



## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in  
Board Room, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20  
on Thursday 3 March 1988 at 6.00 pm

### *Present*

Cllr O Bennett	Mrs B Bonar
Cllr B Briscoe TD	Cllr I Callely
Cllr M Carroll	Mrs D Clune
Cllr P De Rossa TD	Dr P Devitt
Cllr J Dillon Byrne	Cllr P Dunne
Cllr B J Durkan TD	Ald A FitzGerald
Cllr C Flood TD	Cllr M Gannon
Cllr A Glenn	Cllr A Groome
Cllr W J Harvey	Dr R Hawkins
Cllr F Hynes	Dr D I Keane
Dr P McCarthy	Mr G McGuire
Cllr C Murphy	Ms M Nealon
Dr J O'Boyle	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr J Reilly	Cllr J Sweeney

### *Apology*

Prof J S Doyle

### *In the Chair*

Mrs D Clune

### *Officers in Attendance*

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

21/88

**CONDOLENCES**

On the proposal of the chairman votes of sympathy were passed with:

1. The wife and family of Dr Gabriel Nolan, Consultant Psychiatrist, St Loman's Hospital.
2. Patricia Genocky, Printing Section, on the death of her father.
3. Pat Brennan, Ambulance Supervisor, on the death of his mother.
4. Kay Finnegan, James Connolly Memorial Hospital, on the death of her mother.
5. Ms M Watters, Technical Services Department, on the death of her brother.

22/88

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

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

1. I have received a letter from Cllr Paddy Hickey, resigning as Chairman and as a member of the Special Committee on Ballymun.  
I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Cllr Hickey for all his time and commitment to the Ballymun Committee since it was established.
2. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the members and officers, of congratulating Cllr Jim Reilly on the birth of his first baby.
3. *Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance voucher system*  
Payment of DPMA by way of vouchers cashable at local post offices instead of by cheque will commence on 9 March 1988.  
It is proposed to have an official inauguration ceremony in association with An Post at the GPO during April. Members will be notified of the details in due course.'

23/88

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 1988**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4 February 1988, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Gannon, seconded by Cllr Reilly.

24/88

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

On a proposal by Cllr Calley, seconded by Cllr Dunne, It was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

- (i) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer the number of persons on medical cards, who in 1987 were supplied with batteries for hearing aids, and the annual cost of this service and why the service has been withdrawn in view of the fact that it would mainly affect old age pensioners?'

*Reply*

A review of policy on the supply of hearing aid batteries to medical card holders was one of a range of measures included in our Board's strategy for 1988, with an aggregate savings target of £400,000.

The cost of hearing aid batteries actually supplied to 861 medical card holders in 1987 was £8,800.

The average cost of batteries for hearing aids is approximately £1.00 per month per person and it should be noted that the service is being continued in cases where hardship might ensue. The service of repair of hearing aids is also being continued.

(ii) *Cllr M Gannon*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to report on the present position regarding the completion of outstanding works on the Rowlagh Health Centre?'

*Reply*

Our Board proposes to erect a security fence around the health centre at Rowlagh and to include a car park for staff. This latter proposal requires that a small plot of land be acquired and negotiations are well advanced with the Dublin Corporation in this regard. Planning permission has been received and work will commence as soon as possible after the transfer of the required plot of land has been completed.

(iii) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask how the Eastern Health Board is reimbursed by other health boards for treatment of patients from their areas, to indicate the amounts due and paid from each board for 1987 and also amounts budgeted for each board for 1988?'

*Reply*

The cost of treatment, at either in-patient or out-patient level, given to patients in the public and voluntary hospitals not administered directly by the Eastern Health Board is included in the budget allocation given to each such hospital directly by the Department of Health. The cost of treating patients from other health board areas at hospitals administered directly by the Eastern Health Board is also covered by the overall budget allocation of the hospital concerned.

No charges are raised against other health boards on an individual basis.

(iv) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'Could the Chief Executive Officer list the locations in Dublin City and surrounds (county) numbers of beds available in each venue where:

- (a) homeless men may spend the night
- (b) homeless women and
- (c) young people (1) girls: (2) boys.

Could the cost per bed per night be given and restrictions on entry to each location?'

*Reply*

Listed below are the principal hostels in the Dublin area which are available to provide short term (including overnight) accommodation/shelter for homeless persons. While most of the hostels have some restrictions as to the ages of persons whom they will admit they are flexible in this regard if the need arises. The list does not include a number privately run hostels for young people e.g. Dublin Youth Hostel or specialist hostels for single parents or those discharged from prison.

Hostel	Run by	Beds	Charges	Comments
<b>A. Man.</b>				
1. The Model Hostel Benburb Street	Dublin Corporation	84	70p per night	Over 18's - Self Catering
2. Baclane Hostel Dublin 8	St Vincent De Paul Society	73	Free B/B £15 per week Full Board	Over 30's
3 York House York St	Salvation Army	96	£29 per week	Over 18's Charge for B/B Other meals available
4. Simon Shelter Lr Buckingham St	Simon Community	40	No Charge	Over 40's Full board provided Hostel caters for men and women
5. Morning Star Hostel. Dublin 7	Legion of Mary	200	£9.90 Per week	Over 18's Charge for B/B
6. Iveagh Hostel Bride Street	Iveagh Trust	126	£29.75 per week	Over 25's Full board provided Several hundred more beds could be made available if needed.

Hostel	Run by	Beds	Charges	Comments
<b>B. Women &amp; Girls Incl. women with children</b>				
1. Bru Chaoimhin Cork Street	Eastern Health Board	16	£1 per night	Partly self catering
2. Regina Coeli Hostel. Dublin 7	Legion of Mary	140	£9.60 per week	Mainly self catering
3. Refuge at Rathmines	Women's Aid for Eastern Health Board	11 family units	£10 per week	Self catering for victims of family violence
4. Sherrad House Sherrad Street	Committee	20	£20 per week	Full board. Mainly for younger girl
5. St Anne's Hostel Scan McDermott Street	Sisters of Charity	9	£20 per week	Full board provided. Mainly for girls 17 - 20 years
6. Missionary Sisters Hostel, 223 South Circular Road	voluntary Committ ee	28	No charge	Self catering - women with children, including single parents
7. Simon Shelter Lr Buckingham St	Simon Community	40	No charge	Over 40's - full board provided. Hostel caters for men and women.

Hosteli	Run by	Beds	Charges	Charges
C. Youth 1. Percy Place Dublin 4	Management Committee	12	No charge except for those working	For 12 – 17 year olds

(vi) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

**'What reason is there for the delay in moving the Area 1 Community Care team into their new headquarters at St Joseph's (Retreat House) Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire?'**

*Reply*

The contract for purchase has been signed and we are awaiting completion of legal formalities before taking possession. This should happen shortly. Planning permission has been received for the conversion of the Retreat House to offices. The planning permission received contains some quite restrictive conditions which will make for difficulty in developing this part of the project separate from the total project envisaged from Tivoli Road.

A separate capital allocation will be required in order to proceed with the conversion of the Retreat House and work on the adjoining frontage

(vi) *Mr G McGuire*

**'Has the Eastern Health Board any plans to de-designate part of James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown as a psychiatric institution for the reception of temporary patients as per Mental Treatment Act 1945?'**

*Reply*

In line with Board Policy on the Psychiatric Services '*Proposed Development of a Community Based Adult Psychiatric Service*' Unit 10 at James Connolly Memorial Hospital is being reopened as an Acute Psychiatric Unit to complement the existing Psychiatric facility at James Connolly Memorial (Unit 9). The Board has been advised by Department of Health communication of 26 August 1987 (previously circulated to members) on the manner of designating hospitals and facilities under the Mental Treatment and Health Acts.

(vii) *Mr G McGuire*

**'Are there plans to de-designate any other areas as reception centres for psychiatric patients? If so, could the Chief Executive Officer enumerate on same?'**

*Reply*

The Board's policy and plans in relation to the designation of Acute facilities and the provision of alternative facilities is set out in the Report '*Development of a Community-Based Adult Psychiatric Service*' which was adopted by our Board on 6 March 1986.

(viii) *Cllr G McGuire*

'What standing vis-a-vis have our hostels (medium and high support), proposed crisis intervention units, half way houses, etc. regarding Mental Treatment Act 1945?

*Reply*

The Health Board has approximately 600 clients with varying degrees of handicap resident in hostels appropriate to their degree of handicap - low, medium and high support. The policy in relation to hostel care is geared towards the support of the clients handicap, the client is considered to have his/her constitutional rights like all other citizens. The constraints of the Mental Treatment Act do not extend to a Crisis Intervention Unit on the basis that clients requiring care in a designated psychiatric unit would be transferred thereto following medical assessment and would not be cared for in a Crisis Intervention Unit.

(ix) *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer regarding the feasibility of taking over the funding of the former ISPCC Centre in Ballyboden and to present a report on same'.

*Reply*

Discussions are currently being held with the ISPCC concerning the reopening of the day nursery service at Ballyboden which has been 70% grant-aided by our Board. Discussions are also taking place with a local community group in this regard.

25/88

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *St Vincent's Hospital, Athy*

It is proposed to dispose of C.0.4 acres of land at St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, which is not required for our Board's purposes. This has already been discussed and agreed by the General Hospital Care Programme Committee.

The usual statutory notice will be circulated for consideration at the April meeting of our Board.

2. *Ante-natal Clinics*

I am pleased to inform members that the new ante-natal clinics to be provided at Bray and Greystones by consultant obstetricians from the National Maternity Hospital will commence during the week beginning on 21 March 1988.

With regard to the ante-natal clinics at Taliaght, discussions with the authorities in the Coombe Hospital are ongoing.

3. *Naas General Hospital*

The Minister for Health received a deputation from our Board on 2 March 1988 to discuss the development of Naas General Hospital. The deputation consisted of the Chairman, the three members from County Kildare and the Chairman of the General Hospital Care Programme Committee

The Minister informed the deputation that he is approving of the tender for the Psychiatric Unit/Boilerhouse and ancillary accommodation. It is expected that work on these developments will commence at an early date

4. *Foster Care - Campaign*

I am pleased to inform members that the Foster Care Campaign and public information programme organised by our Board's Fostering Resource Group in co-operation with Radio Telefis Eireann during week commencing 22 February was very successful and already seems to have been of great benefit to our Fostering Resource Group in their efforts to recruit foster parents.

I feel sure that the members will agree that we should convey our thanks to RTE and to Mr Aongus McAnally in particular for his very generous assistance in making the programme such a success.

Our thanks are also due to Mr Gay Byrne for his help in promoting the AIDS Helpline on his morning radio programme

5. *Meeting with Minister for State at the Department of Education*

The Minister for State at the Department of Education has indicated that he will be in contact with us again shortly in relation to our Board's request for a meeting with him in order to seek further information and to clarify the position regarding the siting of the proposed National Sports Centre

6. *Artane Mental Health Centre*

Artane Mental Health Centre opened on the 9 February with an initial intake of 14 day patients; further services will be established on a phased basis.

7. *Health Centre, Boghall Road*

The new Mental Health Centre at Boghall Road will be opened on the 20 March. The services presently established at An Lar will transfer over a phased basis and thereafter the Boghall Road Centre will be further developed to provide a comprehensive range of community services.

8. *Mental Health Centres, Armagh Road, Crumlin and Tallaght*

The Mental Health Centres at Armagh Road, Crumlin and Tallaght are scheduled to open on 5 April. As both of these facilities will be staffed through re-deployment of staff from St Loman's, it will be necessary to develop services on a phased basis over a three month period.

9. *Nursing Home - Allegations*

Reports were received by our Board of alleged irregularities in a nursing home. Papers have been referred to our Board's Law Agent for consideration.

In these circumstances it is considered that the matter should be regarded as 'sub-judice' and it would be inappropriate to make further comment at this time

10. *Commission on Health Funding*

We have received a letter from the Commission on Health Funding referring to our Board's submission and inviting representatives of our Board to discuss our submission with members of the Commission.

This matter will be on the agenda for the meeting of the Budget Working Group to be held on 7 March 1988.

Cllrs Durkan, Groome and Relity expressed their gratitude to the Minister for Health for his approval to the acceptance of the tender for the first phase of the development at Naas General Hospital.

26/88

#### ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD — MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 3/1988 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

'The St James's Hospital Board (Establishment) Order, 1971, (Amendment) Order 1984, provides for the appointment by the Minister for Health of four members of the St James's Hospital Board on the nomination of our Board.

One of our Board's nominees on the Board of St James's Hospital, Dr Brendan Powell, has resigned. The nomination of a member for appointment by the Minister for Health as his replacement is a matter for the Board.

The other nominees of our Board on the St James's Hospital Board are:

Cllr D Browne

Cllr M Carroll

Cllr A Groome

Cllr B Bviscoe TD was nominated by Cllr Calloty and seconded by Cllr Dunne.

Mrs B Bonar was nominated by Cllr Hynes, seconded by Dr McCarthy.

The result of a role call vote was as follows:

For Mrs Bonar	14
For Deputy Briscoe	11

The Chairman declared Mrs Bonar nominated for appointment by the Minister for Health to be a member of the St James's Hospital Board.

27/88

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BALLYMUN — MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 4/1988 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

The above Special Committee was set up to deal with the service needs and problems of the Ballymun area. When the Committee was originally set up in 1983 it had eight members. Changes in Board membership gave rise to both the appointment of replacements and additional members to the Committee. As a result of decisions taken at the May 1987 Board meeting the total membership of the Committee stood at thirteen.

The Committee's Chairman, Cllr P Hickey, has now given notice of his resignation of membership of the Committee and, in addition, two former members, Mr F Beale and Cllr E Fitzgerald, are no longer members of the Board.

The filling of vacancies on the Committee is a matter for the Board.



For the information of members, the current membership of the Committee is as follows:

1. Mrs D Clune
2. Mrs B Bonar
3. Cllr M Carroll
4. Cllr J Dillon Byrne
5. Prof J S Doyle
6. Ald A FitzGerald
7. Cllr A Glenn
8. Cllr W Harvey
9. Cllr F Hynes
10. Cllr J Sweeney

It was unanimously agreed that the following members should be appointed as members of the Special Committee on Ballymun:

1. Cllr P De Rossa TD
2. Cllr M Cannon
3. Cllr I Callely
4. Mr G McGuire

28/88

#### PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

##### 1. *General Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) District Hospital Wicklow - General Practitioner Access Scheme
- (b) Planning permission for the proposed day room in the District Hospital, Wicklow.
- (c) Report on the installation of the new screening room equipment in Naas General Hospital
- (d) Report outlining details in a community ward scheme for the elderly
- (e) St Columcille's Hospital - Rationalisation of services
- (f) Report on services in St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum

Members asked that their satisfaction with with the high level of care afforded to the patients in St Colman's Hospital be recorded.

Members agreed with Cllr Dunne's suggestion that their thanks should be conveyed to the Chief Ambulance Officer and his staff for the manner in which they provided ambulance services during the recent industrial dispute in the Dublin Fire Brigade.

##### 2. *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following items were dealt with in the report:

- a) The Brendan Project.

The committee recommended that the Health Board should not allocate a site on the St Brendan's Hospital campus to the Brendan Project.

- b) Detailed report on St Brendan's Hospital.

3. **Community Care Programme Committee**

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Special meeting held on 22 February 1988 to consider the report 'Mothers Alone'.
- (b) Protocol for a pilot project for an outreach programme for intravenous drug abusers.
- (c) Report on proposals for a community ward scheme for the elderly
- (d) Report on services on Area 7.

29/88

**PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL COMMITTEE**

The report of the Wicklow Local Committee meeting held on 30 December 1987 was, on a proposal by Dr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hynes, noted.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Site for new health centre at Killarney Road, Bray
- (b) Maternity Services East Wicklow
- (c) Ambulance Service East Wicklow area
- (d) General Practitioner Access Scheme District Hospital, Wicklow
- (e) Routing of ESB overhead power lines
- (f) Community Drugs Scheme

Following a discussion to which Mrs Bonar, Cllr Glenn and Cllr Callely contributed, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer informed the members that it was now proposed to proceed with certain intended developments in the operation of the Community Drugs Scheme.

Following a discussion regarding the Bray Old Folks Association and their movement from the site for the new health centre at Killarney Road to which Cllrs Sweeney, Murphy, and Dr Hawkins contributed and to which Mr Daly, Acting Programme Manager, Community Care replied, it was agreed that this matter would be further reviewed and a progress report will be made in early course.

30/88

## NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The following motion had been tabled by Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne:

*'That this Board agree to include at least one of the two planned psychogeriatric units (32 beds) in the Capital priorities list prepared by the Special Hospital Committee 13 January 1988'.*

Cllr Dillon Byrne accepted the Chairman's view that this matter had been dealt with at the February meeting at which it had been agreed that the Capital Priority List should be referred back to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee for further consideration

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr G McGuire:

*'That membership of the Budget Working Group rotate among all members of the Board'.*

The motion was seconded by Dr McCarthy and, following a discussion to which Mr McGuire, Dr McCarthy, Cllr Rellity, Mrs Bonar, Cllr Dunne, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Dillon Byrne, Dr Hawkins, Dr Keane, Deputy De Rossa, Cllr Glenn, Cllr Carroll and the Chairman contributed, and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a report should be prepared dealing with the rotation of some members of the Working Group.

31/88

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated 26 February 1988 from the Department of Health setting out new rates of allowances effective from 25 July 1988, which had been circulated, was noted.

32/88

## OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Callely referred to his written request that the Community Care Programme Committee should visit the health centre at Edenmore.

The Chairman informed him that matters relating to the facilities to be visited by the Programme Committees should be discussed and agreed with the Chairmen of the Programme Committees.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm

Correct: K J Hickey  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

  
Chairman