alcoholic Unit. An architect was, accordingly, appointed to prepare a development control plan with a view to having a fully planned approach to the utilisation of a very valuable site which would take fully into account the inter-relationship of the various patient care facilities.

His report is now available and envisages the North Circular Road as the primary site entrance, close to the location of the proposed Board Headquarters. The site agreed in 1982 for the proposed Sports Complex would be located in an area of high activity and is now essential for the optimum development of patient-care services in St Brendan's. The architect has, therefore, recommended that the proposed Sports Complex location be moved to an area in the south part of the site, close to the playing pitches.

The club recognised the need to make optimum use of all the land in St Brendan's for patient care and are prepared to co-operate in the transfer and are willing to make all their facilities available to patients at suitable times. They have, however, the difficulty of not being able to make up the loss which the transfer entails and have suggested that the Board would contribute £40,000 to enable them to proceed with the development of the second site.

I recommend approval by the Board to this proposal. I have discussed the matter in detail with the architect and I am satisfied that the value which the Board will obtain from this new arrangement in facilitating the optimum use of the site will exceed the sum proposed for payment to the Sports Club.

For the record, a decision was taken to which Councillors Browne, Carroll, Hand, Mr Finegan and Councillor Hynes contributed and to which Mr Keyes replied, that the report was adopted on a proposal by Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Carroll.

81/84

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 8, Coolock on 17 May 1984.

On a proposal by Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Hickey, the report was noted.

- (ii) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Kilrock House, Howth on 30 May 1984.

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

- (Hi) No. 2 visiting Committee meeting held in the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum on 18 June 1984.

On a proposal by Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Hickey, the report was noted.

A discussion took place to which CÚra Browne and Hickey and Dr Behan contributed regarding the inaccurate Press Report on the making of arrangements for the reception by the Ministers for Health and Justice of a deputation to discuss the Central Mental Hospital, it was agreed to write to the Minister expressing regret that arrangements had not worked out and requesting that he receive a deputation of the Board at a mutually convenient time. The following members were appointed to the deputation:

Cllr J Sweeney, Chairman
 Cllr T Hand
 Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald
 Cllr D Browne
 Cllr P Hickey

82/84

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 17 May 1984.

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

- (ii) Dublin City Committee meeting held on 18 June 1984.

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

- (iii) Dublin County Committee meeting held on 21 June 1984.

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

83/84

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Mrs Bonar and seconded by Dr Behan.

'That the draft regulations which required generic drugs to be subject to the same standards and criteria as those required for equivalent branded drugs be expedited.'

Following a discussion to which Mrs Bonar, Dr Hawkins, Dr Draper and Dr Behan contributed, the motion was adopted.

The following motion was proposed by Mrs Bonar:

'That a National Laboratory be set up to monitor all drugs on an ongoing basis for quality control and bioavailability.'

Following a discussion to which Dr Hawkins, Dr Draper, Dr Behan and Mrs Bonar contributed, it was agreed to amend the motion as follows:

'That a National Laboratory be set up to monitor all drugs on an ongoing basis for quality control and bioavailability and that such a service be funded by appropriate charges on the pharmaceutical industry.'

This amended motion proposed by Mrs Bonar, seconded by Dr Behan

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald:

'That the Board discuss the policy in relation to the discharge and aftercare of patients from psychiatric hospitals and ensure that Community Care services are provided and that patients do not become homeless after discharge.'

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that a report would be prepared for the October meeting of the Board when this motion will be discussed further.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald:

'That this Board calls for the strongest possible vigilance in relation to the potential dangers to public health from 'Fast Food' outlets, 'Mobile Food Vans', 'Ethnic Restaurants etc.. using re-heated food.'

Following a discussion to which Cllr Fitzgerald and Dr Hawkins contributed and Dr O'Donnall replied, it was agreed to prepare a report for the October meeting of the Board on the dangers to public health from these outlets.

84/84

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 5 June 1984 from the Irish Pharmaceutical Union regarding the abuse of cough mixtures was discussed.

Dr Hawkins gave notice that a motion would be put before the next Board meeting on this subject.

The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.

**CORRECT: F J Donohue
Deputy Chief Executive Officer**

Chairman