



EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co Kildare
on Thursday 4 June 1987 at 6 pm**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Prof J S Doyle, Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD
Prof J McCormick
Cllr B. Briscoe TD.

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 S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr L P Kavanagh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr M Gallagher, Finance Officer
Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr M J O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

68/87

CONDOLENCES

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

- (i) Dr S N Jeawon, Medical Officer, on the death of his mother;
- (ii) Dr G Gorman, Clinical Director, on the death of his son.

69/87

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

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

1. *Meeting of the Working Group on the Budget*

At a meeting of the Working Group on the Budget held on 27 May, the budgetary situation at 30 April 1987 was reviewed.

The Working Group noted that, at 30 April 1987, our Board's net expenditure had been running at a level of £ 1.49m over the budget target. It was also noted that this level of expenditure did not reflect any significant impact of the various cost reduction measures adopted by our Board.

The effect of these measures will crystallise more fully in the next financial quarter and will be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

- 2. I am pleased to welcome Cllr Mrs Alice Glenn back as a member of our Board to replace Ald Bertie Ahern TD, who has resigned.
- 3. I am sure members will join with me in wishing a speedy recovery to Mr Michael Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, who was admitted , to St Vincent's Hospital Elm Park, last night'

70/87

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 1987

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Carroll.

Matters arising from the minutes

On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Hynes, it was agreed to include Cllr Mrs A Glenn in the membership of the Ballymun Committee.

Ald A FitzGerald stated that he had expected that, following the discussion on the impact of the budget shortfalls in the voluntary hospitals, a report would have been circulated for consideration at the meeting and that the matter would have appeared on the agenda. Mr Htckey indicated that this matter would be referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's report.

71/87

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of the total budget towards meals-on-wheels, what is the mean cost of one dinner, what is the individual charged and what percentage of the cost is subsidised?
Is there any form of means test for this service, and especially for the charge to the individual?'

Reply

The allocation for 1987 for the meals service is £888,000.

This includes provision for meals provided in day centres and district deliveries and also the cost of equipment and containers.

The service aims to provide a mid-day meal at a centre, or in their own homes, for eligible persons who through old age or infirmity find difficulty in providing such for themselves and whose health might deteriorate through lack of adequate nutrition. The service is provided by our Board mainly through voluntary agencies.

The cost of providing a meal varies depending on the organisation's source of supply. The average cost to our Board is 89p. Organisations providing meals for residents of elderly persons' housing complexes or meals for those attending at day centres generally cook the meals on the premises. Other organisations, mainly for district deliveries, obtain meals from a range of sources, including food centres of the Catholic Social Service Conference and canteens of industries and hospitals, including our Board's hospitals.

Our Board pays a subsidy for each meal provided — the present rate of subsidy is 55p per meal. Persons who can afford to do so are expected to contribute towards the service. Organisations meet the cost of the service from the Board's grant, contributions from the recipients and other fund raising as required. Organisations accept that realistic contributions from recipients must be sought and that these should be reviewed from time to time as Social Welfare pensions/benefits increase.

(ii) *Cllr E Fitzgerald*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer what the implications of the budget cutbacks and cutbacks in staffing are for drugs counselling services and anti-drugs projects, either provided direct or funded by the Eastern Health Board?'

Reply

It is not expected that the shortfall in our Board's allocation for non-capital health expenditure for 1987 will impact on drugs counselling services or anti-drugs projects. If it should happen that the Government directive regarding the non-filling of vacancies came into effect in relation to staffing these projects or services, consideration would be given to the transfer of resources to meet the particular need.

- (iii) **Cllr J Dillon-Byrne**
 'Could the Chief Executive Officer explain why there is an age difference, to the disadvantage of women, regarding the eligibility of parents to adopt children from St Louise Adoption Society of the Eastern Health Board i.e. maximum age women (36) men (38)?'
- Reply*
- St Louise Adoption Society is registered with the Adoption Board and operates in accordance with the procedures and guidelines laid down by that Board.
- The age limits specified are a matter for determination by the Adoption Society itself and it is understood that these age limits are reviewed from time to time, based on experience and circumstances prevailing regarding placements for adoption.
- (iv) **Cllr J Dillon-Byrne**
 'What will be the financial increase in the Community Care Programme over and above the 1986 level of expenditure, in view of the progress made by this Board in placing psychiatric patients in the community?
 Please specify where these support services have been developed for use in 1987'.
- Reply*
- The information requested is being collated and will be made available to the member as soon as possible.
- (v) **Cllr J Dillon-Byrne**
 'What organisations which are part funded by or through the Eastern Health Board will be affected by cutbacks in this year (1987) of severe under financing?'
- Reply*
- Our Board, in considering its allocation for non-capital health expenditure for 1987, decided that, in relation to voluntary organisations, there should be a selective review of the amount of grants paid and that there should be a general reduction of the order of 2.5% in the level of funding of these organisations in 1987.
- The selective review of voluntary organisations has commenced. The Working Group on the Budget will be kept informed in this regard.

72/87

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. As Returning Officer, I have declared Prof J S Doyle, Dr James Masterson and Dr D I Keane, elected as members of our Board for a term of office of five years from 1 July 1987

2. *Acute Hospital Services*

I have circulated, for the information of our members, a copy of Department of Health letter of 26 May 1987 and enclosure regarding the announcement by the Minister for Health of a review of the future pattern for Acute Hospital Services.

The consultations with the various hospital authorities in our Board's area by officers of the Department of Health, assisted by Comhairle na nOspideal, commenced last week and are continuing. I have also been invited to participate in these meetings and the review process.

It will be noted from the Minister's statement of 19 May, that there is to be a national conference of the various interests concerned before finally deciding upon the definitive national plan which it is aimed to have settled before the end of July'.

Following a discussion to which Ald FitzGerald, Cllr Fitzgerald, Dr Henry, Dr O'Herlihy, Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Hynes, Dr McCarthy, Cllr Dillon-Byrne, Dr Hawkins, Cllr Glenn, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Reilly and Mrs Bonar contributed, the general view expressed by members was that they wished to be informed in some detail and to have the opportunity of giving their views. Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, instanced various meetings which were taking place with representatives of the voluntary hospitals on an on-going basis, from which it was clear that the situation was changing daily. He said that it was intended that a full report would be presented to the Board when the situation had become more firm and before the proposed conference took place.

Following the discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Ald FitzGerald, seconded by Cllr Glenn, to hold a Special Meeting of our Board in three weeks' time at which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer would present a report on the situation obtaining in relation to Acute Hospital Services.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Cllr Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald, that a weekly information sheet should be circulated to members, listing the proposed changes and decisions taken regarding the provision of Acute Hospital Services.

During the course of the discussion Cllr Reilly expressed the view that a security service should be initiated at St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, during the hours of darkness with a view to the prevention of the type of recent acts of vandalism which had a disturbing effect on the patients. Mr Hickey undertook to have this matter investigated.

Cllr Fitzgerald expressed concern regarding the reduction in the amount of incontinence products being supplied to the handicapped.

3. *Transfer of patients to Cheeverstown House*

'Members will be glad to note that an agreement has been reached with the authorities of Cheeverstown House for the transfer of fifty mentally handicapped patients from St Ita's and St Brendan's Hospitals.

The terms of the agreement negotiated by Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, will not involve our Board in any expense over and above the cost of maintaining these patients in our institutions.

4. *Charges for Out-Patient Services*

I have circulated to the members, copy of letter dated 25 May 1987 from the Department of Health, clarifying the situation regarding the charge of £10 for out-patient services. It will be noted that the £10 charge is made for the first visit for a particular medical condition and that it does not apply to return visits for that condition.

5. *Category II Health Services*

I have circulated for the information of the members, a copy of Department of Health letter dated 25 May 1987, enclosing copy of the regulations increasing the income level for Category II Health Services from £14,500 to £15,000 with effect from 1 June 1987'

73/87

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 11/13 CLONSKEAGH ROAD, DUBLIN 6

The following Report No. 11/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

NOTICE is here 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. Two houses at 11 and 13 Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 6.
2. The said property was transferred to our Board by the Dublin Health Authority.
3. It is proposed to dispose of the property to Mr T Doyle, 10 Ontario Terrace, Dublin 6.
4. The consideration in respect of the disposal is £100,163.

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 Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Cllr Hickey, it was agreed to adopt the proposals contained in the report.

74/87 .

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 9 NICHOLAS STREET, DUBLIN 2

The following Report No. 12/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'Notice is here 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. Site at 9 Nicholas Street, Dublin 2.
2. The said property was transferred to our Board by the Dublin Health Authority.
3. It is proposed to dispose of the property to Dublin Corporation.
4. The consideration in respect of the disposal is £9,000.

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 Cllr Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Cllr Hickey, it was agreed to adopt the proposals contained in the report.

75/87

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report No. 14/1987 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'At a meeting held on 5 March 1987, our Board consented to borrowing up to £5M during the June quarter 1987.

In letter dated 2 April 1987 from the Department of Health dealing with the allocation for 1987, it was stated that the peak overdraft limit which would be approved by the Minister for 1987 would be £6.5M.

It is considered that overdraft accommodation up to this level will be required during the rest of the year. In the circumstances, the Board's consent to borrowing up to £6.5M until the 31 December 1987 is requested.'

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

76787

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(i) *General/ Hospital Care Programme Committee Report*

On a proposal by Dr O'Herlihy, seconded by Cllr Carroll, It was agreed to adopt the report.

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) A request that the usage of wards at Cherry Orchard Hospital be further examined;
- (b) Health (Out-Patient Charges) Regulations 1977 and Health (In-Patient Charges) Regulations 1977;
- (c) Progress Report on the new out-patient in Operating Theatre Suite at St Columcille's Hospital;
- (d) The receipt of outline planning permission for a housing development on the site of St Patrick's Home, Navan Road;
- (e) A Progress Report on the development of psychiatric department and boilerhouse and ancillary accommodation at Naas General Hospital;
- (f) Report on services in the District Hospital, Wicklow.

The members agreed with Dr O'Herlihy's suggestion that a letter of gratitude be sent to the Wicklow Patients' Benefit Committee, thanking them for their excellent work in raising funds on behalf of the hospital.

Dr Hawkins requested that the average daily cost of the Day Care Unit should be established for information.

(ii) *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee Report*

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

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) Overcrowding in St Brendan's Hospital;
- (b) National Mental Health Resource Centre in St Brendan's Hospital;
- (c) Psychiatric Services Area 2 (Dublin South-East catchment area);
- (d) A motion asking that the Department of Health be requested not to impose the £10 charge on psychiatric patients attending out-patient clinics.

Following a discussion on the National Mental Health Resource Centre in St Brendan's ('Tha Brendan Project') to which cllr Dillon-Byrne, Ald FitzGerald, Dr Henry, Mr Beale, Cllr Hickey, cllr Callely, Cllr Groome, Cllr Dunne contributed, it was agreed that the matter should be considered further at a meeting of the Special Hospital Care Committee to which representatives of The Brendan Project could be invited to make a presentation to the members. This would be arranged after Mr Walsh returned to duty.

(iii) ***Community Care Programme Committee Report***

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

The Progress Report dealt with the following matters:

- (a) Motion referred from the May Board meeting regarding the acceptance of computerised receipts in respect of the refund of medicine scheme;
- (b) Report on services in Area 2.

Mrs Bonar requested that it be recorded that discussions are not taking place between the Irish Pharmaceutical Union and the Department of Health regarding a new receipt form for the Drugs Refund Scheme.

Cllr Groome requested that arrangments should be made to have Section 83 reports brought to the Board regarding the disposal of property at Clane and Johnstownbridge, as soon as possible.

77/87

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 4 May 1987***

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

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:

- (a) Report on Acute Hospital Services;
- (b) Report on Ambulance and Transport Services;
- (c) Report on Community Care Services;
- (d) Motion calling on the Government and the Minister for Health to provide the necessary finance to continue services at the level currently available.

(ii) ***Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 14 May 1987***

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

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:

- (a) A report on services and plans for St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown;
- (b) A report on the provision of a blood testing centre for the Tallaght area;
- (c) A motion calling for a report on the current position regarding the provision of a new health centre for Swords;
- (d) A motion expressing concern regarding the effects of the shortfall in the budget allocation for St Ita's Hospital, Portrane.

(iii) *Dublin City Local Committee meeting held on 18 May 1987*

On a proposal by Cllr Calleiy, seconded by Cllr Glenn, H was agreed to note the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:

- (a) An address by Dr John O'Connor, Drugs Treatment and Advisory Centre in Jervis Street on 'Characteristics of Irish drug abusers';
- (b) A recommendation that consideration be given to the establishment of a hospice on the northside of the city.

Cllr Glenn and Cllr Cattety drew attention to this recommendation and requested a report on the matter as soon as possible.

(iv) *Dun Laoghaire Local Committee meeting held on 19 May 1987*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) An address by Mr Mark Blake-Knox from the Cheshire Foundation on the work of the Cheshire Foundation in Ireland;
- (b) A motion expressing the Committee's concern regarding the reduction in the 1987 allocation for Monkstown Hospital and calling on the Health Board to ask the Minister for Health to consider an increase in the allocation;
- (c) A motion calling on the Health Board to ensure that the Maternity Unit at Loughlinstown Hospital will be maintained at least at its present level of service

78/87

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed to Cllr Dillon-Byrne:

'That this Health Board now make a list of general practitioners available at every Eastern Health Board clinic who would provide comprehensive family planning services and advice.'

The motion was seconded by Cllr Groome, and following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon-Byrne, Cllr Groome, Dr Hawkins, Dr O'Herlihy, Cllr Glenn contributed, Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, advised members regarding the lists of general practitioners which had been compiled and which were held by each Director of Community Care.

(ii) The motions in the name of Cllr E Fitzgerald were at her request,

(iii) deferred to the July meeting.

(iv) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Dr Hawkins, and agreed:

'That the Board requests the Minister for Health to support both -research and the voluntary efforts of the Sudden Infant Death Association.

1. *Establish a National Cot Death Register in order to clearly identify the incidence of and the facts about cot deaths in Ireland.*

2. *Establish National Research Projects to ensure that Ireland contributes effectively to the international efforts to arrive at the causes and prevention of cot death and in particular to re-establish and extend to the entire country the epidemiological and pathological study which was carried out in the Eastern Health Board area (Medico-Social Research Board 1979 - 1982).'*

(v) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Callely, seconded by Dr Henry, and agreed:

'This Board calls for the introduction of the necessary legislation to amend the present birth registration law and procedure, and to take into consideration certain aspects which have been brought to the attention of Registrar General's Office, i.e. the non-registration of still births, the inclusion of amended errors on full birth certs, lack of provision for the inclusion of the surname of the child, lack of provision for the inclusion of the occupation of the mother'.

(vi) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon-Byrne, seconded by Cllr Calley:

'That this Board amend the regulation regarding eligibility of parents to adopt from St Louise Society, to read:

"Women age 38, Men age 38"

thereby doing away with the discrimination currently in existence'.

Following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon-Byrne, Cllr Callely, Cllr Murphy, Dr Hawkins, Cllr Durkan, Dr O'Herlihy, Cllr Glenn, Ald FitzGerald and Cllr Sweeney contributed, and to which Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care, replied, it was agreed to recommend to the St Louise Adoption Society that they should apply age limits of 38+ and that the same age limits should be applied in the case of men and women who applied to adopt children.

(vii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Callely:

'That this Board undertakes to arrange for the publication of advertisements outlining details of the charges for in-patient and out-patient hospital services'.

It was noted that advertisements of this nature had been placed by the Department of Health in the national newspapers.

79/87

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 21 May 1987 from the Department of Health regarding the consultative statement on health policy 'Health — The Wider Dimensions', copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

80/87

OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Murphy enquired regarding the allocation for capital expenditure for 1987 and expressed the wish that funds would be made available for the health centre which had been planned for Bray.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey

Deputy Chief Executive Officer


Chairman