

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in the
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 7 January 1988 at 6 pm**

PRESENT

Cllr O Bennett	Mrs B Bonar
Cllr B Briscoe TD	Cllr I Callely
Cllr M Carroll	Dr R Corcoran
Mrs O Clune	Cllr P De Rossa
Dr P Devitt	Cllr J Dillon Byrne
Cllr P Dunne	Cllr B J Durkan TD
Ald A FitzGerald	Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD
Cllr C Flood TD	Cllr M Gannon
Cllr A Glenn	Cllr A Groome
Dr R Hawkins	Cllr F Hynes
Dr D I Keane	Dr P McCarthy
Prof J McCormick	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	

APOLOGIES

Cllr W J Harvey. Cllr P Hickey

IN THE CHAIR

Mrs D Clune

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
 Mr F J Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care
 Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
 Mr S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
 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

1/88

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Cyril Greene, Nurse Tutor, on the death of his father.
2. Dr John Mullaney, St Ita's Hospital, on the death of his mother.
3. Mr Ray Kavanagh, Children's Section, on the death of his father.
4. Mr Kevin Carey, Central Pharmacy, on the death of his mother.

2/88

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

1. I would like to take this opportunity in wishing all the members and staff a happy and peaceful New Year.
2. *Proposal to locate health centre facilities at Beaumont Hospital.*
A proposal to locate a range of health centre facilities and services at Beaumont Hospital is under discussion with Beaumont Hospital Board and is likely to receive favourable consideration.
Prior to the finalising of any arrangements full details will be reported to the Board through the Community Care Programme.
3. *Representation on the Board of Cheeverstown House Ltd.*
At the November meeting of our Board it was agreed that the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer would seek a meeting with representatives of Cheeverstown House Ltd. This meeting has duly taken place and the matter is progressing. I will advise the Board further in relation to this matter as soon as I am in a position to do so.
4. I am sure members will join with me in sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Cllr Paddy Hickey who is in hospital as a result of a recent accident.

3/88

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 1987

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10 December 1987, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Callely, seconded by Or Hawkins.

Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Callely requested an up-date on services at Beaumont Hospital for a future meeting of the General Hospital Programme Committee.

4/88

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr Callely, seconded by Cllr Dillon Byrne, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

(i) *Dr P Devitt*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer what are the procedures/regulations relating to the advertising of medical posts in the General Medical Services? In which newspapers, national and/or medical are the advertisements usually placed? What is the normal period allowed for applications to be submitted?'

Reply

The procedures/regulations for the filling of vacancies in the GMS scheme are in accordance with agreements between the Department of Health and the Medical Unions.

Advertisements are published in the Sunday Press, Irish Press and Evening Press and if required in the Medical Journals.

The period allowed for receipt of applications is normally two weeks which may be extended depending on circumstances.

(ii) *Dr P Devitt*

'What is the Eastern Health Board policy regarding the long-term employment of non-consultant hospital doctors? How many of these doctors are currently employed by this Board? Has such a doctor, with, for example, 10 years satisfactory service any rights of tenure? Are any changes in the present policy envisaged?'

Reply

All non-consultant hospital doctors are employed as temporary officers on a six or twelve monthly basis. The question of a policy on long term employment or right of tenure does not, therefore, arise.

The total number employed is 125.

The maximum period of employment should not be more than three years.

(iii) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise regarding the effects of the introduction of Retention Tax on the delivery of services by those subject to the tax. Is it in order to charge a fee to medical card holders or to charge increased consultation fees to non-medical card holders with a view to recovering the amounts involved?'

Reply

Withholding Tax from Payments for Professional Services was introduced by the Government with effect from 6 June 1987. It provides for a deduction of 35% from payments for professional services made by certain persons and bodies (government departments, health boards, non-commercial state bodies etc.).

With regard to general practitioner services this tax, therefore, only applies to payments by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board for services provided to medical card holders. It is not in order to charge a fee for any medical service given to a medical card holder; to do so would be in breach of contract and would fall to be dealt with accordingly.

I have not become aware of any effects on the delivery of services in the General Medical Services Scheme arising from the introduction of this tax.

(iv) *Mrs B Bonar*

To ask the Chief Executive Officer why is it

- (a) that of the ten pharmacists employed full time in the Eastern Health Board hospitals only two are permanently employed.
- (b) Why pharmacists who have been employed in a temporary capacity for many years have not been made permanent?'

Reply

- (a) Pharmacist vacancies are filled through the Local Appointments Commission. Statutory requests for the filling of vacant posts (pre-embargo) are sent to the Local Appointments Commission as vacancies arise. Despite advertisements and competition, recommendations have not issued from the Local Appointments Commission for the filling of the posts for some time because of the poor response to the advertisements.

In 1986 the Local Appointments Commission decided to discontinue advertising pending consideration of the position by interested parties.

The Department of Health, in consultation with the Health Boards, drafted revised qualifications with a view to widening the eligibility net. I understand the Department has not, as yet, secured the agreement of the Pharmaceutical Union to the revised qualifications.

- (b) Existing temporary pharmacists have not been made permanent either because they have not been eligible to compete under existing qualifications regarding experience or age or had the opportunity to compete for any of the appointments advertised by the Local Appointments Commission to date.

Of the eighteen pharmacists employed in a whole-time capacity, five are permanent and thirteen are temporary.

(v) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise what personnel and what services are listed as priority (for repairs/maintenance) by Bord Telecom. Are general practitioner's listed and, if not, can the Chief Executive Officer comment if general practitioners could be listed as priority?'

Reply

Bord Telecom Eireann maintains two priority lists for repairs to telephone faults.

Hospitals, the Ambulance Service and certain key personnel are included on the Priority 'A' list, which provides a 24-hour emergency repair service.

General practitioners are included on the Priority 'B' list, which provides for emergency repair service during normal working hours.

A general practitioner who wishes to have his name included on the Priority 'B' list should make written application to Bord Telecom Eireann.

(vi) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of all lands/sites owned by the Eastern Health Board and what are the uses of same?'

Reply

Arrangements are already in train for a comprehensive review and update of all lands and buildings owned by our Board. This review will not be concluded for some months yet. At that juncture the detailed register, which lists over 700 properties, will be available for inspection.

(vii) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'Could the Chief Executive Officer supply a list of names of the Board of Directors of the National Maternity Hospital Holies Street'.

(viii) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'Could the Chief Executive Officer supply a list of names of the Ethics Committee of the National Maternity Hospital Holies Street'.

Reply

The information requested has been sought from the National Maternity Hospital, and will be made available to the member as soon as it is received.

5/88

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *Dublin Fire Brigade Dispute*

Because of the emergency ambulance service arrangements we have been keeping in close touch with this situation.

There has been no effect to date on the level of ambulance services provided by the Fire Brigade on behalf of our Board and the position will continue to be closely monitored.

Contingency arrangements have been made to deal with '999' calls in the event of a withdrawal of the Dublin Fire Brigade Emergency Ambulance Service.

2. *Baggot Street Hospital*

A formal licence agreement under which our Board will have the use of the premises at the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Baggot Street, for the provision of certain services has now been concluded with the Board of that Hospital.

Admissions to the 50 bed unit for the care of the elderly commenced on 4 January 1988.

Discussions are now commencing in relation to the provision of health centre services and general practitioner minor accident services at the hospital.

3. *Drogheda Memorial Hospital*

As reported in detail to the General Hospital Care Programme Committee our Board has become involved, on an interim basis, since the 1 January 1988, in the maintenance of services at the Drogheda Memorial Hospital, Curragh, Co Kildare.

Discussions are proceeding in relation to a proposal under which our Board would assume direct responsibility for the funding and management of services at the hospital.

4. *Local Health Committees*

The Department of Health, in letter dated 27 October 1987, regarding our allocation for Non-Capital Health Expenditure, 1988, stated that the appropriate functions of Local Health Committees would be transferred to Health Boards by 31 December 1987, and that further details in relation to this decision would be given shortly. The further details referred to have not yet been received from the Department.

No provision has been made in our Budget for 1988 for the expenses of Local Health Committees and, in the circumstances, it is not proposed to convene meetings of these committees pending the receipt of further details from the Department of Health.

5. *St John's Unit, Beaumont Hospital*

The appointment of Dr McGuinness and Dr Mullaney has been approved by the Beaumont Hospital Board and appointments to Beaumont Hospital have been offered to both doctors. Interviews for the two additional consultants will be held within the next couple of weeks.

Discussions are at an advanced stage with the Department of Health with regard to the financing of the unit. With regard to the support facilities for the psychiatric services in the area designated for Beaumont Hospital I wish to state that negotiations have been completed for the rental for a workshop/day centre adjacent to the hospital and that the planning of a day hospital at Woodville is at an advanced stage.

6. *Corduff Health Centre Site*

I undertook to report in January on the situation regarding this particular site.

Since the question of its unsatisfactory condition was raised in November the site has been cleaned up and all rubbish etc. removed.

Arrangements have also been made to have the whole area levelled and re-seeded with grass. Steps are also being taken to deal with the question of ongoing maintenance and, in this regard, contacts are being made with the local community.

7. ***Former St Patrick's Home, Navan Road***

I wish to advise members that arrangements are in hand for the demolition of the buildings on this site for which it has been agreed our Board will have no further use.

8. ***Training Programme in Psychiatry***

I am sure that members will be pleased to learn that five registrars in our Board's training programme in psychiatry have recently been successful in obtaining their membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and that the successful candidates include one of our Board members, Dr Pat Devitt.'

Members congratulated Dr Devitt on his membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Dr Devitt thanked the members and referred to the growth of his interest in psychiatry which would now be his career interest and which had developed while he was on a career break from general practice. He also expressed his gratitude to the Health Board for the facilities made available for the training of psychiatrists.

In response to an enquiry from Deputy De Rossa, Mr Donohue, Programme Manager, Community Care Service, brought members up-to-date on the arrangements for dealing with cases of alleged child sexual abuse. Following a discussion to which Deputy De Rossa, Cllr Dallan Byrne, Cllr Glenn and Ms Neaslon contributed, it was agreed to publish a notice in the newspapers setting out the current arrangements for dealing with such cases.

Following a discussion on Local Health Committees to which Dr Hawkins, Cllrs Carroll, Dunne, Callely, Sweeney and Gannon contributed, it was agreed to await the further details promised by the Department of Health and, in the meantime, to convey the views expressed regarding the future of local committees to the Minister for Health.

6/88

TALLAGHT HOSPITAL BOARD - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 1/1988 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'I attach a copy of letter dated 30 November 1987 from the Department of Health regarding our Board's representation on the Tallaght Hospital Board.

The following nominations for the appointment of two members of the Tallaght Hospital Board were submitted to the Department of Health at various stages since July 1985:

Cllr P Dunne
Cllr W Harvey
Cllr C Murphy
Cllr A Groome
Cllr J Dillon Byrne

It was agreed at the December meeting of our Board, to include consideration of our Board's nominations for appointment to the Tallaght Hospital Board on the agenda for the January meeting.'

It was agreed that the names of the following members should be submitted for consideration by the Minister for Health for appointment to the Tallaght Hospital Board:

1. Cllr C Flood TD
2. Cllr J Dillon Byrne
3. Cllr A Groome
4. Cllr C Murphy
5. Dr P McCarthy
6. Cllr B Briscoe TD
7. Mrs D Clune (Chairman)

7/88

PROGRESS REPORT — GENERAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

1. District Hospital Wicklow - Construction of new day room.
2. Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Baggot Street - Outline of services to be provided.
3. Naas General Hospital - Recommendation that the Minister for Health be requested to receive a deputation concerning delay in progressing the proposed psychiatric unit/boilerhouse and ancillary accommodation.
4. Maternity Unit, St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown - The Committee's recommendation for the transfer of confinements from Loughlinstown to Holies Street, subject to the retention of the labour ward in St Columcille's Hospital for use in emergencies, was adopted.
Cllrs Carroll and Dillon Byrne requested that their dissent be recorded.
5. Ambulance Service, Co Kildare.
6. Memorandum submitted by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on
 - (a) Rationalisation of services between Peamount Hospital and Cherry Orchard Hospital and
 - (b) Proposal for assumption of responsibility by the Health Board for services at Drogheda Memorial Hospital, Curragh, Co Kildare.
7. St Columcille's Hospital — Report on Services.

8/88

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

1. **Kildare Local Committee meeting held on 12 November 1987**
 On a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Deputy Durkan, it was agreed to note the report.
The following matters were dealt with in the report:
 - (i) Development of Psychiatric Services in Co. Kildare.
 - (i) Proposals for the provision of day care facilities for the mentally handicapped in Kilcullen.

2. **Dublin County Local Committee meeting held on 17 December 1987**
 On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Dunne, it was agreed to note the report.
 The following matters were dealt with in the report:
 - (i) Resolution recommending that the Health Centre planned for Tymon North Road be commenced and that, in the meantime, residents of Castletymon and Kilnamanagh be given the choice of attending either Millbrook Lawns, Limekiiln Lane or the Main Road, Tallaght, Health Centres.
 - (ii) The provision of ante-natal clinics in Neilstown/Rowlagh, Clondalkin.
 - (iii) Report regarding the re-opening of the Special Dental Unit in James Connolly Memorial Hospital.
 - (iv) Resolution calling on the Health Board to clean, develop and grass its site at Corduff.
 - (v) Report regarding the non-existence of a health hazard from the Board Telecom communication aerial of Clonsilla.
 - (vi) Resolution calling for the retention of the Longterm Illness/Refund Schemes.

9/88

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne:
 'That this Board in accepting that smoking is injurious to health, that smoking be banned at
 - (a) all Board meetings and
 - (b) all committee meetings of the Board forthwith'.
 The motion was seconded by Cllr Groome and following a discussion to which Cllrs Dillon Byrne, Groome, The Chairman, Cllrs Glenn and Dunne, Drs Devht, Masterson and McCarthy contributed, was agreed.

- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick

That the Eastern Health Board approach the Minister for Sport in the Department of Education, Mr Frank Fahey TD, with a view to opening negotiations for the sale of the property at St Brendan's Hospital for the siting of the projected National Sports Centre. That the money so raised will be used for the development of the psychiatric services in the Eastern Health Board area'.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Roche and, following a discussion to which Dr Fitzpatrick, Deputy Roche, Cllr Dillon Byrne, Cllr Dunne, Deputy De Rossa, Mr McGuire, Dr Devitt, Cllr Murphy and Cllr Hynes and Mrs Clune, Chairman, contributed and during which it was noted that the future of the Brendan Project would be discussed at the next meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee, the Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive Officer undertook to make further enquiries regarding the proposal in the motion in the meantime.

(iii) The following motion was proposed by Dr Devitt

'In relation to the advertising of vacant medical posts in the General Medical Services that:

1. Posts be advertised at least three months prior to the retirement of the present holder to the post.
2. Advertisements be placed in the Medical Press for two consecutive weeks.
3. A period of three weeks be allowed from the first advertisement to the closing date of applications.'

The motion was seconded by Dr McCarthy and following a discussion to which Dr Devitt, Dr McCarthy, Cllr Dunne, Dr Fitzpatrick, Professor McCormick, Cllr Dillon Byrne, Dr Hawkins, Dr O'Herlihy, Cllr Glenn and Aid Fitzgerald contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, was carried on a show of hands (13 for, 10 against).

(iv) The following motion was proposed by Cllr B Durkan TD,

'That this Board would consider increasing its financial assistance towards Dunfirth House, Enfield, Co. Kildare.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Carroll and following a discussion by which Cllrs Durkan, Carroll, Groome, Hynes, Murphy, Callely, Dillon Byrne, Dunne and Dr Corcoran contributed and to which Mr Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care and Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a comprehensive report on services for autism, including statements of comparative costs, should be presented to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

10/88

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letters, copies of which were circulated, were noted:

1. Department of Health letter dated 17 December 1987 (reference A105/39) regarding the Health (Charges for In-Patient Services) (Amendment) Regulations 1987.

2. Department of Health Circular No. 20/87 dated 18 December 1987 regarding revised rates of charges in respect of private and semi-private accommodation in public hospitals with effect from 1 January 1988.

The meeting concluded at 9 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey
Deputy Chief Executive Officer


Chairman