

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting
held in
The Boardroom, St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on
Thursday, 1st March, 1990 at 6 p.m.**

Present

Sen. O. Bennett	Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.	Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. M. Carroll	Dr. R. Corcoran
Mrs. D. Clune	Dr. P. Devitt
Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne	Cllr. P. Dunne
Cllr. B.J. Durkan, T.D.	Aid. A. FitzGerald
Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick, T.D.	Cllr. C. Flood, T.D.
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
Cllr. T. Keenan	Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. C. Murphy	Ms. M. Nealon
Dr. B. O'Herlihy	Cllr. L. O'Neill
Cllr. J. Reilly	

Apologies

Prof. J.S. Doyle, Prof. J. McCormick, Dr. J. O'Boyle

In the Chair

Cllr. A. Groome

Officers in Attendance

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

**18/1990
CONDOLENCES**

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

1. The wife and family of Mr. Noel McNee, Management Services Officer.
2. The wife and family of Eugene O'Keeffe, former Chief Executive Officer.
3. Ruth Ennis, Nutritional Adviser to the Elderly, on the death of her father.
4. Seamus Shields, Co-ordinator of Services for the Elderly, on the death of his mother.
5. Roseanne Hardiman, Attendant, Bru Chaoimhin, on the death of her daughter.
6. Joe Kavanagh, Caretaker, Community Care Office, Wicklow on the death of his mother.
7. Ms. Sandra Hanan, Community Welfare Officer, Wicklow on the death of her mother.
8. Ms. Ann Leonard, Public Health Nurse, Arklow, on the death of her mother.
9. John Sweeney, Porter, 1 James's Street, on the death of his brother.
10. Mary Lynch, Children's Section, Park House, on the death of her mother.
11. The family of Mr. James Madden, Mapas Road, Dalkey.

**19/1990
CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

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

" 1. I am sure members will join with me in expressing our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Dr. Jim O'Boyle who is unable to attend this evening's meeting due to illness.

2. *Meeting of Budget Working Group*

A meeting of the Budget Working Group will be held on Wednesday 7th March, 1990 at 11 a.m. to complete our Board's response to the Report of the Commission on Health Funding and to consider our Board's capital priorities.

Special Meeting of Board

It is proposed to hold a special meeting of our Board on Thursday 15th March, 1990 at 6 p.m. to consider the Report of the Budget Working Group following their meeting to consider the Report of the Commission on Health Funding and our capital priorities.

Meetings of Community Care Programme Committee

A special meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee will be held in the Boardroom, St. Mary's Hospital on Monday 5th March, 1990 at 11.00 a.m. to consider the Report "Forgotten Children".

The meeting of the Committee scheduled for Friday 9th March has been postponed to a date to be arranged.

Meeting of General Hospital Care Programme Committee

With the agreement of the members it is proposed that the General Hospital Care Programme Committee, to be held in St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling, will be held on 30th March instead of on the 15th March."

20/1990

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY, 1990

The minutes of the monthly minutes held on 1st February, 1990, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. Hickey.

21/1990

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

"I. Dr. R. Hawkins

"Could the Chief Executive Officer outline numerically the age/sex register as per the total G.M.S. patients in the Eastern Health Board computer files. Also could he sub-divide them into Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow for the years ending 31st December, 1987, 1988 and 1989."

Reply

The information requested is set out on the attached table.

Eligible G.M.S. Patients The Eastern Health Board

Age Group	As at 31/12/1987				As at 31/12/1988				As at 31/12/1989				
	Dublin	Kildare	Wicklow	Total	Dublin	Kildare	Wicklow	Total	Dublin	Kildare	Wicklow	Total	
Under 5	M	11,990	1,536	1,379	14,905	12,825	1,548	1,445	15,818	11,931	1,395	1,291	14,617
	F	11,088	1,483	1,365	13,936	12,148	1,533	1,374	15,055	11,464	1,282	1,156	13,902
	Total	23,078	3,019	2,744	28,841	24,973	3,081	2,819	30,873	23,395	2,677	2,447	28,519
5 - 15	M	32,149	4,696	3,862	40,707	34,273	4,744	3,990	43,007	32,233	3,845	3,543	39,621
	F	30,635	4,442	3,638	38,715	32,586	4,372	3,728	40,686	30,447	3,632	3,314	37,393
	Total	62,784	9,138	7,500	79,422	66,859	9,116	7,718	83,693	62,680	7,477	6,857	77,014
16 - 44	M	42,081	7,658	5,226	54,965	46,548	7,251	5,119	58,918	41,091	4,956	4,471	50,518
	F	50,364	7,747	5,956	64,067	56,015	7,610	5,904	69,529	50,652	5,831	5,429	61,912
	Total	92,445	15,405	11,182	119,032	102,563	14,861	11,023	128,447	91,743	10,787	9,900	112,430
45 - 64	M	16,726	2,371	2,089	21,186	18,618	2,443	2,207	23,268	18,660	2,175	1,988	22,823
	F	24,082	3,052	2,844	29,978	25,546	3,121	2,871	31,538	24,986	2,899	2,708	30,593
	Total	40,808	5,423	4,933	51,164	44,164	5,564	5,078	54,806	43,646	5,074	4,696	53,416
65 and over	M	27,571	3,832	3,627	35,030	28,957	3,783	3,520	36,260	24,928	2,871	3,106	30,905
	F	58,628	5,524	5,973	70,125	60,814	5,489	5,906	72,209	50,704	5,745	6,223	62,672
	Total	86,199	9,356	9,600	105,155	89,771	9,272	9,426	108,469	75,632	8,616	9,329	93,577
Overall Total	305,314	42,341	35,959	383,614	328,330	41,894	36,064	406,288	297,096	34,631	33,229	364,956	

Cllr. L. Callely, T.D.

"Can the Chief Executive Officer please advise of the total number of Chiropodists who operate the Chiropody service for the Eastern Health Board, for G.M.S. and all eligible patients. Approximately how many patients are on each Chiropodist's panel? Do they operate within a given radius? Is there a retiring age? What conditions are attached to the contract and what is the total cost to operate this scheme?"

Reply

The position in relation to the Community Chiropody Service is as follows:

Number of Chiropodists on Panel: 35

Average number of patients on Panel: 360 approx.

Terms of engagement: A Chiropodist who is on a list approved by the Department of Health qualifies to work in the health services.

Private Chiropodists are engaged for a fee to provide services to eligible patients who chose to attend at their surgeries or, in exceptional cases, to attend patients in their own homes.

There are no contracts in the case of private Chiropodists regulating such matters as area of operation or retirement age.

Cost of Scheme 1989: £297,000

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

"Can the Chief Executive Officer advise approximately what proportion of our population is affected by Leukaemia, Cancer and Cancer related illnesses? What are the costs to provide services in these areas and is there any noticeable increase in newly diagnosed cases in recent years, particularly in young children?"

Reply

Pending the introduction of a National Cancer Registry it is not possible to state what proportion of the population has got Leukaemia, Cancer or Cancer related conditions at any time. Neither is it possible to state what proportion of expenditure on health services is incurred in treating persons suffering from these conditions. Since this group of conditions is the overall second commonest cause of death [7,126 deaths in 1988] it is clear that expenditure on treating them represents a significant proportion of total health spending.

In 1984 a Committee appointed by the Minister for Health investigated the incidence of Leukaemia in children aged 0 - 14 in the East Coast counties of the country. This was as a result of the anxiety being felt at that time about high levels of radioactive discharge into the Irish Sea. The Committee investigated the incidence of Leukaemia in respect of the years 1974 - 83 and it reported in 1986 that there was no excess incidence of Leukaemia in these counties during any of these years and that the overall incidence of Leukaemia in children of that age both in the East Coast counties and in the country as a whole was of the order of 30 cases per 100,000 children per year, which was on a par with Western European countries generally.

No further survey has been carried out since then. However, on the basis of hospital admissions there has been no noticeable increase in childhood Leukaemia cases since 1983."

22/1990

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *Group to improve the co-ordination and integration of hospital and other health care services in Dublin (The Kennedy Group)*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of the terms of reference set down by the Minister for Health for the above group and a list of the members of the group.

I have also circulated copies of the press statement issued following the first meeting of the group, on Monday last 26th February, 1990.

2. *District Court Case involving 15 year old girl*

Members will be aware of the public concern generated by the publicity surrounding the case of a 15 year old girl who has, since October of last year, been before Dun Laoghaire District Court on continuing remand due to the lack of an appropriate detention facility to which she could be referred by the District Justice i.e. a secure unit for young girls similar to that provided by the Department of Justice for young boys at Trinity House.

I have circulated the following for the information of members:-

- (I) A copy of the statement made by the Minister for Justice to Dail Eireann on the 27th February last in answer to a question on the matter.
- (II) A summary of a statement made on behalf of our Board to Dun Laoghaire District Court this afternoon.

I wish to advise our Board that the charges against this girl were withdrawn by consent at Dun Laoghaire District Court this afternoon. The girl was released into the care of the Eastern Health Board on a voluntary basis. It was confirmed to the Court on our Board's behalf that in view of the special temporary arrangements which had been made it was now considered safe to release the girl into our Board's care.

I wish also to advise our Board that, in addition to the special secure facility for which the Government has given approval, as announced in the statement by the Minister for Justice to Dail Eireann, it has also been intimated to our Board by the Department of Health that funds to cover the special temporary arrangements made for this girl will be provided and that our Board will also now be funded for the provision of a more permanent small scale non-custodial unit where special care and therapy may be given to a small number of cases whose special needs cannot be catered for without undue disruption in any of our existing facilities. This will improve further the range and quality of services which our Board will be able to provide for the more difficult and vulnerable adolescents in a non-custodial setting.

Finally, I am sure, Chairman, that our Board would wish to thank Dun Laoghaire, Borough Corporation, through their nominee members on our Board, for their ready and speedy co-operation in making a small house available to our Board on a temporary short-term basis to assist us with the care arrangements for this girl."

The Chief Executive Officer also brought members up-to-date on the development of a unit at Cherry Orchard Hospital for patients suffering from A.I.D.S.

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Dillon Byrne and Mrs. Clune contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed to convey our Boards thanks to Dun Laoghaire Borough Corporation for their co-operation in making a house available to our Board at short notice.

22/1990

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF THE MEATH HOSPITAL

The following report no. 2/1990 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

"At the February meeting of our Board members were informed that the term of office of the eleven members of the Board of the Meath Hospital elected by our Board expires on 5th April, 1990.

Under the terms of the Meath Hospital Act 1951 and the Health Act 1970 (Adaptation) Regulations 1972 our Board is required to elect eleven members of the Meath Hospital Board for a period of three years.

Our Board is currently represented on the Board of the Meath Hospital by the following:-

1. Cllr. Austin Groome (Chairman)
2. Sen. Olga Bennett
3. Cllr. Michael Carroll
4. Mrs. Dymphna Clune
5. Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran
6. Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne
7. Dr. Ray Hawkins
8. Mr. Kieran Hickey
9. Cllr. Frank Hynes
10. Mr. Seamus O'Brien
11. Dr. Brian O'Herlihy

Deputy Callely stated that he understood that Senator Bennett and Mr. Hickey did not wish to be renominated for election. He proposed that the other nine existing members of the Meath Hospital Board should be re-elected and that Deputy Chris Flood and Cllr. Michael Gannon should be elected to fill the two remaining places.

An amendment proposed by Mr. McGuire regarding the rotation of members was defeated on a show of hands following which the substantive motion, which was seconded by Cllr. Dunne, was put and carried.

23/1990

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following report no. 3/1990 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

The approval of the Board to borrowing by way of overdraft during the period ending on 30th June, 1990, to a maximum of £5m is requested."

On a proposal by Cllr. Hickey, seconded by Mrs. Clune, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report

24/1990

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

L Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- la) Examination successes, approval from An Bord Altranais for post-graduate nurse training and recognition and approval for a post-graduate course in Behaviour Nurse Therapy.
- [b] Glenmalure Day Hospital, Milltown
- [c] Tallaght Mental Health Centre

- [d] Request for follow-up with the Minister for Health regarding progress in relation to Cheeverstown House.
- [e] Special Meeting to be held on 8th March, 1990 to discuss the report of the Working Party on Child and Adolescent Services in the Eastern Health Board area.

Deputy Durkan referred to the rationalisation of psychiatric services in Co. Kildare and suggested that a deputation from our Board should meet with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board for a general discussion on developments in this area.

It was noted that Mr. Walsh, A/Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, will be presenting a comprehensive report on the development of psychiatric services in Co. Kildare to the April meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee and that, in the meantime, preliminary enquiries would be made regarding the proposed meeting with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board.

General Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Findings of Accident & Emergency Survey
- [b] Psychiatric Unit/Boiler House and Ancillary Accommodation at Naas General Hospital
- [c] General Practitioner Access Scheme at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy
- [d] Orthopaedic, Anaesthetic and Pathology services at St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown
- [e] Re-structuring of an ENT Consultant post at James Connolly Memorial Hospital and Comhairle na n'Ospideal approval to the following Consultant Posts at James Connolly Memorial Hospital:-
(i) Accident & Emergency Consultant; (ii) Consultant Anaesthetist; (iii) Consultant General Surgeon; (iv) Consultant in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation.
- [f] Cuan Aoibheann, St. Mary's Hospital
- [g] North City Geriatric Service
- [h] Report on services in St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum.

Deputy Durkan referred to the development of Naas General Hospital and requested that the approval to proceed with the remaining phases of the development should be followed up with the Department of Health.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- la) Rape Crisis Centre Review Report
- lb) Report "Forgotten Children"
- [c] Medical Preparation (Amendment) Regulations 1989
- [d] Report on services in Area no. 7

24/1990

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan and seconded by Cllr. Carroll:-

"That this Board would consider the level of residential day care and community care facilities available for the handicapped within the Board's administrative area with a view to identifying by what means further assistance can be provided, having particular regard to the changes in the population age structure, resulting in further requirements"

In accepting the spirit of the motion, it was noted that Mr. Walsh, A/Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care will be bringing a report to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee in relation to the priority areas for the expenditure of the special allocation made available by the Minister for Health for services for mentally handicapped persons in the current year.

24/1590

OTHER BUSINESS

During a discussion on services for the elderly to which Deputy Durkan, Dr. Hawkins, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Hynes, Deputy Dr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Dunne and Deputy Callely contributed, the following points were made:

Support was expressed for the concept of raising income from the homes of elderly persons to support their needs, including, if necessary, part of the cost of maintenance in extended nursing care.

- * Support was expressed for the policy of recouping money owed for maintenance from the estate of deceased patients.
- * The need for liaison and co-ordination with local authorities in the provision of sheltered housing for the elderly was stressed.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m.

**Correct: K.J. Hickey,
Chief Executive Officer.**

CHAIRMAN