

**EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting  
held on  
Thursday 5th April, 1990 at 6.00 p.m.  
in  
The Boardroom, St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20**

*Present*

Sen. O. Bennett	Mrs. B. Bonar
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.
Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick, T.D.	Cllr. M. Gannon
Cllr. A. Glenn	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. J. O'Boyle	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. L. O'Neill	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. R. Roche, T.D.	

*Apologies*

Cllr. A. Groome, Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D., Cllr. C. Flood, T.D.

*In the Chair*

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

*Officers in Attendance*

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

**25/1990****CONDOLENCES****On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy were passed with :-**

Eddie Matthews, Naas General Hospital, on the death of his father.

Lily Dowling, Registry, 1 James's Street, on the death of her sister.

**26/1990****CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

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

**1. *May and June Board Meetings***

In 1989 the May meeting of our Board was held in St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum and the June meeting was held in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy.

With the members' agreement it is proposed to hold the May meeting this year in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy and the June meeting in St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum.

**2. *Meeting of Budget Working Group***

A meeting of the Budget Working Group has been arranged for Friday 20th April at 11 a.m. to consider our Board's capital priorities and the financial position for the first quarter of 1990. The report of the Group will be presented at the May meeting of our Board.

**3. *Association of Health Boards in Ireland - Annual Conference***

Members have been notified of the Association of Health Boards' Annual Conference to be held in Tramore, Co. Waterford on 11th and 12th May, 1990.

Members who wish to attend the Conference should give their names to the Secretary."

**27/1990****CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 1ST MARCH, 1990****The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1st March, 1990, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Gannon, seconded by Cllr. Hickey.****(a) Matters arising from the Minutes**

Deputy Durkan asked that it be recorded that he had expressed some concern regarding the emerging policy in relation to various ways of availing of the value of peoples assets as a means of raising contributions towards the cost of long-stay institutional care.

Following a discussion on the general question of availing of, or realising, assets as a contribution towards the cost of maintenance in long-stay care, to which Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Carroll, Mrs. Clune, Cllr. Harvey, Dr. Hawkins, Cllr. Hynes, Deputy Dr. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Glenn and Cllr. Gannon contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed, on a proposal by Cllr. Glenn, seconded by Cllr. Gannon, that a document would be prepared setting out the total policy position in this matter for presentation through the Programme Committee structure.

28/1990

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**On a proposal by Deputy Dr. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Gannon, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.**

**1. Cllr. Dr. P. Fitzpatrick. T.D.**

To ask the Chief Executive Officer when will the damaged portions of the wall around St. Helena's House, Finglas, be rebuilt and if he intends to paint the railings which are in a deplorable condition.

**Reply**

The main house at St. Helena's accommodates a Family Resource Centre. It has been made available to our Board by Dublin Corporation.

The entire property is in need of refurbishing and upgrading. As reported previously at the meeting held on 3rd August, 1989, it is our Board's intention to do the necessary work on a phased basis and to avail of local voluntary effort and input also in this regard. Our Board spent £12,000 on such work last year and a further £26,000 is committed this year. The most urgent priorities will be attended to first and it may be possible to include in this some work on rebuilding the boundary walls.

**2. Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick. T.D.**

- [a] What specific measures will be taken to clean up and tidy up the Board's site on Mellows Road/Avenue, Finglas, which is an appalling eyesore and in its present state is a potential health hazard?
- [b] What time scale has the Board set itself in discussing the future use of the site with Dublin Corporation?

**Reply**

Mellows Road/Mellows Avenue, Finglas was reserved, in 1979, by Dublin Corporation at the request of our Board for the purpose of providing a Day Centre. Other arrangements have since been made to provide these services and it has been decided to dispose of the site. There is some slight difficulty regarding the perfecting of the Board's title. We are in discussion with Dublin Corporation in this regard and a report on the matter will be submitted when title has been established.

It is proposed to answer questions 3 and 4 together.

3. **CUr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick. T.D.**

To ask the Chief Executive Officer what provision he has made for speech therapy clinics to continue on in the Finglas Health Centre, pending the filling of the vacant post with a permanent appointment.

4. **Cllr. L. O'Neill**

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he is aware of the non-availability of a Speech Therapist for Kildare and what plans do the Eastern Health Board have to provide such a service in this area. Would the Chief Executive Officer further report on the general state of the Speech Therapy Service within the Eastern Health Board region detailing areas presently without such a service and plans to provide the same.

**Reply**

The current problems in the Speech Therapy service are due to staff shortages - 7 of our 24 speech therapist posts have fallen vacant. Recruitment has been impeded by a number of factors such as the embargo on permanent appointments in force up to recently, the national supply of speech therapists, counter-attractions abroad, the less attractive career structure and range of professional job satisfaction which our Board is currently in a position to offer.

These problems are currently being tackled on both an immediate short-term and a longer term basis.

We are hopeful in the short-term of filling a number of the existing vacancies under a recruitment drive currently in train - this will enable us to partially address the most immediate needs such as those referred to in the two questions under reply.

We are also actively pursuing the more fundamental aspects of the problem such as grading structure and the question of overall manpower needs.

It is proposed to answer questions 5 and 6 together.

5. **Mr. G. McGuire**

Will the Chief Executive Officer advise whether an offer or offers have been received in respect of the disposal of lands at St. Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown. Also if he can identify the location of the land and the amount of bids (if any) under consideration?

a **Mr. G. McGuire**

Would it be intended prior to the sale of lands at St. Brendan's Hospital to clear the site first and can the Chief Executive Officer outline what buildings and former staff houses would be demolished in this eventuality?

**Reply**

Members will be aware that the Budget Working Group is currently considering in detail our Board's capital development priorities and, in this connection, in accordance with policy recently decided by our Board, a parallel review is also being made of possible property disposals to assist the capital development programme, if agreed.

The Budget Working Group has decided to report on these matters to the May Board meeting and this report will cover the matters raised in these questions .

It is not envisaged that any proposal or question will arise in relation to the demolition of any of the former staff houses at St. Brendan's Hospital.

**7. Mr. G.McGuire**

Can the Chief Executive Officer advise whether what is colloquially known as the "8 acres" adjacent to St. Ita's Hospital is in the ownership of the Board?

**Reply**

The title of this portion of land known as the "8 acres" is unclear and is being investigated by our Estate Management Office, at present.

I will advise the members regarding the outcome as soon as possible.

**29/1990****CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

**•I. *Proposed Disposed of Property***

It is proposed to dispose of the following property which is no longer required for our Board's purposes:-

- [il] A former Dispensary premises at High Street, Wicklow, which is required by Wicklow Urban District Council for housing purposes.
- [ii] Portion of the site (950 sq. feet) at Drumcondra Health Centre, which is being sought by Drumcondra and District Credit Union to enable them to extend their premises.

Disposal is recommended by the Budget Working Group. In accordance with the usual practice, Section 83 notices will be circulated for our consideration at the May meeting of our Board.

2. *Department of Social Welfare Circular*

I have circulated, for the information of members, with the papers for the meeting, copies of Circular 1/90 from the Department of Social Welfare regarding initiatives announced by the Minister for Social Welfare to enable unemployed persons participate in the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme and, at the same time, continue to receive their unemployment payments.

a *Department of Health Regulation regarding the Income Level of £16,700*

I have circulated, this evening, for the information of members, copies of these regulations which raise the income ceiling for health contributions from £16,000 to £16,700 with effect from 6th April, 1990.

4. *Rape Crisis Centre*

I wish to advise members that a Board of Management has recently been appointed by the Centre under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Gemma Hussey, former Minister for Education and for Social Welfare.

Other members of the Board are:-

Dr. Joseph Robins, former Assistant Secretary, Department of Health  
 Ms. Barbara Egan, Psychotherapist, former member of staff of the Centre  
 Mr. Cathal McCoille, R.T.E., Radio Journalist and Broadcaster  
 Mr. Oswald Kilkenny, Accountant  
 Prof. Ivor Browne, Chief Psychiatrist, Eastern Health Board  
 Ms. Breda Allen, Solicitor  
 Mr. Neil McIvor, Publicity Manager, Industrial Development Authority

Accompanied by the principal authors of the review reports Mr. Martin Gallagher and Mr. Brian Glanville and also by Mr. John Doyle, I met representatives of the newly formed Board and of the staff of the Centre on 4th April, 1990. This was a very constructive meeting and it was agreed that there will now be ongoing discussions at operational level. I am circulating, for the information of members, a copy of a joint press statement agreed at yesterday's meeting."

**29/1990**

**REQUEST FROM BRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION**

*Following a discussion on letter dated 22nd March, 1990 from the Bray Urban District Council seeking the reception of a deputation to discuss the provision of a Health Centre at Bray to which Cllr. Dunne, Cllr. Keenan, Dr. Hawkins, Cllr. Dillon Byrne, Cllr. Murphy, Deputy Roche and Cllr. Hynes contributed, it was agreed that the deputation should be met by the Community Care Programme Committee at a meeting to be held in Bray.*

30/1990

**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:-

- [a] Visit to Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire
- [b] Resolution calling on the Health Board to ask the Minister for Health to receive a deputation from our Board to discuss the present position with regard to Cheeverstown House.
- [c] Allocation for Mental Handicap services.
- [d] Meeting at the Child & Family Centre, Castleknock at which the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services in the Eastern Health Board area was recommended for adoption by the Board.

With regard to the Care Unit for the Aged at Tivoli Road, it was agreed on a proposal by Cllr. Dunne, to place a fitting memorial to the order of nuns from whom the property was acquired.

**2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee**

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Psychiatric Unit/Boiler House and Ancillary Accommodation at Naas General Hospital.
- [b] The structuring of two joint Consultant Physician appointments with the M.A.N.C.H. Group of Hospitals.
- [c] Discussions regarding the commencement of a General Practitioner Access Scheme at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy.
- [d] Application for funding for the appointment of a second full time Consultant Anaesthetist at St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.
- [e] The installation of a small X-Ray Unit at the District Hospital, Wicklow.
- [f] Discussions regarding the joint appointment of an ENT Consultant with Beaumont Hospital.

[g] Cuan Aoibheann, St. Mary's Hospital, Progress Report

[hi] Report on services in St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling

**3. Community Care Programme Committee**

*On a proposal by Cllr, Dunne, seconded by Cllr, Gannon, it was agreed to adopt the reports of the special meeting held on 5th March, 1990 and monthly meeting held on 22nd March, 1990,*

The following matters were dealt with in the reports:-

[a] Report "Forgotten Children" together with update report on Services for Homeless Children.

[bj] Medical Preparations (Amendment) Regulations, 1989.

[c] Report on services in Community Care Area no. 8.

**30/1990**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**1. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed:-**

That this Board will endeavour to improve the degree of orthodontic treatment available throughout the Board's administrative area, having particular regard to the numbers now on waiting lists and needing treatment."

**2. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan:-**

"That the Eastern Health Board would make a determined effort to ensure the availability of speech therapy throughout the entire Eastern Health Board area with particular reference to Co. Kildare and that an immediate evaluation of the requirements for speech therapy in Co. Kildare be undertaken in order to quantify the need."

*The motion was seconded by Cllr, Dillon Byrne and following a discussion to which Deputy Durkan, Cllr, Dillon Byrne, Mrs. Clune, Mrs. Bonar and Cllr, Reilly contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, was agreed,*

**3. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Dillon Byrne, and agreed:-**

"That the Eastern Health Board will enter into discussions with the Department of Justice with a view to the determination of responsibilities and obligations to young offenders on remand."

**4. The following motion was proposed by Mr. G. McGuire:-**

"That members of the Eastern Health Board be restricted to serving on a maximum of four sub-committees, hospital boards etc. appointed by this Board."

*The motion was seconded by Ctr. Dillon Byrne and, following a discussion to which Mr. McGuire, Cllr. Dillon Byrne, Dr. O'Herlihy, Cllr. Reilly, Mrs. Bonar, Deputy Roche, Cllr. Murphy, Cllr. Carroll Mrs. Clune, Deputy Durkan, Dr. Hawkins and Dr. O'Boyle contributed, was carried by 11 votes to 7.*

*The Chairman ruled that if members of the motion should be re-submitted as a proposal to amend Standing Orders and requested that legal opinion be obtained in relation to this course of action.*

**5. The following motion was proposed by Mr. G. McGuire:-**

"That work commence immediately with repairs to lift at St. Ita's Hospital which has been out of order for a lengthy period. That said repairs be completed within two weeks and elevator put back into commission."

*The motion was seconded by Cllr. Dillon Byrne and, following a discussion to which Mr. McGuire, Deputy Roche, Dr. Devitt and Cllr. Reilly contributed and to which Mr. Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care replied, was noted.*

**6. The following motion was proposed by Mr. G. McGuire:-**

"It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer explore the feasibility of providing beds for terminally ill patients from the Fingal area at St. Ita's Hospital and also the possibility of establishing a day hospital for senior citizens at same centre."

*The motion was seconded by Cllr. Dillon Byrne and, following a discussion to which Mr. McGuire, Dr. O'Herlihy, Mrs. Clune, Cllr. Harvey and Dr. Corcoran contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed to report further at a subsequent meeting of the Board.*

**31/1990**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Department of Social Welfare Circular SA1/90 regarding Supplementary Welfare Allowances and Educational Opportunities for the Unemployed, copies of which had been circulated, was noted.

**The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.**

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

**CHAIRMAN**