

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in the
Boardroom, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 3 November at 6 pm.

Present

<p>Mrs B Bonar Cllr M Carroll Cllr J Dillon Byrne Ald A FitzGerald Cllr C Flood TD Cllr C Flood TD Dr D I Keane Mr G McGuire Ms M Nealon Dr B O'Herlihy</p>	<p>Cllr I Callely Mrs D Clune Cllr P Dunne Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD Cllr M Gannon Cllr F Hynes Dr P McCarthy Cllr C Murphy Dr J O'Boyle Cllr J Reilly</p>
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Apologies

Cllr B Briscoe TD, Cllr B J Durkan TD, Cllr P Hickey, Cllr R Roche TD

In the Chair

Cllr Austin Groome

Officers in Attendance

Mr K J Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr J Doyle, Acting 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 Kavanagh, Personnel Officer
Mr N McNee, Management Services Officer
Mr M Gallagher, Finance Officer
Mr M J O'Connor, Secretary

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COUNCILLOR JOHN SWEENEY (Deceased)

The Chairman informed the members that he had convened the Special Meeting of the Board to enable members to pay tribute to our late esteemed member. Councillor John Sweeney, who had died on 3 December, 1988 and to pass a vote of sympathy to Mrs Sweeney and her family.

Cllr M Carroll said that Cllr Sweeney who had served the people of Co Wicklow for 20 years, was a perfect gentleman who had never played politics with the people.

Mrs D Clune described Cllr Sweeney as her friend and colleague and said that Co Wicklow and the Eastern Health Board would be the poorer for his passing and concluded 'Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis'.

Cllr J Dillon Byrne referred to Cllr Sweeney's experience and sense of humour. She found him an ally on the Health Board, often sought his advice and found his observations very pertinent.

Dr D Keane referred to his service on the Board since 1982 with Cllr Sweeney and described him as kind, intelligent and experienced. He had never known him to utter unkind words and described him as an excellent Chairman during his term of office.

Cllr J Reilly thanked the Chairman for affording the members the opportunity to pay their respects and referred to the manner in which Cllr Sweeney had welcomed him as a member of the Health Board when he was first appointed in 1985. He offered his sincere sympathy to Mrs Sweeney and her family.

Dr P McCarthy stated that he had served with Cllr Sweeney as a member of the Health Board for 11 years and that he always found him a true gentleman.

Cllr I Callely said that he found Cllr Sweeney most helpful as Chairman of the Health Board and that it was a pleasure to work with him. His death would be a great loss to Co Wicklow and the Eastern Health Board.

Cllr C Rood, TD, said that he owed Cllr Sweeney a debt of gratitude for the manner in which he gave him information regarding the structures of the Health Board when he was first appointed as a member. He described him as a great friend of the Health Board who had always spoken on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged.

Mr G McGuire said that even though he had known Cllr Sweeney only for a short time he had found that his influence was always calming and soothing.

Dr Brian O'Herlihy, in associating himself with the tributes already paid, recalled his first meeting with Cllr Sweeney when the Health Board was established in 1971 and referred to his continuous concern for people and for the problems of the health service.

Aid A FitzGerald said that he had served on the Health Board for 15 years with Cllr Sweeney and that he had found him a great educator, especially for new members. He offered his sincere sympathy to Mrs Sweeney and her family.

Dr J O'Boyle said that he was always impressed with Cllr Sweeney's interest in the Psychiatric Services and in the welfare of patients generally. He also referred to his great wisdom and to the standard of his contributions at meetings of the Programme Committees.

Mrs B Bonar said that she had been a member of the Health Board since 1980 and that she had served on the Board for two years before she realised that Cllr Sweeney was a member of a political party. She offered her sincere sympathy to his family and to his good friend Cllr Frank Hynes.

Cllr M Gannon, in associating himself with the tributes, described Cllr Sweeney as a very effective public representative who had made very significant contributions at meetings of the Health Board.

Cllr C Murphy thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to pay tribute to Cllr Sweeney whose death, following close on the death of Cllr Jimmy Miley, would be a huge loss to Wicklow County Council and to the Eastern Health Board. He was always impressed by Cllr Sweeney's dedication to the improvement of the health services in Co Wicklow.

Cllr P Dunne offered his sympathy to Cllr Sweeney's family and to Cllr Frank Hynes. He referred to Cllr Sweeney's dedication to people and to his concern for people in areas of our Health Board, outside of Co Wicklow.

Ms M Nealon associated herself with the various tributes and described Cllr Sweeney as generous, sincere and kind. She offered her sympathy to Mrs Sweeney and her family.

Cllr F Hynes thanked the members, the Chief Executive Officer and staff for attending the funeral and referred to his service with Cllr Sweeney for 21 years as a member of Wicklow County Council and for 10 years as a member of the Eastern Health Board. He described his work as a member of the Eastern Health Board as 'his life'. He also referred to his work with voluntary organisations in raising funds for various projects which were subsequently grant-aided by the Eastern Health Board. He felt that it would be very difficult to replace him on the Health Board.

Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick, TD, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to pay tribute to Cllr Sweeney who had given him an understanding of the workings of the Eastern Health Board when he became a member. He described him as a gentleman and a consummate politician.

Mr M Walsh, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to pay tribute to Cllr Sweeney whom he regarded as a very dear friend and a very special member of the Board. He said they understood each other very well and that the welfare of the patients was always uppermost in his mind. He offered his condolences, and those of his staff, to Mrs Sweeney and her family.

Mr K Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, in joining in the tributes said that John Sweeney was a very perceptive man - a wise man not given to the quick word or the easy phrase. He referred to Cllr Sweeney's work as a member of the Health Board since 1971 and as Chairman from 1984 to 1986. He also referred to the establishment of the Programme Committees and of the Budget Working Group, and to the adoption of the major policy report on the future of the Psychiatric Services Towards the Development of a Community-based Psychiatric Service which had been achieved during Cllr Sweeney's term of office as Chairman. He also referred to the dignity and fortitude which he bore his final illness and, in joining in the expressions of sympathy to Cllr Sweeney's widow and family, he concluded 'Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis'.

The Chairman, in conclusion, said that no words of his could express the feelings in his heart on the loss of John Sweeney. His death would be a great loss to the Eastern Health Board and to Wicklow County Council. When he was appointed as a member of the Health Board, Cllr M Carroll, who was Chairman at the time,

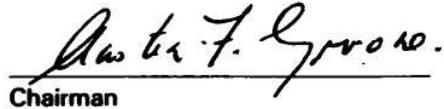
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told him, at his first meeting, that 'John will look after you' and he was correct in his prediction. He described his work with Cllr Sweeney as an enriching experience and requested the members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm.

Correct: K J Hickey
Deputy Chief Executive Officer.


Chairman