EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 5 September 1985 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Ald B Ahern TD
Dr J D Behan
Mrs B Bonar
Cllr I Callely
Mrs D Clune
Cllr J Dillon-Byrne
Cllr P Dunne
Sen A FitzGerald
Ald Cllr A Groome
Cllr W J Harvey
Dr M Henry
Mr D Kane
Dr P McCarthy
Cllr C Murphy
Cllr J Reilly

Mr F Beale
Cllr O Bennett
Cllr B Briscoe TD
Cllr M Carroll
Cllr P De Rossa TD
Prof J S Doyle
Cllr B J Durkan. TD
Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald
Cllr Dr D Ritpatrick
Dr R Hawkins
Cllr P Hickey
Dr D I Keane
Prof J McCormick
Dr B O’Herlihy
Cllr J Sweeney

APOLOGIES

Mr N Andrews TD, Chr F Hynes

IN THE CHAIR

Cllr J Sweeney

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P B Segrave, Chief Executive Officer
Mr K Hickey, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr F Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr M Walsh, A/Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr L Kavanagh, Personnel Officer
Prof B O’Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr J Reynolds, Finance Officer
Mr N McNee, Management Services Officer
Dr V Moloney, Director of Mental Handicap
Mr M J O’Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat
95/85
CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the members that Cllr Hynes was unable to attend the meeting on account of illness. The members requested that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to Cllr Hynes. The Chief Executive Officer on his own behalf, and on the behalf of the staff, associated himself with the members’ good wishes.

96/85
CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman, votes of sympathy were passed with the following:

(i) The family of the late Dr Patrick Logan, Former Medical Officer, James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

(ii) The family of Mrs Maura Sheeny, Ward Sister, St Brigid’s Home, Crooksling.

(iii) Mr John McMahon, Gardener, Newcastle, on the death of his wife.

97/85
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 1985

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 1985, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Dr Hawkins.

98/85
QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Mrs Clune, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

Question

Cllr B Briscoe TD

‘To ask if there are plans to build a new health centre for Inchicore, and when it is proposed to commence building this centre?"

Reply

A site for a health centre has been purchased by the Board at Emmet Road, Inchicore, in order to provide a new health centre to serve the population of the area.

A schedule of accommodation for the proposed health centre has been approved by the Department of Hearth. The project has been included in the Board's Capital Programme and the planning of this project is currently under way.

It is hoped to commence construction in late 1985 or early 1986 - subject to the planning requirements of the Department of Hearth and the Local Authority.
Question

Cllr Pat Dunne

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to furnish the following details regarding the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum:

(a) When was the new unit completed?
(b) What was the cost of the new unit?
(c) Why is the new unit not in operation?
(d) What would the cost be of putting the new unit into operation immediately?
(e) What was the unit provided for?
(f) Could the unit be used for patients suffering from drug related problems?

Reply

(a) The unit is virtually complete but has not yet been handed over to the Board by the Contractors.

(b) Approximate completion cost - £2,000,000.

(c) See (a) above. We also considered it prudent to await the 'Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Penal System' before finalising policy on the new unit. This report has now been published and the services in the Central Mental Hospital have been reviewed in some detail. The Special Hospital Programme Committee will be considering the matter further at its next meeting and subsequently reporting to the Board.

(d) Estimated Capital Cost - Furniture & Equipment - £80,000

Estimated Annual Revenue

- Pay £560,000
- Non Pay £135,000

£695,000

However, it is possible that in the overall review of the services some resources may be transferred from the main hospital to the new unit.

(e) Young disturbed persons (male 8- female) whose behaviour has resulted in their having difficulties with the law and whose behaviour is likely to lead to criminal proceedings against them.

(f) Yes.

Cllr Pat Dunne

Question

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to furnish details of payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme for each area under the following headings:

(a) Payments towards ESB bills.
(b) Payments towards Gas bills.
(c) Payments towards the provision of clothing.
(d) Payments towards Senior Citizens.
(e) Payments to supplement income'.
Reply

The data requested is not readily available in the format of the question. However, the attached schedule gives the information in so far as it is readily available. Statistics are not kept separately for payments to the elderly.

The figures given relate to a typical week in 1985.

Areas 14 and 15 are new sub-divisions and comparable statistics are not available for them.
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<tr>
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The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board:

(i) **Measles Immunisation Programme**

'I have circulated to the members details of the measles immunisation programme which will commence on 1 October 1985'.

(ii) **Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals - Representation on MANCH Council**

'Our Board has been requested by the FDVH to nominate two of our five representatives on the Central Council of the Federation to represent our Board on the MANCH Council. Our representatives are:

Dr J Behan, Cllr Mrs O Bennett, Cllr I Callely
Cllr W Harvey, Dr R Hawkins.

The MANCH Council is the Sub-Committee of the Central Council which deals with matters relating to the Meath, Adelaide and National Children's Hospitals and the eventual transfer of the service from those hospitals to Tallaght Hospital.

In accordance with the usual practice the nomination of two of our FDVH representatives will be on the agenda for the October meeting of our Board.'

(iii) **'Active Age Week'** from 6-13 October 1985 is being promoted jointly by our Board, Dublin Corporation, Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Corporation. The objectives of Active Age Week are:

1. to encourage active elderly people to participate in community life;
2. to develop awareness of the needs of the elderly - particularly of those living alone - among friends, neighbours and relatives;
3. to mobilise support within each community for the care of its own elderly members;
4. to encourage groups and organisations to create opportunities for active elderly people to participate fully in community life.

A list of the major events is being prepared and will issue later in the month.

(iv) **Health Education Bureau 'Book of the Child'**

'We have circulated to the members a copy of the second edition of the Health Education Bureau's 'The Book of the Child' together with a copy of our Board's resolution regarding the submission of such publications for the approval of our Board'.

It was proposed by Dr O'Herlihy, seconded by Dr Henry and agreed that our Board approves of the publication.

H was agreed that Prof Doyle's suggestion that the book should contain a page regarding the measles vaccination programme should be conveyed to the Health Education Bureau.
Prof Doyle referred to the section on genetic counselling and drew the members’ attention to the fact that there is only one part-time counsellor for the entire country.

(v) *Vacancy on Dublin County Local Committee*

‘A vacancy exists on the Dublin County Local Committee for a Superintendent Community Welfare Officer due to the retirement of the existing appointee.

In accordance with the usual practice the appointment of a replacement member will be on the agenda for the October meeting of our Board’.

(vi) *Proposed Mental Handicap Centre at Loughlinstown*

‘I have circulated to the members a copy of letter dated 14 August 1985 from the Department of Health together with a copy of my reply dated 23 August 1985 and a further letter dated 2 September 1985 from the Department of Health regarding the planning process for the Mental Handicap Centre at Loughlinstown.’

In the course of a lengthy discussion to which Cllrs Carroll, Mrs Fitzgerald, De Rossa, Hickey, Briscoe, Mrs Dillon-Byrne, Murphy, Durkan, Ahern, Aid FitzGerald, Cllr Groome, Prof McCormick, Dr O'Herlihy, Dr Hawkins, Dr Behan, Mr Kane and Dr McCarthy contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer and Dr Moloney, Director of Mental Handicap replied, members expressed their bitter disappointment at the request not to continue with the planning process and their surprise that a decision to interrupt the planning process should have been made in the Department of Health without adequate consultation with our Board as the statutory authority for the provision of the service.

It was proposed by Dr Behan, seconded by Cllr Durkan, and agreed to ask the Minister for Health to receive, as a matter of urgency, a deputation from our Board to discuss this very important project in detail with a view to making further progress in the planning of this badly needed facility and to convey, with the request, the following points of view which had been expressed by members in the course of the discussion:

1. Their surprise at the lack of consultation between the Department of Health and our Board, especially since an Officer from the Department has been a member of the Project Team from the commencement of planning.

2. Their request that the Minister should give details of the discussions which he had with various bodies concerned with services for the mentally handicapped and explain why the Eastern Health Board had been excluded from consultations regarding its own project.

3. Their request for details of the alternative proposed developments with regard to time scale, the date of start, the date of completion, the number of places and when they were expected to come 'on stream'.

4. Their enquiry regarding the management of the alternative institutions and the extent to which the planning of the Project at Loughlinstown should proceed.
The following members were appointed to be members of the deputation:

Cllr J Sweeney, Chairman
Mrs D Clune, Vice-Chairman
Cllr P Hickey and Cllr A Groome.

100/85
REPORT OF THE TRAVELLING PEOPLE REVIEW BODY

At the request of Mr Kane, Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service, gave the members an up to date report on the implementation of the recommendations relating to the hearth of travellers contained in the Travelling People Review Body Report:

in three areas Co-ordinating Committees had been established;

three nurses had been assigned to deal exclusively with travellers;

the mobile clinic, which was in operation since 1 July 1985 on a pilot basis, has enabled the nurses working in it to make contact with 700 people;

a special group consisting of a Superintendent Community Welfare Officer and four Community Welfare Officers had been established to deal with the welfare of travellers;

the Van Leer Foundation had agreed to make a grant of £210,000 available for a special education programme for travellers over the next three years;

regular meetings are held with local authorities with a view to maintaining a co-ordinated approach towards the travelling people;

special pre-employment schemes are in operation in Exchange House.

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Dillon-Byrne, Mrs Clune, Mrs Bonar, Cllrs Dunne and Murphy contributed and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service replied, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Dillon-Byrne, and agreed, to request the Minister for Health to make funds available for a second mobile clinic having regard to the success of the pilot project which had been in operation since 1 July 1985.

101/85
DISPOSAL OF 0.15 ACRES OF LAND AT BALUNACOR WEST, DUNGANSTOWN, CO WICKLOW

The following Report No. 15/1985 was submitted

Our Board owns a 1.1 acre site at Barndarrig/Ballinacor West (Ounganstown) Co Wicklow.

The land was acquired by the Guardians of the Poor of the Rathdrum Union in 1904 and is held by the Board in fee simple. The old Dispensary Residence and lands attached (approximately one acre of land) have been sold to Dr C P Bermingham.
Our Board has obtained outline planning permission for the erection of a health centre on part of the land.

Wicklow County Council, as the Sanitary Authority for the area, have now applied to our Board to purchase portion of the Board's site for the purpose of erecting a reservoir.

The area required for the erection of the reservoir is equal to 0.15 acres and marked 'A' on drawing No. 987.1 attached. Right of way is required over the portion and marked 'A' to 'B'.

The sum of money offered by the Council for the said lands, £150.00 is reasonable. The proposed siting of the reservoir does not interfere with our Board's plans to erect a hearth centre on the site.

I propose, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health, to sell the 0.15 acres of lands to Wicklow County Council for the sum of £150.00.

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 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 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 resolve that the disposal shall not be carried out, it shall not be carried out. If, on the other hand, 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 Murphy, seconded by Cllr Hickey, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report.

102/85

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 16/1985 was submitted:

At meeting held on 6 June 1985 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 30 September 1985.

As similar overdraft accommodation may be required during the December quarter 1985, I request that the Board consents to the borrowing by way of overdraft during the three months to 31 December 1985 to a maximum of £1.5 million.

On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the Report.

103/85

ALLOCATION FOR NON-CAPITAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE 1985

The following Report of the Working Group which met on 20 August 1986 was submitted:

The Working Group appointed to monitor the Board's expenditure in the context of our allocation for non-capital expenditure 1985 met on 20 August 1985 to review our experience during the six months to 30 June 1985.
The Working Group considered our expenditure under two heads:

(1) the General Medical Services administered on behalf of our Board by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board;

(2) services directly administered by our Board.

Of the total allocation of £180.82m., £25.08m was provided to fund the General Medical Services (Payments) Board. In the six months to 30 June 1985 the proportion of the expenditure of the GMS (Payments) Board attributable to the Eastern Health Board area exceeded budget by £1.884m. It is expected that the expenditure for the full year will exceed the budget allocation by at least £2.5m. In considering this situation the Working Group made three specific points:

Firstly, the GMS expenditure should be a charge on the entire Eastern Health Board area.

Secondly, our Board should not be held accountable for over-runs in a service over which it has no control.

Thirdly, our Board is concerned that the same controls which apply to other aspects of the health services do not apply to the GMS.

I have drawn the attention of the Secretary, Department of Health, to these points.

The expenditure and income on the services directly administered by our Board was as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>41,707</td>
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<td>Gross Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>5,582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Expenditure</td>
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In framing our budget for 1985, based on the allocation made by the Minister for Health, our original requirements were reduced by £5.35m (£2.472m pay and £1.878m non-pay).

In making these reductions we were guided by three major policies adopted by our Board, viz:

firstly, we should maintain services for those whose health and welfare was most at risk;

secondly, we should move the delivery of health care services, where possible and practicable, from institutional settings to community;

thirdly, we should maintain basic staff employment to the greatest possible extent.
Therefore, our basic objective was to reduce expenditure by improving efficiency wherever possible, with minimum impact on the quality or level of our services. We established a target figure of £2.472m for pay costs, to be achieved by reducing expenditure on premium payments, overtime, substitutes, etc. From our experience in the first six months it is clear that we shall not reach this target. In fact, present indications are that we shall exceed our pay budget by about £1.8m.

Our non-pay expenditure was under budget by £1.2m at 30 June 1985. This figure is subject to some modification as certain annual payments were not made before 30 June. The main savings were in the Community Care Programme where the demands on some schemes were less than anticipated. It would, however, be unrealistic to expect this trend to continue to the end of the year. Indeed, already there are indications that demands are increasing. All we can say at this stage is that we may have a saving in non-pay expenditure at the end of the year of about £1m. While our income in the first six months of the year is somewhat less than the target, we estimate that the annual figure should reach the amount budgeted.

Our net expenditure on our own services is thus expected to exceed the budget, as adjusted by special approved increases, by 8 to £1m. This would leave a total shortfall of £3.5m.

The Working Group considered that this matter should be discussed with the Minister as soon as possible, with particular reference to our Board's special responsibilities in the Community Care area. As the matter was urgent they requested that I write at once to the Department of Health setting out our concern about the situation. I attach a copy of my letter to the Department, in response to this request.

With reference to the expenditure of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board, the Chief Executive Officer informed the members that he had been advised that the Department of Health had agreed to fund the projected shortfall in the budget for the General Medical Services (Payments) Board.

Following a discussion to which Dr Hawkins, Mr Beale, Mrs Clune, Cllrs De Rossa, Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Bonar, Cllrs Dr Fitzpatrick and Hickey contributed, the report was noted.

104/86
APPLICATION BY DR BRIAN MAGUIRE, CORRIB, AUGHOURA, ATHY, CO KILDARE FOR PERMISSION TO TAKE ON AN ASSISTANT WITH A VIEW TO PARTNERSHIP

The following Report No. 17/1985 was submitted:

Dr Brian F Maguire, Corrib, Aughoura, Athy, Co Kildare is participating in our Board's General Practitioner Service. He has a large list of eligible persons and his practice premises are:

Fontstown Health Centre and Athy Health Centre.

(1) Fontstown Health Centre
(2) Athy Health Centre

In his letter of 10 January 1985 he expressed a wish to take on an assistant with a view to partnership.

In accordance with paragraph 21 of the circular letter 8/75 dated 9 April 1975 issued by the Department of Health, the Irish Medical Organisation were asked for their observations on Dr Maguire's request. The Medical Organisation have stated that they have no objection to Dr Maguire's proposal.
I recommend, subject to the approval of the Board, that Dr Maguire's application for an assistant with a view to partnership be granted. The doctor will be selected either from the existing National Panel of Assistants/Partners or by interview following public advertisement.

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Mrs Clune, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report.

105/85
REPORTS OF PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(i) General Hospital Committee

On a proposal by Mrs Bonar, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fitzgerald, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The Chairman referred to Mrs Clune's request for a report on the maternity unit at Athy and Prof Doyle's request for a report on facilities for the treatment of those suffering from AIDS etc. and stated that the reports would be presented at a meeting of the General Hospital Committee.

(ii) Special Hospital Committee

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Groome, it was agreed to adopt the report.

(iii) Community Care Committee

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hickey, it was agreed to adopt the report.

106/85
PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The report of the Wicklow Local Committee meeting held on 19 July 1985 was noted.

107/85
CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 7 August 1985 (Circular No. SA 5/85) from the Department of Social Welfare regarding the National Fuel Scheme for 1985/1986, copies of which were circulated, was noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm

CORRECT:  P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer

Chairman