



EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in the
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 2 July 1987 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Dr J D Behan	Cllr O Bennett
Mrs B Bonar	Cllr B Briscoe TD
Cllr I Callely	Cllr M Carroll
Dr R Corcoran	Mrs D Clune
Cllr P De Rossa TD	Dr P Devitt
Cllr J Dillon-Byrne	Prof J S Doyle
Cllr P Dunne	Cllr B J Durkan TD
Ald A FitzGerald	Cllr E Fitzgerald
Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD	Cllr C Flood TD
Cllr A Glenn	Cllr A Groome
Dr R Hawkins	Cllr P Hickey
Cllr F Hynes	Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy	Mr G McGuire
Dr J Masterson	Cllr C Murphy
Ms M Nealon	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr J Reilly	Mr R Roche TD
Cllr J Sweeney	

APOLOGY

Cllr W J Harvey

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 M Gallagher, Finance Officer
Mr J N McNee, Management Services Officer
Mr L P Kavanagh, Personnel Officer
Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr M J O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Secretariat

86/87

CONDOLENCES

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

- (i) Prof J S Doyle, on the death of his sister;
- (ii) Ms Laura Corrigan, General Hospital Care Programme, on the death of her mother.

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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 only and are not for debate:

- (i) 'I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming the new members of our Board and wishing them well during their term of office.

At the same time, I would like to pay a tribute to the outgoing members and to express my thanks for their help and co-operation while members of our Board'.

- (ii) 'I am sure members will wish to join with me in congratulating Philip Rigby Jones who won two gold medals in freestyle swimming (25 metre and 50 metre events) at the Paris Special Olympics'.

- (iii) *Association of Health Boards — Membership*

The term of office of the professional members of our Board who are members of the Association of Health Boards, expired on 30 June 1987.

In accordance with the usual practice, the appointment of members of the Association of Health Boards will be on the agenda for the August meeting of our Board'.

- (iv) *Community Care Programme Committee Meeting*

'Please note that the meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee scheduled for 23 July in Wicklow, has been re-arranged for 30 July 1987 at 11 am.'

- (v) *Minister's Request*

'In my capacity as Chairman, I have agreed to a request from the Minister for Health today that our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Segrave, be seconded to Comhairle na n-Ospideal.

I have also received a letter from Mr Segrave today which I propose to read. Members will note that firm arrangements are to be made by 1 September regarding the post of Chief Executive Officer.'

Letter 2 July 1987 from Mr P B Segrave, Chief Executive Officer 'Dear Chairman,

I am writing to you in the context of the medical advice which precludes me from fully resuming my duties as Chief Executive Officer, and the Minister's request that I be seconded to Comhairle na n-Ospideal.

With your approval and the goodwill of the Board, I am hopeful of being able to undertake this less demanding if onerous role. The secondment would also enable me, in consultation with my medical advisor, to determine my future in relation to the health services.

I am very conscious of the importance of making firm arrangements with regard to the post of Chief Executive Officer and trust that these will be finalised during the holiday period and by the 1 September 1987.

I am very grateful to you and to the other members of our Board for your good wishes, co-operation and support. I also want to place on record my appreciation of Mr Kieran Hickey who acts as my Deputy, the other members of the Management Team and our staff for their special efforts.

Finally, I wish to thank you personally for your consideration and understanding.

Sincerely,

*P B Segrave
Chief Executive Officer.'*

- (vi) 'I am sure members will join with me in welcoming back Mr Michael Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care and in wishing a speedy recovery to Mr Seamus O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care'.

Cllr Hickey stated that he would like to avail of the opportunity of expressing his appreciation of Mr Segrave's hard work as Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Health Board. He suggested that the Chairman should write to Mr Segrave on behalf of the members, thanking him for his service to the Health Board and wishing him well in his new assignment.

Dr Hawkins, Dr Keane, Cllr Durkan, Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Glenn, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Fitzgerald and Cllr Hynes, stated that they wished to be associated with Cllr Hickey's remarks. It was agreed to convey the members' best wishes to Mr Segrave.

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MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 1987

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4 June 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Hickey, seconded by Cllr Dunne.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Following a discussion on the funding and level of services provided in Cheeverstown House, to which Cllrs Fitzgerald, Hynes, Dunne, Flood, Fitzpatrick, Glenn, Callely and Mr McGuire contributed, and to which Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, replied, the members requested a comprehensive report on the matter for the next meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

Following a discussion on the item in Minute No. 72/1987, regarding acute hospital services, to which Dr Keane, Cllr Hickey, Cllr Dr Fitzpatrick contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, members requested that the Dental Unit at James Connolly Memorial Hospital should remain open until an alternative is found.

Cllr Murphy referred to item 80/87 regarding the allocation for capital expenditure for 1987. The following proposal by Cllr Murphy, which was seconded by Cllr Hynes, was then agreed:-

'That this Board utilise specific funds from the £0.5M capital allocation for 1987 to enable the necessary plans to be drawn and lodged with Bray Urban District Council for the Health Centre at Bray'.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) ***Cllr J Dillon-Byrne***

'Can the Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Health Board confirm that the deficiencies in the Abstracts of Accounts for 1981 and 1982 reported on by the Public Auditor have now been rectified and if not what steps are being taken to deal with these points and what time periods are involved?'

Reply

In his comments on the Board's Abstracts of Accounts for the years 1981 and 1982, the Principal Local Government Auditor drew attention to improvements being made in accounting and information systems. Since then this programme of improving the Board's systems has continued and new computer based general ledger, accounts payable and stores systems have been installed. The Board is currently in the process of implementing new computer based asset control, personnel and community care information systems.

The new systems have brought considerable improvements in the levels of information and data needed for both management and audit. This ongoing programme of enhancement and development of the Board's systems will be sustained to continually update and improve control and information in all areas of the Board's operation.

(ii) ***Cllr J Dillon-Byrne***

'When will the Abstracts of Accounts for 1983 - 1986 inclusive be finalised?'

Reply

The Abstract of Accounts for the years 1983 to 1985 inclusive have already been finalised and I understand the audit of these accounts is currently being concluded by the Principal Local Government Auditor. The Abstract of Accounts for 1986 is in the process of being finalised and will be ready for audit shortly.

(iii) *Cllr J Dillon-Byrne*

'What steps are being taken by the Board to ensure that its accounts are presented and reported on by the Public Auditor on a current basis so that any deficiencies and weaknesses identified by the Auditor can be quickly corrected?'

Reply

The Principal Local Government Auditor has informed us that the audit for 1986 can be commenced shortly.

(iv) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask if the Funding Allocation for 'Women's Aid' Dublin 6 has been maintained or increased for 1987?'

Reply

'Since 1978 the Board's funding of Women's Aid takes the form of an annual grant equal to the amount of the salaries, on an agreed formula, for an agreed staffing complement for each year. Since the new refuge opened in 1985 a further amount has been added to the grant to provide for night cover at the refuge.

Late last year Women's Aid departed from the agreed staffing without prior consultations with the Board. Discussions have since been held but this matter has not yet been resolved. In the meantime, the organisation is receiving periodic advances of grant aid from the Board at last year's level but the total grant payable for this year cannot be calculated until the difficulties regarding staffing are resolved'.

(v) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer if there are any proposals to close down the Bone Marrow Unit in St James's Hospital?'

Reply

We have been advised by the Chief Executive Officer of St James's Hospital that no decision has yet been made by the Board regarding implementation of the proposal to close down the Bone Marrow Unit of the Hospital.

(vi) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the number of Eastern Health Board Youth Development Leaders, Drug Counsellors, Health Education Co-ordinators and Psychiatric Social Workers that have been withdrawn from service; the community care areas affected and the savings made by the Board?'

Reply

The Eastern Health Board does not employ Youth Development Leaders. There are two Neighbourhood Youth Projects in the north city employing two (2) project leaders and four (4) project workers.

No Drugs Counsellors have been withdrawn from the service. One of the projects related to drug abuse is at present being re-organised because the Project Leader asked for re-assignment to alternative work and her request was granted. It is anticipated that the re-organisation of this service will be completed by the end of July.

Health Education Coordinators have been re-assigned to their original posts, in the main, to the public health nursing service, in order to ensure that services provided directly to patients can be maintained to the maximum possible level. The work of health education will continue under the direction of and co-ordination by the Director of Community Care for each area.

No Psychiatric Social Workers have been withdrawn.

(vii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer give the financial allocation and breakdown to all the individual services and projects, including hospitals, homes, hostels, institutions, etc. from the Eastern Health Board for 1987 compared to the allocation to each for 1986 and what effect the 1987 allocation may have on the individual service or will it affect services?'

Reply

Summary details of grant requests/approvals for organisations funded under Section 65 of the Health Act 1953 are as follows:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>1986 Paid</i>	<i>1987 Requests/ Approvals</i>	<i>Number of Organisations</i>
	£000	£000	
Community Care	11,703	12,978	465
Special Hospital Care	4,172	4,521	52
General Hospital Care	59	61	2

Negotiations regarding allocations for individual organisations/institutions have not been completed and consequently it is not possible, at this juncture, to provide specific details of allocations for all the organisations/institutions concerned.

In determining the level of grant aid for particular organisations the Government's policy to protect community care services, as far as possible, including key services for the old and housebound and child care services is taken into account. Concurrent with this policy the Board's budgetary strategy to reduce grants by 21/2 % on 1986 levels together with a critical review of services provided to ensure they are compatible with the Board's objectives is also being applied.

It is not yet possible to judge to what extent service levels will be affected by the Board's budgetary position in 1987.

(viii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of the total number of personal employed by the Eastern Health Board and the breakdown into categories, professional, administration, manual, etc and the total number and breakdown of personnel (including part-time, temporary, etc) who have been laid off, made redundant, fired or resigned since 1 January 1987?'

Reply

The information requested is set out on the statistical statement below

1 JANUARY 1987 TO 20 JUNE 1987

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number employed January 1987</i>	<i>Number let go</i>	<i>Number Fired</i>	<i>Number made Redundant</i>	<i>Number resigned (incl. Career Breaks)</i>	<i>Total Vacancies</i>
Clerical & Admin	1041	14	-	-	27	41
Medical	421	6	-	-	8	14
Dental	107	-	-	-	2	2
Dental Ancillary	80	-	-	-	28	28
Nursing	2811	41	-	-	141	182
Nursing Support	931	5	1	-	15	21
Paramedical	347	7	-	-	17	24
Catering & Housekeeping	796	4	-	-	27	31
Maintenance	284	2	-	-	7	9
Others	513	-	-	-	18	18
<i>Total</i>	<i>7331</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>290</i>	<i>370</i>

(ix) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise since the July 1986 Report of the Commission on Social Welfare under the heading 'one parent families', what have been the developments with regard to equal treatment for men and women in social security, as per the EEC directive?

With regard to the various 'discriminative type' social welfare payments, would it be acceptable to amend payments to 'spouse' pension, allowances, etc?'

Reply

Women who are rearing a family on their own may qualify for Social Welfare payments which specifically cater for their position as head of a one parent family; e.g. Widows' Pension, Deserted Wife's Allowance, Unmarried Mother's Allowance, etc. Men in a similar position e.g. widowers or deserted fathers, do not, with rare exceptions, qualify for any analogous payment. The EEC Directive on equal treatment for men and women in social security does not require the extension of any of the 'lone mother' payments to men. A man caring full time on his own for his family may sign on for Unemployment Benefit or Assistance and in certain circumstances may qualify for a 'housekeepers' allowance in addition to either of these payments. If however, as often happens, he is deemed unavailable for work due to his family responsibilities, he will usually have to rely on Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

In March 1984 the Board made written submissions to the Commission on Social Welfare and this was one of the anomalous situations within the social welfare system identified by the Board as requiring remedial action. In its report of July 1986 the Commission acknowledged that the existing situation was undesirable. The Commission recommended a single level of social assistance payment to include all persons in need who do not qualify for insurance based payments. The Commission specifically recommended that this new uniform social assistance payment should apply to all one-parent families regardless of cause of lone parenthood or sex of the parent. This recommendation of the Commission, in common with other recommendations in the Report, are being considered by the Government but there have been no specific developments to date.

(x) *Mr G McGuire*

(a) How and where is the financing coming from to open Cheeverstown House?

(b) What are the staffing requirements for same?'

Reply

Discussions are taking place with the Cheeverstown Board regarding the financing of the proposed opening of 50 additional places to effect the transfer of residents from St Brendan's and St Ita's Hospitals.

It is intended to transfer resources from our Board for this service in line with the transfer of the service workload.

(xi) *Mr G McGuire*

'With the proposed de-designation of St Ita's Hospital will this Board give a commitment to the staff of St Ita's, i.e.

- (a) security of tenure;
- (b) superannuation and pension rights;
- (c) access to supervisory posts?'

Reply

Matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of staff do not arise at Board level. They are dealt with in discussions and negotiations with the various staff organisations.

(xii) *Mr G McGuire*

- (a) Was the Hardwicke Unit at the Richmond Hospital condemned for patient accommodation?
- (b) Was this unit cleared by the Fire Officer?
- (c) What was the estimate given for bringing said unit up to required standard?
- (d) If the answer to 3(a) is in the affirmative why are patients being accommodated there now?'

Reply

1. The Hardwicke Unit has, up to recently, been in continuous use by St Laurence's Hospital for the treatment of acute medical, including cardiac patients.

The medical wards in the Hardwicke Unit were closed at the end of May 1987 as one of the measures adopted by the St Laurence's Board to enable that hospital to remain within its financial allocation for 1987.

2. At our request the authorities of St Laurence's Hospital have now very kindly made the Hardwicke Unit available at short notice for the accommodation of patients from St Brendan's Hospital. This is an interim measure only pending implementation of various measures already in train to re-organise and re-allocate responsibility for patient services, including admissions to various catchment areas.
3. I have been advised by the Management of St Laurence's Hospital that the Hardwicke Unit was never condemned for patient accommodation by the statutory Fire Officer or the Fire Officer employed by St Laurence's Hospital.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- (i) *Health Board (Election of Members) Regulations 1972*
- 'In accordance with the requirements of the above mentioned Regulations, I have circulated for the information of members, a list of the persons duly elected to be members of our Board for a term of office of five years from 1 July 1987.
- In relation to the Local Committees, only six persons were duly elected to the thirty five vacant positions. The resultant twenty nine casual vacancies will be filled in accordance with the Health (Local Committees) Regulations and a full report will be submitted to the Board in due course.
- We have also been notified of the appointment by the Minister for Health of Mrs Dymphna Clune, Mr Chris Flood TD, and Mr R Roche TD as members of our Board for the period ending on 30 June 1992'.
- (ii) 'I have circulated, for the information of the members, copies of letter dated 25 June 1987 from Oifig an Ard-Chlaraitheora regarding the resolution agreed at the June meeting of our Board on the subject of birth registration, law and procedure'.
- (iii) *Annual Report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board*
- 'I have circulated copies of the Report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board in respect of the year ending 31 December 1986.
- In accordance with the usual practice, this report might be considered by the Community Care Programme Committee at its next meeting'.
- (iv) *Adoption (No. 2) Bill 1987*
- 'I have also circulated for the information of members, copies of the Adoption (No. 2) Bill 1987.
- Perhaps this Bill could be considered by the Community Care Programme Committee at its next meeting'.
- (v) *Former Monastery, Armagh Road, Crumlin*
- 'Our Board has now taken possession of the former Christian Brother's Monastery at Armagh Road, Crumlin. This premises will function as a Sector Headquarters for out-patient services, day hospital, and as a high support hostel.
- Resources are being transferred from St Loman's Hospital for the initial stages of the services'.
- (vi) *Court Hall. Mulhuddart*
- 'We have been successful in acquiring, with special funding from the Department of Health, a house at Mulhuddart, Co Dublin for our use by the Child Psychiatric Service, previously based in St Loman's Hospital. The house is close to Warrenstown House in which acute child psychiatric services are provided.

The vacated house at St Loman's Hospital will now be used for adult mentally handicapped patients from St Loman's and St Brendan's Hospitals'.

(vii) *Decentralisation of EEC Forms (EI 11)*

'Members will note from the General Hospital Care Committee's Report that arrangements have been made to decentralise the issue of Forms E111 from James's Street to over twenty five outlets throughout our Board's area. This should greatly facilitate the public and, apart from the greater convenience in saving on time and effort, it will also save expense for members of the public having to travel to the previous centre in James's Street.

Because of this, I am sure that people seeking Form E111 will now be prepared to pay a small administrative charge as previously suggested by our Board's Budget Working Group. Subject to the agreement of our Board, I am now proceeding to have arrangements made for the collection of an administrative charge of £10 for each form E111 issued'.

(viii) *Hospital Services Card*

'Members will note also from the General Hospital Care Committee Progress Report that arrangements have now been made to come into effect to streamline the issue of Hospital Services Cards. This will mean that two thirds of the applicants will now only have to apply once every three years, instead of once a year as heretofore and eleven per cent of applicants will apply every two years.

This will greatly facilitate members of the public in having their Hospital Services Cards renewed.

I shall be reporting back in the near future to the Sub-Committee of our Board's Budget Working Group regarding the proposed administrative charge for this and other services'.

(ix) *Premises at No. 9 Store Street*

'It is proposed to dispose of our interest in the premises at No. 9 Store Street which are no longer required for the purposes of our Board.

In accordance with the usual practice, a Section 83 notice will be circulated for consideration at the August meeting of our Board'.

Cllr Callely referred to the reply which had been received to an Oifig an Ard Chlaraitheora and his suggestion that a further letter should issue calling for the introduction of new legislation was agreed.

In response to a question from Cllr De Rossa, Mr Hickey confirmed that introduction of charges, as outlined, would be a matter for the Board.

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(i) *General Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) decentralisation of the EEC Forms E111;
- (b) changes in the arrangements of the issue of Hospital Services Cards;
- (c) farmers Health Contributions;
- (d) report on the new out-patients' department and operating theatre suite at St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown;
- (e) a review of acute hospital services.

(ii) *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee*

On proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Grooma, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

The report dealt with the special meeting of the Committee held on 8 June 1987 in St Michael's House, Goatstown at which the services provided by St Michael's House for the mentally handicapped were reviewed.

Cllr Carroll referred to the level of service provided at St Michael's House compared with services for which our Board is directly responsible and he asked that a request should be sent to the Minister for Health for additional funding for our mental handicap services.

(iii) *Community Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Report Social Work in Community Care
- (b) the Health Education Bureau's Report — 'Promoting Health through Public Policy
- (c) Report on services in Area 3;
- (d) the invitation received from the Dean of the Dublin Dental Hospital for members of the General Hospital and Community Care Programme Committees to visit the Dental Hospital;
- (e) the proposal to relinquish the leasehold interest in the Health Centre in Store Street.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The Report of the meeting of the Dublin County Local Committee held on 11 June 1987, having been circulated, was noted on a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Dr Hawkins.

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NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, and seconded by Cllr Hynes:

'That sheltered accommodation be provided for young people leaving the Board's care as a halfway house for fully independent living'.

It was agreed to refer the motion to the Community Care Programme Committee for examination.

- (ii) The following motion which was proposed by Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick, was referred to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee for further consideration:

'That the Eastern Health board open on the St Brendan's Hospital grounds a day hospital for the assessment and care of psycho-geriatric patients'.

The remaining motions were adjourned to the August meeting of our Board.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey

Deputy Chief Executive Officer


Chairman