



EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
Boardroom, St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday, 2 February 1989 at 6 pm**

Present

Cllr O Bennett	Mrs B Bonar
Cllr I Callely	Cllr M Carroll
Dr R Corcoran	Mrs D Clune
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	Cllr W J Harvey
Dr R Hawkins	Cllr P Hickey
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 J O'Boyle	Dr B O'Herlihy
Cllr L O'Neill	Cllr J Reilly

In the Chair

Cllr Austin Groome

Officers in Attendance

Mr K J Hickey A/Chief Executive Officer
 Mr F Donohue Programme Manager
 Mr J Doyle A/Programme Manager Community Care
 Mr M Walsh A/Programme Manager Special Hospital Care
 Mr S O'Brien A/Programme Manager General Hospital Care
 Prof B O'Donnell Dublin Medical Officer of Health
 Mr L Kavanagh Personnel Officer
 Mr J N McNee Management Services Officer
 Mr G Brennan Technical Services Officer
 Mr M Gallagher Finance Officer
 Mr M O'Connor Secretary

13/89

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Cllr Ciaran Murphy, on the death of his mother.
2. Dr Ray Hawkins, on the death of his father.
3. Mr John Brennan, Administrator, St Loman's Hospital on the death of his mother.
4. Mr Michael Roban, Deputy Charge Nurse, St. Brendan's Hospital on the death of his wife.
5. Mrs Kathleen D'Arcy, Supervisor of Cleaners, on the death of her brother.

14/89

CHAIRMAN'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. I wish to remind members that the special meeting of our Board to consider the needs of the health service in the Tallaght area will be held on Thursday 16 February 1989 at 6 pm in the Mental Health Centre, Belgard Road, Tallaght.
2. I wish to advise members that the meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee arranged for 9 February 1989 will be held at 89 St Laurence's Road. Clontarf.
3. A Policy Review Report on BCG vaccination has been drawn up by a Committee of our Board's Public Health Medical Staff. This will be tabled for consideration by the Community Care Programme Committee. It has been agreed that the Minister for Health would also be personally presented with a copy of the Report and arrangements for this function, which will take place at Clonskeagh Hospital towards the end of February, will be communicated to members in the near future'

15/89

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD ON
5 AND 19 JANUARY AND OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
12 JANUARY 1989**

The minutes of the special meetings held on 5 and 19 January and of the monthly meeting held on 12 January 1989, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Gannon, seconded by Cllr Hynes.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Deputy Durkan referred to item no 2/89 (Cheeverstown - Interim Management Arrangements) and asked that it be noted that the adoption of the report had been agreed only with very strong reservations.

Deputy Durkan referred to paragraph (d) in Item 8/89 regarding the progress report on the Psychiatric Unit/Boiler House and ancillary accommodation at Naas General

Hospital and requested that the Department of Health should be pressed to issue approval to the next stage of the planning process for the total Hospital development.

16/89

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

1. Cllr I Callely

'Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of arrangements made for prisoners who have to be hospitalised. Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of the cost of providing this service for the last financial year, is it totally reimbursed by the Department of Justice? As some prisoners could be dangerous have any hospital personnel ever been in danger/attacked and what security arrangements are made? Can the Chief Executive Officer advise have prisoners ever escaped while hospitalised and if the Chief Executive Officer could give the details.'

Reply

'Both outpatient and inpatient services are provided by various hospitals for prisoners on request of the Prison Service The normal eligibility rules apply in the case of each individual provided with such services and no reimbursement is made by the Department of Justice

Separate costings for hospital services provided to prisoners are not maintained.

Prisoners referred to hospitals for either outpatient or inpatient services are accompanied by escorts, the number of whom is determined by the appropriate prison authorities. In the case of inpatient services single room accommodation is generally provided to ensure better security and to minimise inconvenience to other patients.

All precautions are taken to minimise any potential danger to staff. As far as we have been able to ascertain there have been no such incidents.

Security is normally arranged by the prison authorities in consultation with the Gardai, Army and Hospital Authorities.

I am not in a position to give the details requested regarding the number of escapes from custody by prisoners while receiving hospital services, as this is a matter for the Department of Justice'

2. Cllr J Dillon Byrne

'Regarding the management and counselling of behavioural problems which were dealt with at the Mount Pleasant Day Hospital could the Chief Executive Officer advise where exactly such services are now available for these same patients?'

Reply

'In line with 'Planning for the Future' and following review by the Psychiatric Clinical Directors our Board decided that adequate Psychotherapy services should be available in each of our Board's catchment area services rather than a centralised service as operated heretofore in Mount Pleasant. Psychotherapy services are now in place in each of the catchment areas.'

3. *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'Could the Chief Executive Officer say if he is aware of any special hospital using taxis to collect/deliver blood samples when the patient is a long stay patient? Would this be considered to be financially sound practice?'

Reply

'The Special Hospital Programme utilises our Board's own transport system for the 2/2/1989 collection/delivery of blood samples in respect of all patients, acute and longstay.

In an emergency situation, as dictated by medical staff, a taxi service will be used for the delivery of samples, but only when our Board's transport is definitely not available. The use of a taxi in this type of situation is a cheaper option than retaining our own transport service on a 'stand-by' or overtime basis.'

4. *Cllr J Dillon Byrne*

'Could the Chief Executive Officer say if the Special Grants for Clothing are based on individual need or are any other factors taken into consideration at the time of assessment and allocation?'

Reply

'Payments to assist with the cost of clothing are made by our Board under the exceptional needs provisions of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme. In making these payments our Board takes into account the income of the individual/family concerned and the need for clothing at any given time.'

5. *Dr P Devitt*

'What funding does the Board make for vocational training in General Practice? Which body (or bodies) are responsible for providing this training and for administering the fund?'

How much training is being provided and how is efficiency measured?

In view of the large educational element involved in training, could the Chief Executive Officer indicate if it would be more cost effective for training to be administered by the General Practice department of a Medical School?'

Reply

'Ten trainee General Practitioners are selected each year for training by the Dublin Regional vocational training Scheme in General Practice which has representation drawn from our Board, the Irish Medical Organisation, the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Medical Schools,

The training course is for three years, two of which consist of attachment to various specialty departments in hospitals. In the third year trainees are attached to general practices conducted by doctors who work as trainers in the Scheme.

Similar training schemes operate in other Health Board areas.

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Health through our Board and the cost in 1988 was £206,400 which relates to remuneration of trainees in their third year and the Director of the scheme

The training scheme is continuously monitored and evaluated by the Dublin Regional Committee on which our Board is represented and to whom the Director is responsible and also by the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of General Practitioners. The Dublin Regional Committee was set up by the Post Graduate Medical and Dental Board.

Each of the Medical Schools is represented on the Committee and the Scheme provides unified training in the Eastern region.'

6. *Cllr L O'Neill*

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer if the Eastern Health Board still has an interest in purchasing Thorndale House Artane have any negotiations been entered into and at what stage the negotiations are presently at?'

Reply

'As previously reported to the Special Hospital Care Programme we have been involved in discussions regarding the possible acquisition of Throndale House Artane These discussions have also involved the Parents and Friends of Beaumont, the Irish Society for Autistic Children, the Department of Health and the owners of property, who are the Department of Agriculture

A further position report will be given to the next meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee'.

7. *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer please advise how all radioactive waste from hospitals is disposed of and how the waste material is handled and stored prior to disposal? Also if the Chief Executive Officer can advise how all other slightly contaminated material is disposed of?'

Reply

'Before a hospital can import radioactive isotopes for medical purposes it must apply to the Nuclear Energy Board for an Import Licence If an import licence is granted then the hospital must then apply also to the Nuclear Energy Board for a licence to use it. If this licence is granted detailed instructions are given regarding storage and disposal of wastes. This generally entails:

- (i) Short-life isotopes are diluted to a specified degree with water before flushing down the drain.
- (ii) Longer acting ones have to be stored for anything up to one year before dilution and flushing into drain.
- (iii) Patients given certain isotopes - their excreta are specially treated before disposal.
- (iv) Solid wastes - syringes, empty vials, packaging etc., must also be dealt with in accordance with detailed instructions issued by the Nuclear Energy Board. This generally involves storing for a period and incineration only when Geiger readings indicate that the radiation level is negligible
- (v) Because the storage of such waste in the hospitals concerned takes up space the Nuclear Energy Board has been in favour of

the establishment of a National Disposal Site which would take radioactive waste from these hospitals, for storage and ultimate disposal. That Board is at present investigating the feasibility of establishing such a site'

8. *Dr P Devitt*

'What are the Board's plans for the post of Medical Officer at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare? What is the time scale relating to implementation of these plans?'

Reply

'Following an examination of medical services at District Hospital, Wicklow a General Practitioner Access Scheme was introduced in April, 1988. The scheme was introduced on a trial basis for one year and its continuation will be subject to a detailed review.

Before making a final decision on the future provision of medical cover for St Vincent's it is proposed to await the findings of the review of the trial scheme at District Hospital, Wicklow.'

9. *Dr P Devitt*

'When is it proposed to update the panel for Assistant General Practitioners in the General Medical Service?'

Reply

'A panel of doctors was established by our Board in early 1987 from which GMS doctors whose applications for partners/assistants were approved could exercise choice

The panel was formed for the period to the 31 December 1987 initially. It was subsequently extended to the 31st December 1988 with the approval of the Department of Health.

Any decision regarding the future of the panel or the need to up-date it must await the outcome of the present proposals for a revised General Medical Services Scheme which has been under discussion with the Irish Medical Organisation.'

10. *Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD*

'What is the waiting list for optical treatment?'

Reply

(a) **Adults:** There is no waiting list for eligible adults availing of our Board's Optical Schema

(b) **Children:** As eligible children must be examined by a consultant, delays of 6 to 9 months can be experienced in getting an appointment at the outpatient clinic. However, special arrangements are made for emergency cases.

Where application is received for spectacles from a consultant on behalf of eligible children there is no waiting list.'

11. *Cllr Dr D Fitzpatrick TD*

'How many cases of Weil's Disease have been notified in the past four years?'

Reply

'Two cases of Weil's Disease have been notified in the past four years, (one in 1986 and one in 1987)'

12. *Cllr I Callely*

'Can the Chief Executive Officer give an up-date Report on health contributions due to the Eastern Health Board by farmers?'

Reply

'A detailed report to the meeting of the General Hospital Programme Committee on 21 July 1988, has been followed up by a programme of action including issue of civil bills in appropriate cases. Detailed up-dates of the position are given at each subsequent meeting of the Programme Committee. The amount of health contributions outstanding currently is £380,000'

17/89

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. 'I have circulated, for the information of members, an extract from a speech made by the Minister for Health on Tuesday last on the Voluntary Health Insurance Board Recovery Plan in which he referred to a review of the Community Drugs Schemes.
2. I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 13th January 1989 from the Health Promotion Unit in the Department of Health regarding the new anti Smoking Campaign to be launched on Ash Wednesday - National No-Smoking Day 8 February 1989.
3. I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 25 January 1989 from the Department of Social Welfare regarding the definition of child dependents for the purposes of the National Fuel Scheme 1988/89'.

In response to Dr. Hawkins's request for a review of the Community Drugs Schemes it was agreed that the documentation which had been prepared for our Board's last review of the Scheme should be updated and referred to the Community Care Programme Committee for further consideration.

18/89

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES1. *Special Hospital Care Programme Committee*

On a proposal by Mrs Clune, seconded by Deputy Durkan. it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) A report on facilities and services available in St. Columba's Mental Health Centre, St. Damien's Enterprise Centre (Crumlin) and the new Mental Health Centre in Tallaght.

- (b) Report on the development of a new and innovative approach to the provision of a comprehensive community based Psychiatric service in the Clondalkin area.

2. *General Hospital Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Report on Accident and Emergency Services
- (b) Progress report on new day room project in Wicklow District Hospital.
- (c) Progress report on the Psychiatric Unit/Boiler House and ancillary accommodation at Naas General Hospital.
- (d) Progress report on the Operating Theatres and on St Joseph's Ward in St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.
- (e) '999' Ambulance Control Review Group Agreement.
- (f) Report on services in St Clare's Home

Dr O'Herlihy drew attention to the Committee's concern that the Health Board has responsibility for the Hospital Accident and Emergency Service but does not have the necessary authority. It was agreed to convey the Board's concern in this matter to the Department of Health.

3. *Community Care Programme Committee*

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- (a) Progress Report on Department of Health draft agreement with general practitioners in the General Medical Services Scheme.
- (b) Filling of vacancy in GMS in Monasterevin and the taking on of an assistant with a view to partnership (Clontarf).
- (c) Report on Services in Community Care Area No. 6 arising out of which the Committee recommended that the Health Board should press for the provision by the Department of Education of a psychological service at primary school level.

20/89

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. Members agreed that Cllr Dillon Byrne could defer her motion calling on the Minister for Health to restore the Refund of Drugs Scheme.
2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne and seconded by Cllr Gannon.

'That this Board set about reorganising payments for travellers to be available for collection at the clinic nearest to their residence/dwelling, not at one central clinic in the city of Dublin as is the practice at present'.

During a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Cllr Gannon, Cllr Glenn, Deputy Durkan and Dr O'Herlihy contributed Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, informed the members that the special unit for travelers had been established, with Board approval, in 1985 following discussions with representatives of the travelling people. The Inter-Departmental Committee for Traveling People with whom the matter was also discussed was quite satisfied with the development. The Unit provides a service targetted at the special needs of travelling people, has a very high staff/client ratio and the staff concerned have developed a high level of expertise. The centrally located unit facilitated travellers, who moved from place to place, in keeping in contact with Community Welfare Officers who were aware of their particular circumstances. Community Welfare Officers visit each site every week and arrangements, which are in place to make payments on she. are applicable to a large number of travelers.

Cllr Dillon Byrne indicated that, having regard to the discussion which had taken place, she would withdraw the motion.

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dillon Byrne, seconded by Cllr Reilly:

'That the Health Board advise the Chief Executive Officer to issue directives to the Community Welfare Officers indicating that the one and only priority for the allocation of clothing allowance be based on need'.

Following a discussion to which Cllr Dillon Byrne, Cllr Reilly, Cllr Dunne, Ald FtzGerald, Deputy Flood, Deputy Durkan, Mrs Bonar and Dr Masterson contributed, Mr Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer informed the members that allowances granted by Community Welfare Officers in respect of clothing are made under the exceptional needs provisions of the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme and that decisions to grant such allowances are based solely on individual circumstances and the needs of each case. Cllr Dillon Byrne undertook to furnish further details of a case quoted by her which reflected adversely on a Community Welfare Officer for a particular area. As soon as these were to hand the case would be investigated by the Programme Manager and a report brought back to the Board thereon.

The motion was noted.

17/89

CORRESPONDENCE

Two items of correspondence, referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's Report, copies of which were circulated, were noted.

18/89

OTHER BUSINESS

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Hickey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, informed the members regarding meetings of the Interim Management Committee for Cheeverstown House which had been held on 24th and 31st January, 1989. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 14th February, 1989.

The Minister for Health had addressed the members of the Committee at their first meeting and copies of his address on that occasion will be circulated to each member.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm.

CORRECT: K J Hickey. Acting Chief Executive Officer


Chairman