



EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 5 March 1987 at 6 pm.

PRESENT

Mr F Beale	Dr J D Behan
Cllr O Bennett	Cllr B Briscoe TD
Cllr I Callely	Cllr M Carroll
Mrs D Clune	Cllr P De Rossa TD
Cllr J Dillon-Byrne	Prof J S Doyle
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	Cllr W Harvey
Dr R Hawkins	Dr M Henry
Cllr P Hickey	Cllr F Hynes
Dr D I Keane	Dr P McCarthy
Prof J McCormick	Cllr C Murphy
Dr B O'Herlihy	Cllr J Reilly
Cllr J Sweeney	

APOLOGIES

Ald B Ahern TD, Mr N Andrews TD
Mrs B Bonar, Mr D Kane

IN THE CHAIR

Mrs D Clune

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr F J Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr L P Kavanagh, Personnel Officer
Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Mr J N McNee, Management Services Officer
Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr M J O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

27/87
CONDOLENCES

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

- (i) Cllr Paddy Hickey, on the death of his aunt;
- (ii) Prof Ivor Browne, on the death of his mother;
- (iii) The family of Dr Aileen Flynn, Registrar, St Ita's Hospital;
- (iv) Ms Elizabeth Riney, Receptionist, Killarney Street Health Centre, on the death of her father.

28/87
CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report which was noted by the Board:

'The following items are for information purposes and are not for debate:

(i) *Special meeting of the Board*

The special meeting of our Board to consider the Dept of Health consultative statement on health policy 'Health - the Wider Dimensions' will be held on Thursday 19 March 1987.

As the General Hospital Care Programme Committee will be meeting on that day in St Mary's Hospital, it may suit members to have the special meeting of the Board at 2 pm.

(ii) *Seminar on Homeless Children*

A seminar to examine the situation of young homeless children will be held in Newman House, St Stephen's Green on 12 March 1987. Details of the seminar and registration forms have been circulated for those who wish to participate in the seminar.

(iii) *Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum*

At the February meeting, I informed members regarding the visit of the Ministers for Health and Justice to the Central Mental Hospital on 13 January. Our request for a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss the new unit still stands in the Department of Health and will be pursued vigorously when the political situation is clarified.

(iv) *Chief Executive Officer*

At the January meeting of our Board, I informed the members that our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Barry Segrave, would be on sick leave until at least the end of February 1987. It is not expected that Mr Segrave will be resuming duty before the end of March.

I am sure that the members would wish to join with me in sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Segrave.

(v) *Headed notepaper for members*

A request for headed notepaper has been received from a member. It is proposed to make available a supply of headed notepaper for each member, over printed with the member's home address.

- (vi) Our congratulations are due to Alderman B Ahern, Councillors B Briscoe, B Durkan, P De Rossa and Dr D Fitzpatrick on their election as members of Dail Eireann. We should also note that the other members of our Board who had sought election had done very well in the contest.'

In relation to the Special Meeting of the Board to be held on 19 March 1987, it was agreed that the meeting should be held at 6 pm.

29/87

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
29 JANUARY 1987 AND OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
5 FEBRUARY 1987**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 29 January 1987, and of the Monthly Meeting held on 5 February 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Carroll.

Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Groome referred to the Special Meeting held on 29 January 1987, and to the opportunity which had been afforded to Dr J Behan to substantiate the serious charges which he had made at the December meeting of our Board and stated that he wished to make the following proposal:

'That the unfounded allegations made by De Behan regarding the Resocialisation Project be withdrawn by the said Dr Behan and that he tender an apology to the Chief Executive Officer and the relevant management group'.

Cllr Groome's proposal was seconded by Cllr Hynes.

Cllr Dillon-Byrne stated that she would like to propose that the matter be raised at the next appropriate committee meeting. Her proposal was seconded by Mr Beale.

The Chairman indicated that she understood that Dr Behan was in the precincts of the Boardroom and that she would put these proposals to the meeting when Dr Behan was present.

30/87

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Carroll, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged:

- (i) *Cllr J Dillon-Byrne*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer exactly at what stage is the acquisition of land etc. at St Joseph's, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, on behalf of the Eastern Health Board?

Reply

Negotiations are still proceeding in regard to the acquisition of this property. It is hoped to finalise these negotiations shortly. In the meantime outline planning permission has been sought for the development on the site of:

- (a) community care headquarters;
- (b) two 32-bed psychogeriatric units;
- (c) day care unit.

(ii) *Cllr J Dillon-Byrne*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer what is the position regarding the lands at St Patrick's Home, Navan Road, and the Eastern Health Board?

Reply

The detailed position regarding these lands has been discussed at the General Hospital Committee meeting on 19 February 1987 and further details requested will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee on 19 March 1987.

(iii) *Cllr J Dillon-Byrne*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer when will this Board receive the much promised and long-awaited report (up to date) on STD clinics in this Health Board area?

Reply

The Programme Manager reported to the General Hospital Committee meeting on 21 November 1985 on plans for two joint-consultant appointments —

(1) St James's Hospital/Eastern Health Board

(2) Mater Hospital/Eastern Health Board

Cllr Dillon-Byrne requested a further report on contact tracing arrangements.

At the meeting of the General Hospital Committee on 19 December 1985 Professor O'Donnell gave a report on STD services, with particular reference to contact tracing. It was decided that, following the appointment of the two consultants, a full review report on the service should be brought to the Committee.

The two consultants have not yet been appointed. One consultant took up duty at St James's Hospital on 1 January 1987. The second appointment has not yet been made.

An interim review report will be presented to the meeting of the General Hospital Committee on 19 March 1987.

(iv) *Cllr F Hynes*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer the number of patients each Board dentist has treated from 31 January 1986 to 1 February 1987 in County Wicklow; the number of patients treated by each outside dentist for the same period?

Reply

There is the equivalent of 3.5 dental officers in Wicklow and the following table indicates the average number of children and adults treated per dental officer in the period 31 January 1986 to 1 February 1987:

Children 953

Adults 296

Ten private dentists provide services for children and three private dentists provide services for adults.

The following table indicates the average number of children and adults treated per dentist for the same period:

Children 94

Adults 32

(v) *Dr J D Behan*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the normal procedure for filling the now vacant position of Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, and to state whether he intends to place this post before the Board for its consideration as to its filling or non-filling in view of the Public Sector embargo on recruitment and in view of the fact that over 95% of posts falling vacant in the Special Hospital Care Programme which were not refilled were clinical posts, and that in the interests of equity, economy and the proper discharge by the Board of its functions, the filling of this post should be placed before the Board for its consideration; and to ask the Chief Executive Officer to note in the preparation of his reply, that the non-filling of this post will achieve substantial savings and to note further that as the Board's office of Chief Psychiatrist is being effectively rendered redundant or ineffectual that the incumbent of the said office, Professor Browne, being a former Programme Manager, could act temporarily as Programme Manager again thereby achieving economic savings.?

Reply

The answer to the first part of the question is that the normal procedure for filling a vacant position of Programme Manager is to refer it to the Local Appointments Commission and at the same time to advise the Department of Health. I have already advised our Board of this pending vacancy.

The answer to the remaining part of the question is no.

31/87

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(i) *Escape of patient from the Central Mental Hospital*

A patient escaped from the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, during the early hours of today. He was discovered in the Kilmacud area soon afterwards and returned to the Hospital.

The circumstances surrounding the escape are being investigated by the Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, who will present a full report to the next meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

(ii) *Radiographers' dispute*

A dispute involving radiographers commenced on yesterday, 4 March, following rejection of a Labour Court Recommendation. Emergency services only are being maintained.

(iii) *Retirement of Mr Joe Reynolds, Finance Officer*

Mr Joe Reynolds, who has been our Board's Finance Officer since the Board was established, is retiring on pension on 6 March 1987. I feel sure members will wish to join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement. Arrangements are in train for the appointment of his successor.

Cllr Hickey stated that, on behalf of the members, he would like to pay a tribute to Mr Reynolds who had been Finance Officer to the Heath Board since it was established and, previous to that, Accountant to the Dublin Health Authority. He wished him a long and happy retirement.

(iv) *Proposed sale of dispensary residence at Newbridge*

It is proposed to sell the dispensary residence at Newbridge to Dr Canty. The usual statutory notice under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 will be circulated for consideration at the April meeting of our Board'.

On a proposal by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed that this matter should be considered further by the Community Care Programme Committee.

32/87

LEASE TO ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD — SITE AT GARDEN HILL

The following Report No. 7/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, was submitted:

'I enclose correspondence from our Board's Law Agent together with letter received by him from the Solicitors to St James's Hospital Board. The St James's Hospital Board and their Solicitors have been pressing us for some time to finalise the lease in accordance with the agreement referred to, which, in fact required the lease to St James's Hospital be effected in September 1980.

I am satisfied that vacant possession of Garden Hill House can be given to St James's Hospital within one month and that adequate steps are in train to accommodate the members of our staff currently based there.

Accordingly, I am now proceeding to have the lease signed and sealed on behalf of our Board.'

Letter from Messrs Roger Greene & Sons, Solicitors, dated 27 February 1987:

*'I write *to seek the Board's instructions to proceed to the execution of the proposed lease between the Eastern Health Board and St James's Hospital Board for the Garden Hill site.*

As you are aware, as far back as September 1980, agreement was reached between the Health Board and the Hospital Board to the effect that the Health Board would lease to the Hospital Board a section of the plot of land at James's Street known as Garden Hill Site in return for the Hospital Board surrendering to the Health Board a portion of land at the south-west corner of the James's Street site. It was originally envisaged that this lease would be completed

between the Health Board and the Hospital Board in 1980, subject to the Hospital Board providing accommodation in the same Garden Hill Site to the Health Board's Psychiatric Services until the Site was required by the Hospital Board for development but, in any event, not later than the 30th April 1986. I enclose a copy letter received from the solicitors acting on behalf of St James's Hospital Board setting out their concerns at the delay in the commencement of the construction of the Technical Services Department on the Garden Hill Site which incorporates the medical gases facilities required to complete the commissioning of the new phase of St James's Hospital which is expected to open later this year.

Under the terms of the 1980 Agreement, the Eastern Health Board is bound to make the lease to St James's Hospital Board who are, in turn bound to surrender to the Health Board the portion of ground at the south-west corner of the Site. Prior to the Hospital Board going into possession of the Garden Hill Site, it will be necessary to have the Lease executed. In this regard, I confirm that the draft lease has been prepared on the basis of the requirement set out in the 1980 Agreement binding the parties to fix the terms and conditions of this lease to the same terms as far as possible as the Lease dated 15th April 1974, again made between the Health Board and the Hospital Board, in respect of the main area of the James's Street site now occupied by St James's Hospital Board.

I await your instructions in the matter.'

Letter from Mr Max Abrahamson, Solicitor for St James's Hospital Board, to Messrs Roger Greene & Sons, dated 25 February 1987:

'Re: St James's Hospital - Technical Services Building

I refer to previous correspondence with regard to the above matter.

As advised my clients are greatly concerned by the delay that has resulted to the commencement of work on the technical services building by reason of the appeal brought by objectors to the planning permission granted by Dublin Corporation.

I am attaching herewith a copy of the critical path programme which indicates the need and urgency to construct the new Technical Services Building. As you are aware my clients are at present constructing the main phase of the Hospital, that is, Phase 1C. This phase contains all the diagnostic facilities, theatres, intensive care units, coronary care unit, burns unit, x-ray, day centre, 279 medical/surgical beds. These facilities are due to be handed over to my clients by the contractor in November 1987 with the x-ray and out-patients department to be handed over somewhat earlier, in August 1987.

As the main medical gas facilities are located in the Technical Services Building you will appreciate that unless the plant and equipment for oxygen, vacuum, compressed air and nitrous oxide are installed and commissioned before August 1987 the Hospital will be unable to utilise the new x-ray and outpatient facilities for patients in 1987. Apart from not being able to utilise these facilities the knock-on effects on the present Phase 1C contract would eliminate the conversion of the existing x-ray area to the central changing and the conversion of a further transferred area for Plating and Dishwashing to service for catering needs of the out-patients in Phase 1C. This could cause major problems on Phase 1C contract with the present contract G & T Crampons. Hence you will appreciate the urgency to proceed with the Technical Services Building at the earliest possible dates.

As it is, the schedule for the works has already been disrupted; the critical path envisaged that the tender for the Technical Services Building would be issued in January 1987 and the contract placed in March 1987. It was intended that the contract documents would require the completion of the medical gases plant rooms by August 1987 to allow for the installation of plant to service the x-ray area in Phase 1C by December 1987.

The present position is one of great concern and my clients view with apprehension the delay that has occurred in the issue of the decision from An Bord Pleanala. Presently the compressor equipment is placed in storage and in order to alleviate the difficulties arising my client may require to give consideration to the building of temporary works but this would involve a considerable financial penalty. The delay, which has occurred and is, continuing, makes it all the more important that there should be no delay in relation to the finalisation of the lease for the Garden Hill premises.

I look forward to hearing from you.'

In the course of a lengthy discussion to which Councillors Dillon-Byrne, Murphy, Carroll, Prof McCormick, Ald FitzGerald, Dr Behan, Dr Hawkins, Councillors Groome, Dunne and Dr Fitzpatrick contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, concern was expressed regarding the delay which might be caused in the development of St James's Hospital if vacant possession of the Garden Hill site was not available and regarding the differences between Senior Management of the Board and Dr Behan and Prof Browne, Chief Psychiatrist, which were obtruding on Board business.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed:

- (a) that the Chairman should mediate between both sides with a view to reaching an amicable arrangement;
- (b) that the lease with St James's Hospital Board should be signed and sealed on behalf of our Board and
- (c) that the Special Hospital Care Committee should consider Garden Hill House and the services provided there. In this context, Dr Behan stated that the members would be very welcome to visit Garden Hill House to see the facilities and range of services provided.

Dr Behan requested that it be recorded that he dissented from the proposal regarding the signing of the lease.

33/87

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 29
JANUARY 1987**

The Chairman stated that she wished at this stage to return to the matters arising from the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 29 January 1987 and put Cllr Groome's proposal as follows:

'That the unfounded allegations made by Dr Behan regarding the Resocialisation Project be withdrawn by the said Dr Behan and that he tender an apology to the Chief Executive Officer and the relevant management group'.

This proposal was agreed, with Dr Behan dissenting.

Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive, sought permission from the Chairman to make the following statement:

'I said at the December meeting that I was saddened at the manner in which Dr Behan went about making two extremely serious charges, quite deliberately and with premeditation, against the senior management officers of our Board. I refuted his allegations categorically then and I do so again now.

If Dr Behan were seriously concerned about irregularities, particularly financial irregularities and had information to this effect, then there were a number of avenues open to him to have these investigated in an authoritative and effective manner.

Instead, by waiting and choosing to make his allegations, as he said himself 'in open meeting', Dr Behan took on to himself a most serious obligation - that of providing detailed particulars to substantiate his allegations. He has failed signally to do this. The reason, I suggest, is that he does not have any such particulars, simply because they do not exist. I am aware that since - not before - but since he made them Dr Behan has been frantically endeavouring to garner whatever scraps of information he could scavenge in order to support his allegations. Witness the plaintive plea he made on 29 January to be allowed 'to gain access to relevant information to support these charges'.

He has even sought, very belatedly, to abuse the procedure of questions to the Chief Executive Officer for this very meeting in a final desperate attempt to now examine accounts and files relating to European Social Fund matters (including the Resocialisation Project) in the forlorn hope that he might find some grain of justification for the charges - which, it must now be obvious - were recklessly and carelessly made.

One must question Dr Behan's motives for choosing to go the route he did. As a member of the Board who is also an officer of our Board he has a particular responsibility not to allow the obligations and responsibilities of one role to obtrude on the other. It must be unacceptable that such an officer should seek to use his membership of our Board to publicly accuse any other officer particularly a superior officer, of fraud and then refuse to either substantiate or withdraw such an allegation. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the motivation for such an action was to seek to undermine managerial authority and discipline.

Dr Behan has denied natural justice to those he has accused. Legal advice taken has consistently been to the effect that no response whatsoever should be given to unsubstantiated allegations. Notwithstanding this, a public injustice however remains - the good name of the management of our Board, of our Board itself, and even of the nation in the context of the European Social Fund, has been recklessly and carelessly impugned - not just by Dr Behan on 18 December last - but by the subsequent one-sided media campaign, which included the questionable exposure of patients, orchestrated by Dr Behan's cohorts Professor Browne and Dr Corry to coincide with subsequent meetings of our Board. The eleven-page letter circulated so widely under Dr Corry's signature must also be included here. Resort to these tactics was a calculated effort to pre-empt due and fair consideration by our Board of the issues involved. It is to the credit of you, Chairman, and of our Board that these efforts did not succeed.

However, despite the best efforts of our Board to ensure equity and fair play in its consideration of this matter there is, because of the smear tactics used, a residual dissatisfaction, not least on the part of those accused.

The doubts inevitably created in the minds of many people have not satisfactorily been cleared up. Because of this and, while not wishing to breach the principle of not formally responding to allegations which have not been made in detailed and specific form, I do however wish to make the following statements. These relate in a general way to the two charges made by Dr Behan and to the limited number of specific points of detail made by him in this chamber:

1. The most serious allegation made by Dr Behan against management officers of our Board is that they defrauded the European Social Fund by making applications for certain monies to be applied to certain purposes which were not so applied.

Our Board's accounts are audited by the Local Government Auditor and this audit includes claims on and accounts for monies received from the European Social Fund. The Principal Local Government Auditor and his staff are at present concluding the audit covering the years 1983 to 1985. I have spoken to him about the Resocialisation Project and it is my estimation that he is satisfied that matters in relation to claims made and monies received from the European Social Fund are in order.

All claims on the European Social Fund in relation to rehabilitation are channelled through the National Rehabilitation Board. I am not aware that they have found any irregularities. Because of the adverse publicity we will be anxious to co-operate fully with the NRB in supplying whatever information or documentation is required for any report or audit which the directorate of the European Social Fund may wish to initiate.

2. Coming to the second general allegation of management incompetence, negligence and obstruction, I am satisfied that - on the contrary - there was a high level of support and commitment to the project on the part of its Board of Management, and of our Board's management and administrative staff - in certain instances quite exceptional. This was a pilot project and by its very nature many unforeseen difficulties and problems arose which had to be overcome. Their resolution should, in many instances, have been achieved by those who are now shouting loudest.

Inability to work within accountable management structures and personalisation of the project added to the difficulties. I am certainly not referring to our Board's management and administrative staff in this regard and certainly not to the Chairman and members of the Board of Management. All of them can however feel justly part of whatever success this project has achieved.

3. I wish to briefly comment on the very few points of detail mentioned by Dr Behan:

- (a) A charge of 3% of Professor Browne's salary against the project was in my view quite justified - if not understated. For somebody who told us on 18 December last that he had been excluded from the project he seemed to be omnipresent in regard to it - if not always directly then indirectly. His direct involvement covered not alone meetings with project management arising from his role as

RMS St Brendan's, but discussions and presentations to EEC officials in Dublin and Brussels at various stages, more often than not to the exclusion of management, and also assignments further afield, e.g. Greece on consultancy work arising out of the project.

- (b) With regard to the village complex, it is quite clear that this was intended - it is also quite clear that the timescale of the pilot project, i.e. three years, was a counter factor. I am quite satisfied that there was full agreement by all concerned to use the converted accommodation in Unit 23 rather than wait for any new building. I am also satisfied that right throughout the project there was a full realisation on the part of all concerned that the new building intended would not come on stream as planned.
- (c) Dr Behan accused management of sacking Dr Corry. This is not correct. He was offered an assignment as a Registrar from 1 January 1987 which he chose not to accept.

I myself gave him time to consider his position but he chose not to accept the post offered in the full realisation that by so doing he was disemploying himself.

4. It was quite evident to all concerned that the Resocialisation Project was of a pilot nature for a period of three years from 1 November 1983 and that its results would have to be evaluated in the same way as any other pilot project. This evaluation report is now nearing completion having been disrupted by what has gone on over recent months.

I am satisfied that there were a number of fundamental issues arising out of the experience of the pilot phase which needed to be addressed before any decision could be taken regarding continuation of the activity. Instead we have had many attempts both public and private to blackmail, bulldoze and bludgeon management into continuing the Resocialisation Project in its previous form without regard to the lessons learned in the pilot period of three years.

I wish to give this assurance to our Board - that we will seek to apply in the future the very best of practises in the resocialisation and rehabilitation of patients in all of our psychiatric hospitals to the maximum extent possible.

Finally, Chairman, I feel it is my duty to let you and our Board know of the feelings of anger and resentment generated amongst our staff at various levels at what they regard as defamatory treatment at the hands of Dr Behan and his cohorts.

Whether redress will be sought or not I cannot say, as this is something outside of my control as Deputy Chief Executive Officer.'

34/87

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HEALTH CENTRE KILCOOL, CO WICKLOW

The following Report No. 5/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 that it is proposed to dispose of the property described below which is no longer required for the purposes of the powers and duties of the Board.

Statutory Information

1. 420 sq ft of the Kilcoole Health Centre site.
2. The property was transferred to our Board by Wicklow County Council.
3. It is proposed to dispose of the property to Mr Paul Fortune, Cayuga, Main Street, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow.
4. The consideration in respect of the disposal is £250.

At a meeting of our Board to be held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of the sending of this notice, our Board may resolve as follows:

- (a) that the disposal shall be carried out in accordance with the terms I specified in the resolution, or
- (b) that the disposal shall not be carried out.

If our Board resolves that the disposal shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution, the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister, be carried out in accordance with those terms.

If our Board resolves that the disposal shall not be carried out, then the disposal shall not be carried out.

If our Board does not pass a resolution the disposal may, with the consent of the Minister, be carried out.

On a proposal by Cllr Hynes, seconded by Dr Hawkins, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the Report

35/87

ELECTIONS TO BOARD OF MEATH HOSPITAL

The following Report No. 4/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

At the February meeting of our Board I informed members that the term of office of the eleven members of the Board of the Meath Hospital elected by our Board expires in April 1987.

Under the terms of the Meath Hospital Act 1951 and the Health Act 1970 (Adaptation) Regulations 1972 our Board is required to elect eleven members of the Meath Hospital Board for a period of three years.

For the information of members the following were elected by our Board to the Board of the Meath Hospital in 1984:

1. Dr J D Behan, Garden Hill House, Rialto, Dublin 8
2. Cllr D Browne, 70 Ramillies Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
3. Cllr M Carroll, 122 Foxrock Grove, Foxrock, Dublin 18
4. Ald A FitzGerald, 2 Richmond Place, Rathmines, Dublin 6
5. Cllr A Groome, Dreenane, Carbury, Co Kildare
6. Cllr T Hand, The Haven, Farranboley Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14
7. Mr K J Hickey, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
8. Cllr F Hynes, Milltown, Ashford, Co Wicklow
9. Mr J J Nolan, 79 Blackheath Park, Clontarf, Dublin 3
10. Mr J O'Brien, General Administrator, General Hospital Care Programme
11. Mr P J Swords, 10 Hillcourt Road, Glenageary, Co Dublin

It was agreed that the following should, without election be members of the Board of the Meath Hospital for a period of three years from 6 April 1987:

Mrs D Clune, Chairman

Mr K J Hickey

Mr S O'Brien

Following an election the following eight members were declared elected:

Cllr J Sweeney

Cllr F Hynes

Cllr A Groome

Dr B O'Herlihy

Cllr J Dillon-Byrne

Dr R Hawkins

Cllr M Carroll

Cllr O Bennett

36/87

MENTAL HANDICAP SERVICES — PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

The following Report No. SHC 1/1987 was submitted:

'At a special meeting of our Board held on 16 December 1985, the Minister for Health asked our Board to review its Mental Handicap Service in the context of our proposals for the Loughlinstown Project for the Mentally Handicapped and the ongoing evolution of the services since the December 1981 Report of the Mental Handicap Committee *Planning Mental Handicap Services*.

Since then the Programme Committee has undertaken a total review of the mental handicap services. The enclosed report *Mental Handicap Services — Planning for Change* encapsulates the views and recommendations of the Committee and also the views and recommendations of representatives from the major voluntary organisations.

In general, the report recognises the statutory role of the Health Board in the delivery of Mental Handicap Services and recommends:

- (a) that the Health Board takes over the total funding of the services;
- (b) the organisation of services within the Community Care/Psychiatric Care catchment area boundaries;

- (c) the organisation of facilities, day and residential, on a community (domestic) basis rather than on an institutional basis, as heretofore, with appropriate resources and infrastructure support in each catchment area.

At a meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee held on 20 January 1987 it was agreed to recommend that the report be adopted by the Health Board. The Committee also agreed to monitor the overall implementation of the plan and, in this regard, to dedicate a major amount of Committee time to the services in the current year and in the years immediately ahead'.

Following a discussion to which Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Groome, Dr Hawkins and Cllr Sweeney contributed, and to which Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, replied, Cllr Fitzgerald's proposal which was seconded by Cllr Groome. that the Report be adopted, was agreed.

37/87

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 6/87 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, was submitted:

At its meeting held on 5 February 1987 our Board consented to temporary borrowing by way of bank overdraft up to a maximum of £5M during February and March 1987.

It is expected that similar overdraft arrangements may be required during the June quarter 1987 and I request the Board's consent to this'.

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

38/87

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**(1) *General Hospital Care Programme Committee***

On a proposal by Dr O'Herffhy, seconded by Dr Hawkins, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) Developments at Naas General Hospital;
- (b) The development of out-patient and operating theatre suite at St Columcille's Hospital;
- (c) Public transport to the main entrance of Beaumont Hospital;
- (d) Details of a seminar on the homeless to be held on 12 March 1987
- (e) Progress Report on outline planning application for portion of the site at St Patrick's Home, Navan Road;
- (f) Report on services provided in St Cotman's Hospital, Rathdrum;

(2) Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) Admission to St Brendan's Hospital;
- (b) Capital priorities for 1987;
- (c) Mental Handicap Services - Cheeverstown House;
- (d) Report on services available in St Ita's Hospital;
- (e) A Report on the proposed development of a community based adult psychiatric services for Area 8;

(3) Community Care Programme Committee

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

The Progress Report dealt with services in Area 7 (North Strand) where the Committee held its meeting on 26 February 1987.

39/87

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

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

(1) Dub/in City Local Committee meeting held on 19 January 1987

On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to note the Report.

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:

- (i) Details of the locations and times of clinics for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, which, it was requested, should be displayed on notice boards in health centres etc.;
- (ii) A motion calling on the Health Board and Dublin Corporation to co-ordinate their support services to ex-psychiatric patients who were allocated flats in the Ballymun complex;
- (iii) A recommendation that a scheme be put into operation whereby wheelchairs could be made available on loan for the use of elderly people during the Summer months.

(2) Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 27 January 1987

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

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:

- (i) Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
- (ii) Information regarding the numbers of failed appointments in the dental clinics in the Dun Laoghaire area;
- (iii) Information regarding planned development at Leopardstown Park Hospital.

40/85

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Sweeney, seconded by Cllr Grooma, and agreed unanimously;

'I wish to propose that this Board express our confidence in our Management Team and Chief Executive Officer'.

41/87

NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) The notice of motion in the name of Cllr J Dillon-Byrne requesting a Report on STD Clinics was, in her absence, not moved.

(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr E Fitzgerald;

'That this Board rescind the decision to allow diabetic patients only one syringe a day, as this is unhygienic for those who require two or more daily injections'.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Sweeney and following a discussion to which Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Sweeney, Dr O'Herlihy, Dr Hawkins, Prof Doyle, contributed, and to which Prof O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health, and Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service replied, it was agreed that the sentiments expressed during the debate and the spirit of the motion would be borne in mind in dealing with applications for the supply of syringes to diabetic patients.

(iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr E Fitzgerald:

'That this Board ensure that no general practitioner providing services to GMS patients charges them for pregnancy testing or for routine services'.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Duma and following discussion to which Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Dunne and Dr Hawkins contributed, and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service replied, it was agreed to recommend to the General Medical Services (Payments) Board that pregnancy testing be included in the list of services for which payment would be made to general practitioners

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey

Deputy Chief Executive Officer


Chairman