



## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in  
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20  
on Thursday 6 February 1986 at 6 pm.

### *PRESENT*

Ald B Ahern, TD	Mr F Beale
Dr J D Behan	Mrs B Bonar
Cllr B Briscoe, TD	Cllr I Callely
Cllr M Carroll	Mrs D Clune
Cllr P De Rossa, TD	Cllr J Dillon-Byrne
Cllr P Dunne	Cllr B J Durkan, TD
Mr P Finegan	Sen A FitzGerald Ald
Cllr E Fitzgerald	Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick
Cllr A Groome	Dr R Hawkins
Dr M Henry	Cllr P Hickey
Cllr F Hynes	Cllr C Murphy
Cllr J Reilly	Cllr J Sweeney

### *APOLOGIES*

Prof J S Doyle, Cllr P Hickey

### *IN THE CHAIR*

Cllr J Sweeney

### *OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE*

Mr P B Segrave, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr F Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care  
Mr K Hickey, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care  
Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care  
Mr J F Reynolds, Finance Officer  
Mr L P Kavanagh, Personnel Officer  
Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer  
Mr N McNee, Management Services Officer  
Mr M O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

12/86

**CONDOLENCES**

On a proposal of the Chairman a vote of sympathy was passed with the family of Miss Kathleen Byrne, Clerical Officer, Community Care Office, Naas.

13/86

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman drew the members' attention to the document which had been circulated regarding the Programme Committees arising out of his meeting with the Chairman of the Committees on 4 February 1986.

On a proposal by Dr Behan, seconded by Cllr Dillon-Byrne, it was agreed to include the matter on the agenda for the March meeting of our Board.

14/86

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 1986**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 9 January 1986, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Carroll seconded by Dr Hawkins.

***Matters arising from the minutes***

Dr Behan referred to the reply to the question regarding our Board's response to the Report 'Planning for the Future' and requested that additional information and copies of letters from the Department of Health asking for our Board's response to the Report should be circulated to the members.

Cllr Callely referred to letter dated 31 January 1986 from the Department of Health in response to his question regarding the opening of Beaumont Hospital, and requested that the Department of Health be asked again for the information which he had sought.

15/86

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

***(1) Cllr P De Rossa, TD***

*'To give an update report on the provision of a Family Resource Centre in Ballymun, and the matters that are preventing its opening'*

***Reply***

Conversion work by contractors on Geraldstown House is nearing completion and the premises are expected to be available for hand-over within the next month.

The selection of the remainder of the staff required to operate the Centre will now proceed. It is hoped that the Resource Centre will commence operations during March next.

**(2) Cllr P De Rossa, TD**

'What steps have been taken to increase the take-up of the measles vaccination scheme in Community Care Area 7?'

**Reply**

- (i) A survey is in progress since 20 January 1986 of the junior classes of approximately 33 primary schools in Area 7. This is expected to reveal the names of over 300 children to be immunised.
- (ii) A programme is starting this week in the Seville Place/East Wall area. It is similar to the earlier Ballymun project and it will concentrate on the schools and playgroups. Also, 'open' clinics are to be held in the health centre on Church Road, East Wall.
- (iii) A further campaign will be conducted in Ballymun.
- (iv) More localised planned publicity, via the churches, schools, playgroups etc. will be undertaken by our health education coordinator and public health nurses.
- (v) 'Open' clinics by our Board's public health medical staff will be held in most of the health centres over the next 2 - 3 months.

A table showing figures for the national up-take in the measles immunisation campaign is attached.

In relation to Area 7 it should be noted that the up-take has increased from 54% to 63%.

**Measles up-take at 1 February 1986**

Pilot scheme extended to 31.3.1986 to be reviewed by the Department of Health at the end of the period. The up-take in the Board's area is 90%.

Up-take set out hereunder:

AREA	NO. IMMUNISED	TARGET GROUP	% VACC.
1	1837	1927	95%
2	2113	2209	96%
3	1534	1724	89%
4	4502	5000	90%
5	2478	2500	99%
6	3477	4000	87%
7	2215	3500	63%
8	5204	5436	96%
		(new target)	
9	4456	5000	89%
10	2408	2500	94%

## Measles Immunisation Campaign

Total No. immunized since commencement of programme	Latest available statistics	% Uptake	Approx No of susceptible children
<b>EHB</b>			
CCA1	24/1/86	96%	2,054
CCA2	24/1/86	94%	2,209
CCA3	10/12/85	80%	1,724
CCA4	24/1/86	85%	5,000
CCA5	20/12/85	85%	2,500
CCA6	24/1/86	84%	4,000
CCA7	17/1/86	54%	3,500
CCA8	17/1/86	96%	5,166
Kildare CCA9	17/1/86	85%	5,000
Wicklow CCA10	3/1/86	92%	2,500
<b>MHB</b>			
Laois	24/1/86	85%	2,250
Longford/Westmeath	10/1/86	91%	3,672
Offaly	24/1/86	88%	2,018
<b>MWHB</b>			
Limerick	24/1/86	85%	3,600
Clare	22/11/85	118% *	2,594
Tipperary (NR)	27/11/85	92%	2,796
<b>NEHB</b>			
Cavan/N.Monaghan	27/12/85	77%	3,200
Louth/S.Monaghan	24/1/86	68%	3,800
Meath	17/1/86	88%	3,854
<b>NWHB</b>			
Donegal	10/1/86	66%	6,219
Sligo/Leitrim	17/1/86	58%	3,200
<b>SEHB</b>			
Tipperary (SR)	10/1/86	78%	3,166
Carlow/Kilkenny	24/1/86	64%	4,050
Waterford	24/1/86	62%	3,500
Wexford	24/1/86	74%	3,700
<b>SHB</b>			
Kerry	29/11/85	98%	2,500
Cork N.Lee	17/1/86	56%	5,000
Cork S.Lee	24/1/86	78%	3,793
West Cork	16/1/86	78%	1,533
North Cork	24/1/86	69%	2,800
<b>WHB</b>			
Galway	17/1/86	62%	7,000
Mayo	24/1/86	73%	5,705
Roscommon	10/1/86	78%	2,600

\* Target Figure Exceeded

(3) *Cllr De Rossa, TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the following:

- (a) The Eastern Health Board policy in relation to implementation of its statutory obligation to the homeless, including battered wives.
- (b) The Eastern Health Board plans for Brú Chaoimhin and what steps have or will be taken by the Board to replace that accommodation.
- (c) The admissions policy operated by Women's Aid in Rathmines and the Legion of Mary in the Regina Ceoli Hostel?'

*Reply*

- a) Our Board may provide services for the homeless (other than housing, as such) either directly or by arrangement with other organisations. The Supplementary Welfare system provides assistance to pay rent for accommodation, lodgings and other necessities.

We have made purpose built accommodation available to Women's Aid and the Legion of Mary as part of these arrangements. We also provide substantial assistance (including some other premises and financial grants) to 15 other organisations in this field.

- b) The accommodation used temporarily at Brú Chaoimhin has for long been regarded by our Board and many organisations as most unsuitable and, indeed, hazardous. Its recent use has been almost exclusively for victims of family violence and with the provision of a new purpose built facility for these persons it was decided to discontinue the use of Brú Chaoimhin for this purpose.

The counselling and referral services provided at Brú Chaoimhin for women and children will continue and we are currently arranging its relocation in other accommodation. This will include limited over-night accommodation, pending transfer to one or other of the facilities mentioned in paragraph (a) above.

- c) Women's Aid admit women and children who present as victims of family violence. Our Board's arrangements with the Legion of Mary provide that they will admit, accommodate and maintain persons and families who are in the categories for whom the Board is required to provide this service.

(4) (i) *Mr P Finegan*

'Could I have the up-to-date position on the Nursing School for Psychiatric Nursing?'

*Reply*

Since I last reported on this matter in June 1985 the consultative process has continued. Further discussions are planned with An Bord Altranais and also Trades Unions and Staff Association representatives to clarify issues identified in earlier meetings.

I am proceeding with the appointment of a Director of Psychiatric Nurse Education in the context of the 'Psychiatric Nurse Training Report' adopted by the Board. The Department of Health has been asked to approve the filling of the post and their response is awaited. Upon the appointment of a Director we will be in a position to proceed with the development of a Central Training College and the implementation of other recommendations in the Report.

In addition a small Working Group which has been set up to examine future manpower needs for nursing personnel in the Psychiatric Service is continuing its examination and research with reference to policies and procedures in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK.

5 (ii) *Mr P Finegan*

'How many nurses have the Eastern Health Board training to be public health nurses this year (1985/1986)?'

*Reply*

We are sponsoring the training of 15 public health nurses in the current year (1985/1986).

16/86

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(i) **Allocation for Non-Capital Health Expenditure 1986**

'I have circulated to the members a copy of the Department of Health letter of allocation for 1986 which we received on Thursday last.

There are a number of complex issues arising from the letter regarding the basis upon which the allocation was calculated and discussions to clarify these issues are continuing with officers of the Department.

Our Chairman has suggested that, when these matters have been clarified and the full implications of the allocation for our Board have been established, the matter might be considered by the Budget Working Group in the first instance with a view to having a report for the March meeting of our Board'.

(ii) *Department of Justice statement regarding the new unit in the grounds of the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum*

'I have circulated to the members a copy of a statement issued by the Department of Justice on 21 January 1986 stating that the new unit at the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum will be transferred to the Department of Justice upon completion and that the Department will meet with the Department of Health and our Board to consider the taking-over of further facilities in the complex'.

(iii) *St Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow and St Patrick's Infant Hospital, Blackrock*

'Among the hospitals which the Minister for Health identified as due for closure in 1986 are St Patrick's Infant Hospital, Blackrock and St Dymphna's Psychiatric Hospital, Carlow.

St Dymphna's provides psychiatric services for South Kildare and approximately 180 in-patients from our area are in the hospital at present. In addition, the hospital is the base for the community psychiatric services for the area.

During the week I have had informal discussions with officers of the Department at their request regarding our patients and explained our Board's policy of developing suitable community based and alternative services in the first instance.

A further meeting between officers of the Department and officers of the South Eastern Health Board, to which I have been invited by the Chief Executive Officer of the South Eastern Health Board, has been arranged for tomorrow morning'.

'St Patrick's Infant Dietetic Hospital, Temple Hill, Blackrock, is the other institution in our area identified for closure. St Patrick's which is not an Eastern Health Board institution, provides services for infants and children - mainly children awaiting adoption'.

(iv) *Hostel in Jobstown, Tallaght*

'Members may be aware of allegations regarding a former patient of St Loman's Hospital who resided in one of our two hostels at Jobstown, Tallaght since 1982. The Gardai were notified and are investigating the matter and the former patient has returned to St Loman's Hospital.

As a result of malicious damage to the house, the other residents have been moved to alternative accommodation'.

(v) *Disposal of land at Rush Health Centre*

'It is proposed to dispose of a small piece of land (0.06 acres) at the rear of Rush Health Centre to the owner of the adjoining property. The land is surplus to our Board's requirements and, in accordance with the usual practice, a statutory Section 83 Notice will be circulated for consideration at the March meeting of our Board'.

(vi) *Vacancy on Dublin County Local Committee*

'A vacancy for a Consultant Psychiatrist exists on the Dublin County Local Committee following the retirement of Dr Michael Heffernan, St Ita's Hospital, Portrane.

In accordance with the usual practice, a report regarding the filling of the vacancy will be submitted to the March meeting of our Board'.

Following a discussion on the Department off Justice statement regarding the use of the new unit in the grounds of the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum to which Dr Behan, Cllrs Hickey, Dillon-Byrne, Hynes, Fitzgerald, Durcan, Murphy, Dunne and Callely and Mr Finegan contributed, it was agreed that the matter should be considered further at a meeting off the Special Hospital Programme Committee to be held in the Central Mental Hospital on 19 February 1986 at 11 am.

With regard to the announcement by the Minister for Health regarding the proposed closure of St Dymphna's Hospital in Carlow, the following motion was proposed by Dr Behan and seconded by Mrs Bonar:

'That this Health Board express its grave concern that the Minister for Health should announce or contemplate the closure of any mental hospital, such as St Dymphna's Hospital in Carlow, without first providing a comprehensive range of alternative community based facilities and transferring the patients into them; and this Board calls on the Minister for Health to confirm to this Board that in the interest of patients St Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow and other mental hospitals will not be closed without first providing such alternative facilities in the community'.

Following a lengthy discussion on the terms of the resolution and on Report No. SHC 1/1986 'Proposed Development of Community Based Adult Psychiatric Service' to which Dr Behan, Cllrs Fitzgerald, Durkan, Briscos, Hynss, Aharn, Grooms, Reilly and Da Rossa, Mr Bealo, Mr Finegen, Mrs Bonar, Mrs Clune, Dr Hawkins, Dr Henry and the Chairman contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was proposed by Cllr Briscoe, seconded by Dr Behan, and agreed that consideration of Report No. SHC 1/1986 'Proposed Development of a Community Based Adult Psychiatric Service' should be deferred for one month.

Dr Behan then agreed to withdraw his motion for a month.

Cllr Fitzgerald's proposal which was seconded by Cllr Hickey, that the Chief Executive Officer would have discussion with officials of the Department of Health with a view to bringing the Psychiatric Unit at Beaumont Hospital into use at an early date was agreed.

Mrs Clune enquired if any research had been undertaken in the area of community based psychiatric services and requested that reports on such research should be circulated to the members for the next meeting of our Board.

17/86

**'PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY BASED ADULT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE'  
(REPORT NO. SHC 1/1986)**

Consideration of this Report was deferred to the March meeting.

18/86

**MEDIA REPORTS - ORGANISATION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Consideration of this matter was deferred for a month.

19/86

**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

(i) *General Hospital Committee*

On a proposal by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to adopt the report.

(ii) *Community Care Committee*

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



20/86

**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 12 December 1985*  
 On a proposal by Cllr Grooms, seconded by Cllr Callary, it was agreed to note the report.  
 The members agreed that Cllrs Durkan and Groome could attend meetings of the Kildare Local Committee (in a non-voting capacity).
- (ii) *Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 14 January 1986*  
 On a proposal by Cllr Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed to note the report.
- (iii) *Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 16 January 1986*  
 On a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to note the report.  
 Cllr Fitzgerald drew the attention of the members to the motion which had been agreed regarding the attendance of the Community Welfare Officer on a more frequent basis in the Kilmahuddrick Estate, Bawnogue, Clondalkin.  
 Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service, informed the members that this matter had been dealt with.

21/86

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Callely:  
 'To ask the Minister for Health if there are any further developments in the difficulties he is experiencing with the opening of Beaumont Hospital'.  
 On a proposal by Cllr Dillon-Byrne and Dr Hawkins, it was agreed to amend the motion by the addition of the words '*and all the Trades Unions concerned*' following the word '*Health*'.  
 The motion was seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald, and following a discussion to which Cllrs Callely, Fitzgerald and Dillon-Byrne and Dr Hawkins contributed, was agreed.
- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick  
 'That the Eastern Health Board enter into discussion with its own dental staff and the Irish Dental Association with a view to setting up an emergency service (for the relief of pain) outside normal working hours'.

The members agreed with Cllr Fitzgerald's proposal that the motion should be amended by the inclusion of the words '*and the Dental Hospital*' following the word '*Association*'.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald and, following a discussion to which Cllrs Dr Fitzpatrick, Fitzgerald, Dr Hawkins and Mrs Bonar contributed, it was agreed that the Programme Manager, Community Care Service would examine the implications off the resolution and report back to the Board.

- (iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon-Byrne and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

That this Board discuss the report of Professor Dale Tussing and its possible implications for this Board's area'.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the summary of the report to the members to facilitate discussion on the report at the March meeting of our Board.

- (iv) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Dillon-Byrne:

'That handicapped children should be considered eligible for a medical card in their own right'.

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins it was agreed to add the words '*where financial hardship arises*'.

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Fitzgerald, Dillon-Byrne, Dunne Calley and Dr Hawkins contributed, it was agreed to recommend to the Programme Manager, Community Care that he would give full consideration to the application of the undue hardship clause in the assessment of applications for medical cards for handicapped children.

- (v) On the suggestion of the Chairman it was agreed to take the following three motions together:

*Cllr E Fitzgerald*

'That the Board prepare a policy on providing long term sheltered family accommodation for parents and children who have difficulty in independent living'.

*Cllr P De Rossa, TD*

'That the Board clarify its policy in relation to providing accommodation for homeless persons under Section 54 of the 1953 Health Act and its plans for the replacement of accommodation at Brú Chaoimhin'.

*Cllr E Fitzgerald*

'That the Chief Executive Officer should prepare a plan to provide for the Board's statutory obligation with regard to accommodation for the homeless; that such plan should provide adequate places for all categories of homeless persons; that services for the homeless provided by bodies assisted by this Board be co-ordinated by the Board to ensure that an 'on-call' system so that emergency requests for accommodation can be met and a 24 hour service provided; that proper day facilities and child care services be provided for homeless persons and their families; that homeless persons should be offered appropriate

help and counselling and that, pending the adoption of such a plan, no further steps be taken by the Board to discontinue the service for the homeless at Brú Chaoimhin'.

Following a discussion to which Cllrs Fitzgerald, De Rossa and Dunne contributed, and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care replied, the motions were agreed.

The members agreed with Cllr Dunne's proposal that, where our Board provides buildings or capital funding towards the cost of accommodation, our Board should have an influence on the operational policies, including admission policies, of the agencies assisted.

- (vi) The following motion was proposed by Mrs Bonar, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jane Dillon-Byrne, and agreed:

'That early detection of learning disabilities e.g. dyslexia, impaired hearing and vision etc. be given high priority in school medical examinations and the required remedial treatment be provided promptly'.

22/86

#### CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.

CORRECT: P B Segrave  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Chairman