

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in the
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 3 September 1987 at 6 pm**

PRESENT

Cllr B Bonar	Cllr A Glenn
Cllr B Briscoe TD	Cllr A Groome
Dr I Callely	Dr R Hawkins
Cllr M Carroll	Cllr F Hynes
Dr R Corcoran	Dr D I Keane
Mrs D Clune	Dr P McCarthy
Cllr P De Rossa TD	Prof J McCormick
Cllr J Dillon Byrne	Mr G McGuire
Cllr P Dunne	Dr J Masterson
Cllr B J Durkan TD	Ms M Nealon
Aid A FitzGerald	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr E Fitzgerald	Cllr J Reilly
Cllr C Flood TD	Cllr J Sweeney

APOLOGIES

Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick, Cllr P Hickey, Mr R Roche TD.

IN THE CHAIR

Mrs D Clune

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

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CONDOLENCES

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

- i. Miss Deirdre Howard, Salaries Section, on the death of her father;
- ii. the family of Nurse Kathleen Kirk, St Brendan's Hospital;
- iii. Brendan Madden, Supplies Officer, St Brendan's Hospital, on the death of his mother.

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CKAIRMAN'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. ***Cllr Eithne Fitzgerald***
Cllr Eithne Fitzgerald has tendered her resignation as a member of our Board. We have asked Dublin County Council to arrange for the appointment of a member to fill the vacancy caused by her resignation.

I am sure members will join with me in thanking Cllr Fitzgerald for her many valuable contributions to our discussions over the last few years.
2. ***Budget Working Group***
A meeting of the Budget Working Group will be held on Monday 21 September 1987 at 11 am to consider a submission to the Commission on Health Funding and ways and means of maximising our Board's income.
3. ***Special Board Meeting***
It is proposed that the report of the Budget Working Group on both these matters will be considered by our Board at a Special Meeting to be held on Thursday 24 September 1987 at 6 pm.
4. ***Special Hospital Care Programme Committee***
Please note that the venue for the September meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee has been changed from St John of God Brothers to Newcastle Hospital.

The October meeting of the Committee will be held in the St John of God Brothers (Mental Handicap Services).
5. ***General Hospital Care Programme Committee***
The General Hospital Care Programme Committee visited the site of St Patrick's Home, Navan Road today.

A report on this visit will be incorporated in the minutes of the General Hospital Care Programme Committee
6. ***Meeting on 26 August 1987 between the Minister for Health and the Chairmen and the Chief Executive Officers of the Health Boards***

The Minister for Health, Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, met with the eight Chairmen and the eight Chief Executive Officers of the Health Boards on 26 August 1987. I have circulated, for the information of members, a copy of the statement issued by the Minister after the meeting.

With regard to the surplus beds in the Eastern Health Board area, the Minister referred to the following matters:
 - the closure of Monkstown and Dr Steeven's Hospitals;
 - a review of the future role of Baggot Street, Royal Victoria Eye & Ear, Peamount and Cherry Orchard Hospitals;

- the rationalisation of in-patient maternity services with particular reference to the services at St James's/Coombe and St Columcille's/Holles Street Hospitals;
- the transfer of responsibility to the Eastern Health Board for James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown;
- the opening of Beaumont Hospital in November 1987;

The following points were also covered in the discussions with the Minister:

- the need for early notification of financial allocations for 1988;
- the need to identify gaps in long-stay and community health services. The particular position of our Board in relation to these services was pointed out;
- the refund of drugs scheme. The Minister indicated that it was his intention to hold a separate discussion with each Board in relation to this scheme which is under review at present.

There was a general discussion on a number of other matters and the Minister indicated his desire to continue dialogue with Health Board representatives and receive their views on various issues at any time. A further meeting of Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers will take place later this year.

I want to make one special comment in view of a report which appeared in the Medical Press today, 'Shack news of closure for two general hospitals'. In his summary of his proposals in relation to our Board's area, the Minister made no reference whatsoever to Naas General Hospital or of any intention to interfere with its present status in any way.

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 1987

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6 August 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Dr Hawkins.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) *Cllr Cattery*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise when the Beaumont Hospital is to open, to provide general hospital services for North City and County Dublin, and what, if any, services/facilities are operating from Beaumont Hospital at present?'

REPLY

The target date set by the Beaumont Hospital Board for the opening of the Hospital, and notified to the Minister for Health is 23 November 1987.

No services/facilities are in operation in the Hospital at present.

(ii) *Cllr Calley*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise what is the total funding to Home Help via social services of the Eastern Health Board and what control or feedback does the Board receive with regard to these funds?'

REPLY

In 1986 grants totalling £2.066,000 were paid to 37 organisations for the provision of Home Help Services.

The organisations operate within general guidelines and policies of our Board. Control of, reporting on the day-to-day delivery of the service, and the payment of the funds to the organisations concerned is administered in the offices of the Directors of Community Care. The organisations are required to submit a monthly return giving details of the number assisted and employed and the expenditure incurred. Quarterly bank reconciliation statements and annual Audited Accounts are also submitted.

Directors of Community Care and their administrative staff arrange periodic meetings with the organisations concerned. Field staff work closely with the organisations and their staff.

Approximately 3,000 Home Helps are engaged in the provision of services for 4,500 persons.

(iii) *Cllr Callely*

'Can you comment on the first report of the working of Focus Point and advise what, if any, input is the Eastern Health Board assisting Focus Point?'

REPLY

The Report is being examined by our Board's officers who deal with homelessness, including social workers and community welfare officers.

I will be suggesting to our Board that the results of this examination will be discussed by the Community Care Programme Committee in the context of our own programme on homelessness.

Our Board does not grant-aid Focus Point directly but numbers of its clients are in receipt of Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

(iv) *Cllr E Fitzgerald*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer state, in respect of the hospitals in the Board's area (public, private, and voluntary) what is the current number of

- public
 - semi-private
 - and private
- beds in service?'

REPLY

The attached list gives the total number of beds in service at present in the public and private hospitals subvented by our Board. Bed totals are broken down into public, semi-private and private.

The number of private/semi-private beds can vary downwards from the specified numbers. This can happen when private or semi-private accommodation is given over to public patients when the public beds are fully occupied and occurs more frequently in the hospitals participating in the Dublin Accident & Emergency roster scheme.

Hospital	Beds in Service	Public	Semi-Private	Private
St James's	702	642	54	6
Meath	198	136	45	17
Adelaide	137	87	34	16
National Children's Hosp	65	47	10	8
St Vincent's, Elm Park	362	362	-	-
Baggot Street	96	69	24	3
Dr Steeven's	143	120	15	8
St Michael's	93	67	12	14
James Connolly Memorial	288	272	16	-
Mater	342	342	-	-
Jervis Street	289	237	46	6
St Laurence's	322	304	18	-
Temple Street	144	128	16	-
Our Lady's, Crumlin	258	258	-	-
Rotunda Hospital	204	161	26	17
Coombe	240	179	28	33
N.M.R.C.	96	96	-	-
St Luke's	117	97	6	14
St Anne's	55	44	7	4
Royal Victoria Eye & Ear	78	61	6	11
St Mary's, Cappagh	112	112	-	-
	4,341	3,821	363	157
St Columcille's	155	140	8	7
Naas General	80	73	7	-
TOTAL	4,576	4,034	378	164
		88.15%	8.27%	3.58%

National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street - 203 - breakdown of beds not available.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- 1. Association of Health Boards in Ireland**
 'At the August meeting of our Board, members requested information regarding the Association of Health Boards in Ireland. I have circulated a note regarding the Association and its aims and objectives.

 This matter was on the agenda for the August meeting in connection with the appointment of three members following the expiry of the term of office of Drs J Behan, R Hawkins and P McCarthy.'
- 2. James Connolly Memorial Hospital**
 'Since the last meeting of our Board various measures have been put in train to give effect to the decision to transfer responsibility for the funding and management of the Hospital to the Eastern Health Board.'

Meetings have taken place involving representatives of the Department of Health and directly with representatives of the Hospital, the objectives of which were to -

1. secure the financial viability including cash flow, of the Hospital in the short term pending the formal transfer of responsibility. This has been achieved;
2. to draw up a comprehensive statement of affairs including detailed financial and personnel profiles. This is well in hand;
3. to make interim arrangements arising out of the above in relation to management and financial control.

Further meetings will take place during this month with senior staff of the Hospital (medical, nursing and administrative), and with staff representatives in relation to services and personnel matters.

In the meantime, I am advised that the necessary measures are in train in the Department of Health to give formal effect to the Minister's decision that the James Connolly Memorial Hospital Board will cease to function and that the Eastern Health Board will assume responsibility for the funding and management of the Hospital by the end of September 1987.

I am circulating, for the information of members, copy of the letter dated 26 August, received from the Secretary/Manager, together with a copy of my reply.'

3. **Supplementary Welfare Allowances Footwear Scheme**
'I have circulated for the information of members copy of a circular received today in relation to the above scheme.

A report on this matter will be brought before the next meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.'

4. **Drug Treatment Centre, Trinity Court, Dublin 2**
'I have been informed by the Department of Health that an Establishment Order will be issued shortly setting up a Board to organise and administer Out-Patient Drug Treatment Services at the above Centre in succession to the service at present located at Jervis Street Hospital.

It is expected that our Board will have two nominees on the new Board, one member and an officer nominated by the Chief Executive Officer.

The nomination of the member of our Board will be on the agenda for the October meeting of our Board.'

5. **Active Age Week 1987**
'I have circulated, for the information of the members, details regarding Active Age Week 1987, which runs from 27 September to 4 October 1987.'

It was unanimously agreed that Drs McCavthy and Hawkins should continue to represent our Board on the Association of Health Boards.

Cllrs Callely and Hynes were nominated for the third vacancy. Following an election, Cllr Hynes was nominated (fourteen votes for Cllr Hynes, twelve votes for Cllr Callely).

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TALLAGHT HOSPITAL BOARD - MEMBERSHIP

The following report number 18/87 from the Acting Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'The names of the following members were notified to the Minister for Health for the appointment of two members to fill the vacancies caused by the expiry of the term of office of Cllr P Hickey and Dr J Walker:

1. Ald B Ahern TD
2. Cllr P Dunne
3. Cllr W Harvey
4. Cllr C Murphy
5. Cllr A Groome

No appointments have yet been made from the above list. Aid Ahern has since resigned his membership of our Board. The nomination of a member in his place is a matter for our Board.'

Cllr C Flood and Cllr J Dillon Byrne were proposed and seconded.

Following a ballot, Cllr Dillon Byrne was nominated for appointment to the Tallaght Hospital Board (fourteen votes for Cllr Dillon Byrne, twelve votes for Cllr Flood).

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BUDGET WORKING GROUP - MEMBERSHIP

The following report number 19/87 from the Acting Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'Mr Pearse Finegan (whose term of office on our Board has expired) and Dr James Behan (who has resigned his membership of our Board) were members of the Budget Working Group.

The appointment of two members to fill the resultant vacancies on the Budget Working Group is a matter for our Board.

The current membership of the Working Group is as follows:

1. Mrs D Clune, Chairman
2. Cllr A Groome, Vice-Chairman
3. Cllr J Sweeney
4. Prof J McCormick
5. Cllr F Hynes
6. Cllr P Hickey
7. Cllr J Reilly
8. Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD
9. Dr R Hawkins
10. Cllr P Dunne
11. Dr B O'Herihy'

It was unanimously agreed that Ms M Nealon should be appointed to fill one of the vacancies.

Cllrs Callely and Dillon Byrne were nominated for the filling of the second vacancy.

Following a ballot, Cllr Callely was appointed (fourteen votes for Cllr Callely, twelve votes for Cllr Dillon Byrne).

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. **General Hospital Care Programme Committee**
On a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Sweeney, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- a) co-ordination of services for the elderly
- b) Naas General Hospital (proposed psychiatric unit/boilerhouse and ancillary accommodation)
- c) Farmer's Health Contributions
- d) Acute Hospital Services - update
- e) a report on services in the District Hospital, Baltinglass

Following a discussion to which Dr Hawkins, Cllr Durcan, Miss Neakm, Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Hynes, Cllr Groome, Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Dunne, Cllr Carroll, Dr Masterson and Dr Corcoran contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer replied, a proposal that special steps should be taken to ensure the maximum coordination and communication during the coming winter months between hospitals and community services of our Board and other agencies, was agreed.

2. **Special Hospital Care Programme Committee**
On a proposal by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Dillon Byrne, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- a) Cheeverstown house - proposed transfer of 50 Eastern Health Board mentally handicapped patients
- b) Child Psychiatric Services - St Loman's Hospital
- c) Nurse's Home, St Loman's Hospital

With regard to the transfer of patients to Cheeverstown House, Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, stated that he would be presenting a full report on this matter to the Committee meeting to be held on 10 September 1987.

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NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Durkan, seconded by Mrs Bonar, and agreed:

'That this Board would consider the possibility of offering financial assistance to Focus Point in an effort to assist that body with the work it is undertaking.'

Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, informed the members that the first report of Focus Point was being reviewed and would be the subject of a report to the Community Care Programme Committee.

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

'That this Board calls for the outlawing of the sale of 'Stun Guns'.'

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

'That this Board calls on the Minister to go ahead with the proposed common selection system for nurse training.'

The motion was seconded by Cllr Dillon Byrne and, following a discussion to which Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Dillon Byrne, Dr Hawkins, Dr O'Herlihy, Mr McGuire, Prof McCormick, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Hynes, Ms Nealon, Cllr Durkan, Cllr De Rossa, Cllr Glenn and Dr Masterson contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer replied, was defeated on a show of hands (eleven against, ten for).

- (iv) The following motion was proposed by Dr Hawkins:

'That the Eastern Health Board undertake an immediate feasibility study into the early establishment of a comprehensive and up to date Cervical Cytology Laboratory Service, in the light of other agencies failing to do so.'

The motion was seconded by Deputy Durkan and following a discussion to which Dr Hawkins, Deputy Durkan and Prof McCormick contributed, was agreed; the report on the feasibility study to be presented to the Community Care Programme Committee.

- (v) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne:

'That this Board introduce generic drugs, where at all possible, for use in the Eastern Health Board area. General Medical Services.'

The motion was seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald. Following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Cllr Fitzgerald, Dr Hawkins, Deputy Durkan, Dr O'Herlihy, Mrs Bonar, Deputy De Rossa contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer replied indicating that it was already our policy to encourage the use of generics where possible, the following amendment was put and lost on a show of hands (seven against, six for);

'That this Board renews its efforts to encourage doctors, where possible, and where they are happy to do so, to prescribe generic drugs for use in the Eastern Health Board area. General Medical Services.'

The original motion was then put and lost on a show of hands (seven against, six for).

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

CORRECT

K J Hickey
Acting Chief Executive Officer


Chairman