

**EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
held in  
St Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co Kildare  
on Thursday 5 May 1988 at 6.00 pm**

***Present***

<b>Cllr O Bennett</b>	<b>Mrs B Bonar</b>
<b>Cllr B Briscoe TD</b>	<b>Cllr M Carroll</b>
<b>Dr R Corcoran</b>	<b>Mrs D Clune</b>
<b>Dr P Devitt</b>	<b>Cllr J Dillon Byrne</b>
<b>Cllr P Dunne</b>	<b>Cllr B J Durkan TD</b>
<b>Cllr M Gannon</b>	<b>Cllr A Glenn</b>
<b>Cllr A Groome</b>	<b>Dr R Hawkins</b>
<b>Cllr F Hynes</b>	<b>Dr D I Keane</b>
<b>Dr P McCarthy</b>	<b>Mr G McGuire</b>
<b>Dr J Masterson</b>	<b>Dr J O'Boyle</b>
<b>Dr B O'Herlihy</b>	<b>Cllr J Reilly</b>
<b>Cllr J Sweeney</b>	

***Apologies***

**Cllr I Callely, Dr D Fitzpatrick, Ms M Nealon**

***In the Chair***

**Mrs D Clune**

**Officers in Attendance**

**Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer**  
**Mr S O'Brien, Acting Programme Manager, General Hospital Care**  
**Mr J Doyle, Acting Programme Manager, Community Care**  
**Mr L Kavanagh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care**  
**Prof B O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health**  
**Mr G Brennan, Technical Services Officer**  
**Mr M A Gallagher, Finance Officer**  
**Mr M J O'Connor, Secretary**

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**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

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

1. I am sure that members will join with me in congratulating one of our Board members, Mr P De Rossa TD on his election as President of his Party – The Workers' Party.
2. A Papal Award for fifty years service to the Catholic Church has recently been conferred on one of our Board members, Cllr Sam Carroll. I would ask him to accept the good wishes of all of us, both members and staff, on his achievement of this distinction.
3. I wish to inform members that a Working Party has been established by the Minister for Health to define the role of Community Medicine in the Health Services in the medium to long-term.

Our Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Kieran Hickey, has been invited to act as Chairman of the Working Party and one of our Board members and Director of Community Care, Dr Brian O'Herlihy, has also been appointed as a member.

I am sure members will join with me in wishing both Mr Hickey and Dr O'Herlihy well in the work of this group which has now commenced.

*Commission on Health Funding*

4. I wish to inform members that the Chairman and some members of the Commission on Health Funding visited, our Hearth Centre at Cootock, and St Ita's Hospital, Portrane on Wednesday 4 May 1988.  
They were met by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer together with the Chairmen of the the relevant Programme Committees.
5. Some members will be aware that it was decided at last Friday's special meeting of the General Hospital Committee to arrange the official opening of the new extension to St Columcille's Hospital for Thursday 9 June 1988. Further details will be circulated later.
6. On behalf of the members and staff may I thank Sr Canice, Matron, and Sr Peter, Catering Officer, for their hospitality and for the lovely meal served to us before our meeting.'

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON  
7 APRIL 1988**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7 April 1988, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Hynes.

Dr McCarthy referred to the question on page 41 regarding private consultation fees for general physicians, consultants and general practitioners and expressed the view that the question did not conform with the requirements of Standing Order No.29 that questions must relate to matters of administration of the Board for which the Chief Executive Officer is responsible

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## QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

(i) *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise if he is aware of any drugs or medicines being sold in the Eastern Health Board area, which are not approved by the National Drugs Advisory Board or 'Over-the-Counter' Medicines which should not be sold in pharmacy or any other outlets?'

*Reply*

Under existing regulations all medicines coming on the market for the first time require a Product Authorisation (P.A.) from the Minister for Health who acts on the advice of the National Drugs Advisory Board. The P.A. number must appear on the label.

Most medicines on sale fall into this category but I am informed that there is a limited number of products which have been on the market for many years which are currently being reviewed by the National Drugs Advisory Board and that these would not yet have an allocated P.A. number. All medicines will have to be fully authorised by April 1989.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland informs me that there have been allegations that some products imported from abroad are being distributed in this country without having P.A. numbers. The Society has advised all retailers that if they have any doubts about the status of any medicines without a P.A. number on the label they are to contact the Department of Health or the National Drugs Advisory Board.

(ii) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask for a full report on the complaints received by the Board on the De Montfort Nursing Home, Westminster Road, Foxrock; the inspections carried out and the outcome of these inspections, including the reports made by the Environmental Health Officers from the Board and what steps are now being taken with regard to this Nursing Home?'

*Reply*

Summonses in respect of alleged breaches of the Homes for Incapacitated Persons Regulations 1985 have been served on the proprietor and matron of the nursing home, to appear for a hearing in the Dublin Metropolitan District Court on 12 May 1988.

In the meantime the matter must be regarded as 'sub judice'. I shall write to the member in response to his queries as soon as the court proceedings have been concluded.

(iii) *Cllr P De Rossa TD*

'To ask why is Domiciliary Care Allowance or equivalent not paid to parents who take their children out of residential care for summer and other holiday periods?'

*Reply*

The Domiciliary Care Allowance is paid in respect of children between the ages of two and sixteen years who are so severely physically or mentally handicapped that they require care and attention which is considerably in excess of that normally required by a child of the same age.

The Departmental guidelines governing payment of this allowance provide that the allowance may not be paid in respect of children who are normally resident in an institution. However, in exceptional circumstances, if a child is at home for a continuous period exceeding two months, an allowance may be paid for any period in excess of that time while the child is at home.

The normal school holiday periods which are less than two months do not qualify for the payment of an allowance

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#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER' S REPORT

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

1. *Drogheda Memorial Hospital*

A licence agreement has now been drawn up which, if accepted by the Board of Trustees, will result in our Board assuming formal responsibility for the financing and operation of services at Drogheda Memorial Hospital with effect from 1 June 1988 for an initial period to the end of December 1989.

2. *Child Psychiatric Services – Kildare*

The redeployment of resources within the Child Psychiatric Service has facilitated the deployment of a child psychiatric team to County Kildare.

The team consists of:

Child Psychiatris	– half time
Psychiatric Registrar	– half time
Senior Psychologist	
Community Nurse	
Medical Secretary	

The team is based at Lakelands, Naas, and has commenced services from Tuesday 5 April 1988. Apart from the clinic in Naas, peripheral clinics have been established in Athy, Newbridge and Maynooth.

3. I have circulated under 'Correspondence' for this meeting documentation received from the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health concerning Europe Against Cancer Week which is currently running from 1st to 8th May 1988. Copies of the final version of the leaflet on the 10-step code against cancer have also been circulated this evening for the information of members.

4. I have also circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting correspondence received from the Department of Health which details the new structure for Health Promotion introduced on 1 January 1988 which comprises

- (a) The Health Promotion Unit
- (b) The Advisory Council on Health Promotion
- (c) A Committee of Ministers

Members will note that, in addition to participation in the Europe Against Cancer Week from 1st to 8th May, the Health Promotion Unit is planning a Food Hygiene Week at the end of May.

5. I have circulated for the information of members copies of the Tobacco (Health Promotion and Protection) Bill 1988. Generally the Bill provides for:
- \* the prohibition and restriction of the consumption of tobacco products in areas and facilities designated by the Minister. Section 2.2 of the Bill details areas such as schools, cinemas, health premises,
  - \* the restriction on the sale of tobacco products under the age of 16 years,
  - \* the prohibition and import, manufacture, sale and advertising of oral smokeless tobacco products,
  - \* the amendment of the Tobacco Products (Control of Advertising, Sponsorship, and Sales Promotion) Act, 1978.

This, subject to the agreement of members, will be referred to the Community Care Committee for detailed consideration and report.'

Dr Corcoran raised a question in relation to social work provision for the Child Psychiatric Service in KMDare to which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied.

In response to a request from Dr Hawkins, Mr Hickey undertook to review the Child Psychiatric Service in Co Wicklow and to bring a report to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

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#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The following Report No. 7/1988 from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

'I attach a copy of Department of Health letter of 6 April 1988 enclosing a copy of a draft amendment to the Food Hygiene Regulations together with the observations of Professor O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health.

The latest date for receipt of our Board's observations has been extended until after the May Board meeting.'

<sup>1</sup> Re: Amendment to the Food Hygiene Regulations

'I have studied these proposed Amended Regulations and my opinion is that they will be useful as they will give extra powers to control food stalls which we have had little power to control under existing Regulations. In future stall-holders will have to obtain an annual licence for which a fee of £100 will be payable

Secondly, it lays down higher standards for food vehicles and food stalls. For instance:

they must be properly constructed and workers must wear suitable apparel.  
They must have adequate facilities for hand-washing.  
They must have first-aid bandages and dressings.

And for the food sold:

Meat and milk products must be kept at a temperature below 4 0°  
Hot food must be kept at a temperature of at least 63 0°

The stall proprietor must display on his stall:

His name and address.  
His licence from the Health Board.

By contrast the old 1950 Regulations as they apply to food stalls, lay down rather vague standards e.g., 'adequate measures shall be taken for preventing contamination of food' and 'food adversely affected by heat shall be kept in a cool place.'

The third change proposed relates to Article 34 of the existing Regulations. Under this Article, if I as Medical Officer of Health become aware that a food premises is so dirty that it is imperative that it should be closed down immediately, in order to do this I must apply directly to the Minister to have a Closure Order made on it. This I do about three times a year and the Minister usually complies, after an interval of about two weeks.

The proposal now is that the application for the Closure Order should be made to the District Court. I have discussed the matter with Mr Colley who states that in such a situation he could get an early hearing, say within a week or two at most, so that no problem would arise in practice. The District Justice would insist on having the proprietor present at the hearing, in order to hear his point of view, which is fair enough, and of course he might refuse to make the Closure Order if the proprietor undertook to carry out immediately whatever repairs or alterations the Health Board specified.

The fourth proposal in these Amended Regulations is that in future there should be a registration fee of £100 for ordinary food premises.

The Health Board had proposed introducing such a fee on their initiative and a scale of charges has been suggested as it is felt inequitable that the same registration fee should be paid for a premises like the Berkeley Court Hotel as for a Take-Away in Townsend Street. The Scale proposed is as follows:

Hotel or large manufacturing premise	£200
Restaurant or wholesale premises	£150
Small cafes, Take-aways, etc.	£100

B O'Donnell

Dublin Medical Officer of Health"

Following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Dr Hawkins, Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Reilly, Cllr Glenn and Cllr Dunne contributed and to which Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, the members welcomed the proposed amendment and suggested that Food Hygiene Licences should be part of planning applications either for new food premises or for change of use.

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#### PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(1) *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Progress report on service developments
- (b) Adult Psychiatric Service in County Kildare
- (c) Services provided by Sunbeam House

**(2) General Hospital Care Programme Committee**

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) The installation of new screening room equipment in Naas General Hospital;
- (b) The equipping of the new Out-Patients' Department and Operating Theatre Suite at St Columcille's Hospital;
- (c) Arrangements for a special meeting to discuss the range, level and services at St Columcille's Hospital;
- (d) Details of temporary measures to be introduced in hospitals and homes during the period April to September 1988;
- (e) Report on services in the District Hospital, Wicklow;
- (f) A presentation on the proposed new Day Room at Wicklow District Hospital;
- (g) Report on Special Meeting held at St Columcille's Hospital on 29 April 1988.

**(3) Community Care Programme Committee**

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Arrangements for a special meeting to discuss Area 7 headquarters accommodation and for further special meetings at Geraldstown House on the 6 May, at St Mary's Hospital on 27 May to discuss the report 'Mothers Alone' and at St Mary's Hospital on 3 June 1988 to discuss Dental Services;
- (b) Report on services in Community Care Area No.1 (Dun Laoghaire) arising out of which the following matters were discussed:

Physiotherapy Service, AIDS Programme, Private Nursing Homes, Area Headquarters Accommodation, Sexual Abuse of Children, Dental Services, Drugs Counselling Service, Fuel and Footwear Scheme, Service at Meadowvale Health Centre;

- (c) Food Hygiene Regulations - proposed amendments.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

The notice of motion in the name of Cllr R Roche TD, regarding the funding of the Irish Family Planning Association and the Bray Family Planning Centre, was, in his absence, not moved.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

The following documents, copies of which had been circulated, were noted:

1. Letter dated 11 April 1988 from Dublin County Council regarding a resolution passed by the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown District Committee that a vote of thanks be conveyed to the Health Board for works carried out by their staff during the recent industrial action by the Fire Brigade Officers of Dublin Corporation.
2. Letter dated 15 April 1988 from the Department of Health regarding the new structure for Health Promotion which was introduced on 1 January 1988.
3. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Department of Health regarding Europe Against Cancer Week 1st - 8th May 1988.
4. Tobacco (Health Promotion and Protection) Bill 1988.

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## OTHER BUSINESS

1. Deputy Briscoe referred to the Childline Service operated by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and said that he had received indications that it was operating successfully.
2. In response to an enquiry from Cllr Hynes regarding the scheme for housing repairs for the elderly, Mr Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer indicated that a report on this service would be brought to the next meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee

The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm

CORRECT: K J Hickey  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

  
Chairman