

## **EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in  
St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow  
on Thursday 7 May 1987 at 3 pm

### *PRESENT*

Mr F Beale	Cllr O Bennett
Mrs B Bonar	Cllr I Callely
Cllr M Carroll	Mrs D Clune
Cllr J Dillon-Byrne	Prof J S Doyle
Cllr P Dunne	Cllr B J Durkan TD
Mr P Finegan	Ald A FitzGerald
Cllr E Fitzgerald	Cllr A Groome
Cllr W J Harvey	Dr R Hawkins
Cllr P Hickey	Cllr F Hynes
Dr D I Keane	Cllr C Murphy
Dr B O'Herlihy	Cllr J Reilly
Cllr J Sweeney	Cllr J Sweeney

### *APOLOGIES*

Cllr P De Rossa TD, Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD

### *IN THE CHAIR*

Mrs D Clune

### *OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE*

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

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**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:

1. *Budget Working Group*

A meeting of the Budget Working Group is being arranged for Wednesday, 27 May 1987 at 11 am in St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod.

2. *Congratulations to Cllr Austin Groome*

I am sure members will join with me in congratulating Cllr Austin Groome on his election as Chairman of the Meath Hospital Board.

3. *June meeting of our Board*

I would like to remind members that the June meeting of our Board will be held in St Vincent's Hospital, Athy on Thursday 4 June 1987.

4. *Official opening of Barndarrig Health Centre*

I wish to remind members that the official opening of the new health centre at Barndarrig will take place on Tuesday next 12 May 1987 at 4 pm.

5. *Special Hospital Programme Committee*

The Special Hospital Programme Committee meeting scheduled for next Thursday, 14 May in St Michael's House, has been deferred until 11 June. The meeting next Thursday will now take place in Vergemount Hospital, Clonskeagh (Psychiatric Services, Area 2).

Notifications are in the post.

6. *Resignation of Ald B Ahem TD*

We have been notified by Ald B Ahem TD, Minister for Labour that he is resigning from our Board. Arrangements are being made by Dublin Corporation to appoint his successor'.

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
19 MARCH 1987, OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 1987 AND OF SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD ON 23 APRIL 1987**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 1987, 2 April 1987 and 23 April 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Hynes, seconded by Dr Hawkins.

(a) *Matters arising from the Minutes*

During the course of discussion on Minute No. 55/87, dealing with the allocation for non-capital health expenditure 1987, to which Cllrs Fitzgerald, Sweeney, Carroll, Reilly, Dillon-Byrne, Hickey, Hynes, Ald Fitzgerald, Cllr Murphy, Dr Behan, Mr Beale, Dr Hawkins, Prof Doyle, Mrs Bonar, Dr O'Herlihy and Mr Finegan contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care, Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, Mr Doyle, Acting Programme Manager, Community Care, Mr Gallagher, Finance Officer and Mr Keane, Acting Personnel Officer replied, the following points were made:

- the numbers of beds for geriatrics in the Dublin area should be preserved;
- representations should be made to the Department of Social Welfare regarding the proposed extension of the Dental Benefit Scheme to spouses of insured workers at a time when our Board is unable to meet all the demands made on it for dental services;
- the existing facilities for dental treatment at James Connolly Memorial Hospital should be maintained until an alternative is found; in this regard. The feasibility of utilising the Dental Unit at Beaumont Hospital should be examined. Representations should also be made to the Department of Health, seeking, at the same time, funding for the service from the National Lottery;
- the extent and impact of budget shortfalls in the voluntary hospitals in the Dublin area should be established;
- concern was expressed regarding our Board's plans and the availability of resources needed to implement the policies set down in 'Planning for the Future' and the Report on the Mental Handicap Services 'Proposals for Change';
- support was expressed for the concept of increasing our Board's income, wherever possible, and considering which services should be subject to charges;
- the reductions in staff numbers to be achieved through non-filling of vacancies and disemployment of temporary personnel are spread through the various disciplines on the basis of the following percentages of the total complement:

Clerical and Administrative	4.2%
Medical and Dental	3.3%
Nursing	3.4%
Paramedical	4.8%
Catering	4.3%
Maintenance	2.7%

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#### QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of the handling/processing of all high technology hospital radiation materials and equipment?  
Are there bodies to monitor same and what process takes place to dump the used and waste materials?'

*Reply*

*Radiation Material*

This would be radio-active isotopes which are used by some Dublin Hospitals. They are also used in the universities. These isotopes are imported from the United Kingdom, under licence from the Nuclear

Energy Board. They are stored, handled, etc. under conditions which are specified by the Nuclear Energy Board. Waste material from these isotopes is disposed of in a manner also specified by the Nuclear Energy Board. Solid material is disposed of in the hospital/university incinerator, while liquid material is diluted with large quantities of water and flushed down the drain. The amount of low level radiation from this waste material would be negligible.

*Equipment*

This is x-ray equipment which is present in all hospitals and many clinics. Here again no x-ray equipment may be installed or used anywhere without an annual licence from the Nuclear Energy Board. Staff operating x-ray equipment must wear badges which record the amount of radiation to which the person is exposed over a set period. This ensures that they are not exposed to excess radiation from the equipment.

(ii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of what percentage of our GNP goes towards national health services and breakdown of same between programmes and could I have comparative figures for other countries?

Have the Board or the Department received any submissions from organisations such as the IMO, or other such groups to help streamline, or curtail costs?

Our hospitals' allocation is, compared to other countries, extremely high; is there any reason for this?'

*Reply*

As can be seen from the Department of Health publication 'Health – The Wider Dimensions', already circulated to members, Ireland's expenditure on non-capital health services in 1986 amounted to about £1.3 billion or over 7.5% of the Gross National Product. The analysis of health services expenditure between programmes is as follows:

PROGRAMME	%
General Hospitals	50.2
Special Hospitals	22.2
Community Care	22.7
General Support	4.9
TOTAL	100.0

Comparative figures of health expenditure as a proportion of GNP in the year 1982 (the latest figures available) together with details of the proportion of overall health expenditure allocated to the acute hospital services for the countries which are members of the 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' were as follows:

	% GNP (1982)	% Health Expenditure Allocated to General Hospitals 1974/75
AUSTRALIA	7.6	51.0
FRANCE	8.1	38.0
WEST GERMANY	8.8	31.5
HOLLAND	8.7	45.2
IRELAND	8.5	50.2
SWEDEN	9.6	64.1
SWITZERLAND	6.8	37.9
UNITED KINGDOM	5.3	56.9
UNITES STATES AMERICA	9.9	46.6

In the context of other OECD countries expenditure on General Hospital Care services, Ireland's level of expenditure is not exceptional.

We are not aware of any submissions having been received from the IMO or other such groups in connection with proposals to help streamline or curtail costs.

(iii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of any findings/research with regard to any level of radiation, exposure and higher rate of ill health, notably childhood leukaemia?

*Reply*

This question appears incomplete and I presume it refers to whether or not there might be an increased incidence of childhood leukaemia in the Dublin area, or along the East Coast, which might be the result of radiation from Sellafield plant. A survey has been carried out by UCD and it has been unable to demonstrate any increased incidence of this condition in the area, over and above what might be expected, subsequent to 1976. There did appear to be some temporary increase for a period prior to 1976 but whether this increase was fortuitous or could not be ascertained.

(iv) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'What is the cost to the Board of transporting convalescing patients to the city centre hospitals for ongoing assessment and review and why does the Board not insist on consultants going out to the convalescing hospitals (e.g. Clontarf Orthopaedic Hospital)?'

*Reply*

The information requested is being collated at present and will be made available to the member as quickly as possible.

(v) *Cllr B Durkan TD*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the total amount of monies allocated by the Board under the special Task Force Home Improvement Scheme for the Elderly in:

- (a) Dublin
- (b) Kildare
- (c) Wicklow

for the years. 1984. 1985 and 1986 and the amount spent in each case and the proposed expenditure for each of the three counties in the current year'.

*Reply*

The funding of the Home Improvement Scheme for the Elderly by the Department of the Environment commenced in 1983. and. since then allocations were made to our Board as follows:

1983 — £137.000  
 1984 — £155.000  
 1985 — £170.000  
 1986 — £245.000

The Home Improvement Scheme is administered by us with assistance from AnCo. the Industrial Training Authority. The bulk of the service is provided by teams of AnCo trainees and money expenditure on that portion is almost entirely on building materials. There is no expenditure on trainee wages.

Other work is done by engaging contractors on projects including roof and electrical repairs.

EXPENDITURE IN THE YEARS CONCERNED				
AnCo Teams		Contractors		
	£	Dublin	Kildare	Wicklow
1983	87,600	20,208	129,000	10,000
1984	120,000	38,985	Nil	59,884
1985	120,000	32,953	Nil	9,683
1986	160,000	57,240	17,000	Nil
These sums cannot be readily allocated on an area basis				

The Scheme has expanded since 1983 from four to seven teams. The teams are placed as follows:

- One in Kildare area
- One in Wicklow area
- Five in Dublin North and South County and City.

Our Board has been notified that its initial allocation for 1987 is £170,000. It is, however, anticipated that funding to our Board will be at the same level as 1986.

This scheme has been very successful in meeting a great need and is most cost effective.

The following statistical table is relevant.

Area	Number of Applications	Cases completed/dealt with	Cases on waiting list
1.	544	286	258
2.	534	285	249
3.	449	244	205
4.	689	90	599
5.	525	208	317
6.	867	429	438
7.	953	429	524
8.	200	61	139
9.*	214	101	113
10.*	351	80	271
	5.326	2.213	3.113

\*9. = Kildare

\*10. = Wicklow

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#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *11/13 Clonskeagh Road*

It is proposed to dispose of two houses at numbers 11 and 13 Clonskeagh Road, which are no longer required for our Board's purposes.

The usual statutory notice under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 will be circulated for consideration by our Board at its June meeting.

2. *Elections to Health Boards and Local Committees of Members by Professions*

The latest date for receipt of nominations in connection with the above elections is 14 May 1987 at 1 pm.

The ballot papers will be issued to those on the electoral rolls to be received by them not later than ten days after the latest date for receiving nominations i.e. 24 May.

The period during which votes may be received will expire at 5 pm on 10 June 1987.

The counting of votes will take place in the Board Room, St Mary's Hospital on Thursday 11 June 1987, commencing at 10 am.

3. *Testing of imported foodstuffs for levels of radioactivity*

I have circulated to the members, a copy of the Department of Health Circular regarding the testing of imported food from certain countries for levels of radioactivity.

I had asked the Dublin Medical Officer of Health to comment on this matter and on the staffing resources required. I have also circulated a copy of his comments which, I feel, members will find helpful.

4. *AIDS Helpline*

Members will probably be aware that a National AIDS Helpline Service came into operation on 4 May 1987. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of our Board who are manning the Helpline on a voluntary basis for a period of three hours each day.

I should also mention that our Board's AIDS Helpline will come into operation on 19 May 1987 and will be run on a pilot basis on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 5 pm and on Thursdays from 7 pm to 10 pm.

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**DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT MOORE PARK, NEWBRIDGE, CO KILDARE**

The following Report No. 8/1987 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 purpose of the powers and duties of our Board.

**Statutory Information**

1. Dispensary residence at Moore Park, Newbridge, Co Kildare.
2. The said property was transferred to our Board by Kildare County Council.
3. It is proposed to dispose of the property to Dr Patrick Canty.
4. The consideration in respect of the disposal is £45,000.

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 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 Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Sweeney, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report.

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#### DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT KILROCK, HOWTH, CO DUBLIN

The following Report No. 9/1987 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 purpose of the powers and duties of our Board.

#### Statutory Information

1. 0.956 acres at Kilrock, Howth, Co Dublin (please see attached map)
2. The said property was transferred to our Board by the Nurses' Convalescent Home (Incorporated) and the Minister for Health.
3. It is proposed to dispose of the property to Mr Fred O'Donovan, Balscadden House, Howth, Co Dublin.
4. The consideration in respect of the disposal is £500.

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 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 Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report.

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#### COMMITTEE ON SERVICE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF THE BALLYMUN AREA

The following Report No. 10/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'In the Report of the Community Care Programme Committee meeting which was adopted by our Board at its meeting held on 5 March 1987, reference was made to the need to hold a meeting between the Special Committees on Ballymun of the Dublin Corporation and of our Board to review the situation.

The membership of our Board's Committee on the Service Needs and Problems of the Ballymun area was as follows:

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mrs D Clune           | 6. Ald A Fitzgerald  |
| 2. Cllr P Hickey         | 7. Prof J S Doyle    |
| 3. Cllr Mrs E Fitzgerald | 8. Cllr L Belton     |
| 4. Cllr J Sweeney        | 9. Cllr D Browne     |
| 5. Cllr F Hynes          | 10. Cllr T Hand      |
|                          | 11. Cllr Mrs A Glenn |

At the April meeting of our Board it was agreed to review the membership of the Ballymun Committee in view of the fact that four of its members (Messrs Belton, Browne and Hand and Mrs Glenn) are not now members of our Board'. It was agreed that the following members should be members of the Ballymun Committee.

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mrs B Bonar   | 3. Cllr J Dillon-Byrne |
| 2. Cllr w Harvey | 4. Cllr M Carroll      |
|                  | 5. Mr F Beale          |

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#### PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(i) *General Hospital Care Committee Report*

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

The progress report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) development of services for the elderly;
- (b) progress in the development of Out-Patients Department and Operating Theatre Suite at St Columcille's Hospital;
- (c) progress in the development of psychiatric department, boilerhouse and ancillary accommodation at Naas General Hospital;
- (d) settlement of the radiographers' dispute;
- (e) services in Cherry Orchard Hospital.

(ii) *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee Report*

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

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) overcrowding in St Brendan's Hospital;
- (b) development of a community based psychiatric service in Area No. 8;
- (c) visit to Dunfirth House, Enfield.

(iii) *Community Care Programme Committee Report*

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

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) agreement that a report on social work in community care should be considered at a future meeting;
- (b) report on services in community care Area No. 1;
- (c) letter dated 15 April 1987 from the Department of Health outlining a strategy for controlling the spread of AIDS.

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#### PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

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

(i) *Wicklow Local Committee meeting held on 20 March 1987*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) health centre facilities in Hollywood;
- (b) motion regarding the provision of a community welfare clinic in Newcastle;
- (c) statistics relating to infectious diseases notifications;
- (d) post mortem facilities in the Wicklow area.

(ii) *Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 9 April 1987*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) a recommendation that the Health Board consider increasing its funding to the Darndale/Belcamp Day Nursery;
- (b) an expression of the Committee's concern regarding the level of allocation for non-capital health expenditure for 1987.

(iii) *Kildare Local Committee meeting held on 9 April 1987*

On a proposal by Cllr Groome, seconded by Cllr Durkan, it was agreed to note the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Naas General Hospital development;
- (b) psychiatric services development.

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#### NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Sweeney:

*'That this Board investigate appointing a Pathologist to carry out post mortem examinations in the East Wicklow area of the Board'.*

The motion was seconded by Cllr Hynes and, following a discussion to which Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Hynes, Dr Hawkins contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was agreed.

(ii) The following motion was proposed by Mrs Bonar:

*'That it is the policy of the Eastern Health Board to accept, for payment, computerised receipts in respect of the refunds of medicine scheme'.*

The motion was seconded by Cllr Dunne and, following a discussion to which Mrs Bonar, Cllr Dunne, Dr Hawkins and Cllr Groome contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was referred for further consideration to the Community Care Programme Committee.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

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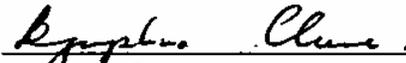
#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Finegan informed the members that this was the last meeting of the Board which he would be attending. He thanked members for their co-operation over the years and stated that he had enjoyed his term of office as a member of the Board.

Cllr Dunne, on behalf of the members, thanked Mr Finegan for his many contributions over the years. Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff, stated that he wished to be associated with the tributes paid to Mr Finegan.

The meeting concluded at 6 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

  
Chairman