

## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the Proceedings of Monthly Meeting  
of the Eastern Health Board  
held in the Boardroom St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20  
on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1991 at 6:00 p.m.**

### Present

Cllr. M. Barrett, T.D.	Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. G. Brady	Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.
Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.	Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Mrs. D. Clune	Dr. R Corcoran
Cllr. J. Doyle, T.D.	Cllr. B.J. Durkan, T.D.
Cllr. K. Farrell	Cllr C. Gallagher
Cllr.R Greene	Dr. R. Hawkins
Cllr. F. Hynes	Cllr. T. Keenan
Cllr. D. Marren	Dr. P. McCarthy
Prof. J. McCormick	Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. O. Mitchell	Ms. M. Nealon
Cllr. Dr. J.W. O'Connell	Dr. J. O'Boyle
Dr. B. O'Herlihy	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. R Roche, T.D.	Cllr. R. Shortall

### *Apologies*

Prof. J.S. Doyle  
Dr. D.I. Keane

### In the Chair

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

### Officers in attendance

Mr. K.J. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. M. Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care  
Mr. J. Doyle, A/Programme Manager, Community Care  
Mr. S. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care  
Mr. G. Brennan, Technical Services Officer  
Mr. M. Gallagher, Finance Officer  
Ms. M. Kelly, A/Personnel Officer  
Mr. M. O'Connor, Secretary

96/1991

**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. **Special Committee on Ballymun and Committee on Headquarters Accommodation**

Following the recent changes in our Board's membership, six vacancies exist on the Special Committee on Ballymun and four vacancies exist on the Committee on Headquarters Accommodation.

In accordance with the usual practice, the filling of these vacancies will be on the agenda for the October meeting of our Board.

2. **Seminar for Board Members**

I am pleased to inform members that arrangements have now been made to have a Seminar for Board members which will deal with the organisation and structure of our Board, the Programme Committees, the work of the various Programmes and Functions and other related matters. The seminar will be held here in the Boardroom at St. Mary's Hospital on Friday 20th September, 1991. An outline Programme has been circulated for the information of members.

3. **Meeting with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board**

Arrangements are being made for a further meeting with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board to discuss the provision of psychiatric services in Co. Kildare.

The following members had been nominated last year to represent our Board at meetings with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board:-

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D., [Chairman], Cllr. P. Dunne, Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D., Cllr. A. Groome, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. F. Hynes, Cllr. T. Keenan, Mr. G. McGuire

The question of nominating two members to replace the late Cllr. Austin Groome and Cllr. Pat Dunne now requires consideration."

*The nomination of Cllr. G. Brady and Dr. R. Corcoran was unanimously agreed.*

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**MINUTES OF ANNUAL AND MONTHLY MEETINGS HELD ON 25TH JULY 1991**

The minutes of the Annual and Monthly meetings held on 25th July, 1991, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Deputy Durkan.

98/1991

**QUESTION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

On a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

"Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer what services are provided by the Eastern Health Board for victims of rape and past sexual abuse, where these services are located, what the procedures are for referring people to them and how many people were treated over the last twelve months.

**REPLY**

Services of this nature are provided either directly by our Board or by other agencies on our Board's behalf.

*Children*

A comprehensive range of services is available for the treatment of child abuse, rape and past abuse including sexual abuse. In a suspected case of child abuse the child is referred for assessment /validation and treatment to the Child Abuse Clinics at Temple Street and Crumlin Hospitals. These units are led by a Consultant Child Psychiatrist with a supporting multidisciplinary team. Where long term treatment programmes for patients are required, the programmes are provided by the community based child psychiatric teams.

*Adults*

Assessment and validation services for adult victims of rape are provided by the Sexual Assault Clinic at the Rotunda Hospital

Counselling services for victims of rape and past sexual abuse are provided by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Lesson Street, Dublin. The current review of our service arrangement with this Centre is covered in my general report to this meeting.

With regard to services for victims of rape and past sexual abuse provided directly by our Board the position is that such services are provided within the overall range of psychological and psychiatric services at present in place. Briefly, these cover the following needs:-

- \* recent victims of rape who have sustained major psychological damage are treated by the community psychiatric services
- \* our Board's psychological and psychiatric services provide a comprehensive range of treatment for persons with behavioural/substance abuse problems which may be linked to past sexual abuse
- \* a proportion of patients who may be referred for treatment of a psychiatric condition e.g. depressive illness, phobia or anxiety symptoms. It may become apparent in a number of such cases that the difficulties may be related to previous episodes of traumatic sexual experience. In such cases treatment of the psychiatric illness is followed by counselling at an appropriate stage.

The services provided directly by our Board as referred to above are part of our Boards broad spectrum of psychological and psychiatric services. They are provided in the various catchment areas by the area teams as part of their general workload. People are referred by General Practitioners but may also be referred by other professionals, such as the Gardai or social workers. Because these services are part of the general workload no separate statistical information is readily available. However, arising from the current review of our service arrangement with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the level and range of services being provided either directly by our Board or other agencies is also being considered. This will be the subject of a more detailed report through the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee as soon as possible."

99/1991

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following Report which was noted by the Board.

##### **1. 1991 Census-Preliminary Population Figures**

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting an extract from the Preliminary Population Figures Issued by the Central Statistics Office following the 1991 Census of Population.

Members will note that the population in the Dublin County and Dublin County Borough increased by 0.3% between 1986 and 1991, the population in Co. Kildare increased by 5.4% and the population in Co. Wicklow increased by 2.9%.

The total population for our Board's area increased from 1,232,238 to 1,244,238 i.e. an increase of 12,000 persons, which is the equivalent of 1%.

Members will also note that the only planning region to show an increase in population in the period 1986 to 1991 is the Eastern region, which, in addition to our Board's area, includes Co. Meath. The population of the remaining planning regions showed declines of between 0.5% and 3.7%.

A further report will be made in the near future outlining the main implications for our Board of the population changes revealed by the recent census.

##### **2. Disabled Persons [Maintenance] Allowances [Regulations] 1991 and Infectious Diseases [Maintenance] Regulations 1991**

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Department of Health letter of 25th July, 1991 enclosing the Disabled Persons [Maintenance] Allowances [Regulations], 1991 and the Infectious Diseases [Maintenance] Regulations 1991.

These Regulations provide for the payment of the Budget Increases with effect from week commencing 21st July, 1991 and, in addition, the D.P.M.A. Regulations amended the existing Scheme by setting out the basis for payment of the allowance to a married or co-habiting couple in cases where:-

[a] both are entitled to D.P.M.A. or

[b] one is entitled to D.P.M.A. and the other entitled to a Social Welfare Payment.

**3. *Draft Food Hygiene Regulations 1991***

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Department of Health letter dated 21st August. 1991 enclosing proposed draft consolidated Food Hygiene Regulations which it is intended will replace the existing Food Hygiene Regulations 1952 - 1989.

The Draft Regulations incorporate the advice received by the Minister for Health from the Food Safety Advisory Committee to whom the question of the need to update and amend the law in relation to Food Hygiene Controls had been referred.

With the members agreement, the Draft Regulations can be considered in greater detail by the Community Care Programme Committee so that comments may be submitted to the Department of Health before the 7th October. 1991.

**4. *European Council Directive on hygiene and health problems affecting the production and marketing of egg products***

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 13th August. 1991 from the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding European Council Directive 89/437/EEC which lays down the requirements for the production, storage, transport and marketing of egg products and which comes into force on 31st December. 1991.

Members will note that the Department of Agriculture and Food is in the process of drawing up the implementing rules which will enact into national legislation the provisions of the Community Directive and that it is their intention to register all premises subject to their complying with the necessary requirements

**5. *Irish Dental Health Foundation- A Report for the 1990's***

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting, for the information of members, copies of "A Report for the 1990's issued by the Irish Dental Health Foundation.

With the members agreement this Report can be considered further by the Community Care Programme Committee.

**6. *Dublin Rape Crisis Centre***

Following a meeting on 26th July. 1991 between representatives of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the Eastern Health Board and the Department of

Health arrangements were made for a financial and service review of the Centre's current activities in the context of the Centre's financial difficulties and their request for regular guaranteed funding in future at an agreed level.

This financial review was completed on August 7th, 1991 and confirmed the existence of a shortfall which threatened the continued operation of the Centre. A grant of £60,000 was provided to stabilise the Centre's finances to the year end. There are now no financial difficulties facing the Centre for the remainder of this year.

The service review is now under way. This will enable us to identify the range of services which the Centre would provide on behalf of our Board for 1992 onwards and also to establish co-ordination and linking mechanisms with other services in this field. These include services delivered directly by our Board which are also being reviewed currently. Following from this a budget base and funding level remains to be agreed with the Centre to operate from 1992 onwards. This process will be completed by mid-October 1991.

**7. *Dublin Hospital Accident & Emergency Service***

Following the Government decision of 19th July, 1991 the revised arrangements for the provision of Accident and Emergency services at the following hospitals commenced on Monday 2nd September, 1991:-

Beaumont	Meath
Mater	St. Vincent's
James Connolly Memorial Hospital	St. James's

The new arrangements are that the Accident & Emergency Departments in each of the six hospitals will be open every day between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. From 5.00 p.m. each evening four hospitals will continue to provide A & E Services until 9.00 a.m. the following morning. The new Accident & Emergency Rota is appended.

The rota has been structured to ensure that in the evening/early morning there are always two hospitals on the north-side of the dry and two hospitals on the south-side of the city providing Accident and Emergency Services. It should also be noted that the rota ensures that at all times there are at least two centre city hospital Accident & Emergency Departments available to members of the public in need of these services.

Progress on the new arrangements is being monitored on a daily basis and being reviewed each week by the Accident & Emergency Steering Group. A formal review and evaluation of the new arrangements will be carried out after the initial six week period, by the Steering Group under the Chairmanship of the Programme Manager, General Hospital Care.

**8. *Health (Family Planning) Bill (Amendment) 1991***

I have made available this evening for the information of members a copy of this Bill and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum as circulated by the Department of Health. The amendments to existing legislation proposed in the Bill have yet to be considered by the Oireachtas.

With the members' agreement the matter can be further considered and kept under review by the Community Care Programme Committee."

The Chairman then read the following statement:-

"Before there is any discussion on the Chief Executive Officer's Report I feel I should inform the members of a Notice of Motion received from Cllr. R Greene regarding the Health (Family Planning) (Amendment) Bill 1991. I am now circulating a copy of Cllr. Greene's letter to me regarding his motion and a copy of my reply. I am also circulating a copy of our Law Agent's opinion on the matter.

In addition to my letter of 2nd September to Cllr. Greene I have also discussed the matter with him. I have explained to him that no question of seeking to prevent discussion of this proposed amendment to the current legislation was intended by me in my ruling on his motion since I was fully aware that the Bill and Explanatory Memorandum would be made available to members by the Chief Executive Officer as part of his report to this meeting. This is in line with normal procedure and gives ample opportunity for members to raise any points they wish in relation to the Bill.

Having regard to the Law Agent's advice I decided that as Chairman. I had to defer inclusion of Cllr. Greene's motion on the agenda for this meeting but, as expressed in my letter to him, this does not preclude its inclusion at a future date, if appropriate."

*Following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Deputy Roche, Dr. O'Herlihy, Cllr. Gallagher, Deputy Briscoe, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr. Reilly, Deputy Doyle, Cllr. Mitchell Dr. McCarthy and Prof. McCormick contributed. It was agreed that the motion submitted by Cllr. Greene in relation to seeking counsel's opinion on the constitutionality of the Health Family Planning [Amendment] Bill, 1991 should be included on the agenda for the October meeting of our Board.*

100/1991

**PROGRAMME COMMITTEES - MEMBERSHIP**

The following Report no. 28/1901 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"The final lists of membership of the three Programme Committees, incorporating exchanges of membership jointly agreed between the members concerned, are enclosed for formal confirmation by the Board."

No	SPECIAL HOSPITAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE [A]	GENERAL HOSPITAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE [B]	COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE [C]
1	Dr. J. O'Boyle	Dr. R. Hawkins	Cllr. F. Hynes
2	Prof J.S. Doyle	Cllr. R. Shortall	Cllr. J. Connolly
3	Cllr. B. J. Durkan. T. J.	Cllr. J. Reilly	Prof. J. McCormick
4	Cllr. B. Briacoe, T. J.	Cllr. O. Mitchell	Cllr. J. Doyle. T. J.
5	Dr. J. Masterson	Cllr. M. Barrett. T. J.	Mrs. D. Clune
6	Ms. M. Nealon	Cllr. C. Gallagher	Dr. P. Devitt
7	Dr. B. O'Herlihy	Cllr. K. Farrell	Cllr. L. Callely T. J.
8	Mrs. B. Bonar	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell	Cllr. J. Jacob. T. J.
9	Cllr. R. Greene	Dr. R. Corcoran	Cllr. D. Marron
10	Cllr. T. Keenan	Cllr. O. Brady	Cllr. B. Coffey
11	Cllr. R. Roche, T. J.	Cllr. E. Byrne. T. J.	Mr. G. McGuire
12	Dr. P. McCarthy	Dr. D.I. Keane	

*On a proposal by Dr. Hawkins, seconded by Dr. O'Herlihy, the lists of membership were confirmed.*

101/1991

#### TEMPORARY BORROWING

The approval of the Board to borrowing by way of overdraft during the period ending 31st December, 1991 to a maximum of £6.5 million is requested."

*On a proposal by Dr. Hawkins, seconded by Deputy J. Doyle, it was agreed to adopt the proposals contained in the Report.*

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#### ALLOCATION FOR NOW-CAPITAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE. 1991

Report no. F3/1981, copies of which had been circulated [copy filed with official minute] was noted.



## EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Report no. F.3/1991

**1. Allocation for Non-Capital Health Expenditure, 1991**

The Budget Working Group, at a meeting held on 2nd September, 1991, considered a Report from the Chief Executive Officer on our Board's financial position at 31st July, 1991.

	£000
Original budget including adjustments for pay increases etc. to 31st July 1991	140,318
Actual Expenditure to 31st July 1991	<u>143.804</u>
Unfavourable Variance	£3,486
<b><u>Analysis of Variances</u></b>	
<b><u>Unfavourable Variances</u></b>	
	£000
Refund of Drugs	1.686
DPMA	954
Dental Services	750
Elderly Services	231
Maintenance Services	<u>96</u>
	3.717
<b><u>Favourable Variances</u></b>	
Income	<u>231</u>
	<b><u>£3.486</u></b>

**Commentary on Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Expenditure trends for the first seven months of the year highlight particularly the escalating costs of the statutory 'open ended schemes' (Refunds of Drugs and Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances) concerning which our Board has no discretion, as these payments are mandatory. Earlier this year the Minister for Health acknowledged, in the Dail, the difficulties that funding of these schemes presented for the Health Boards and stated that in future these costs would be fully met by the Department of Health, thus relieving the Boards of the necessity to make savings elsewhere. Our Board had estimated that the full year additional costs for 1991 of meeting these open ended demands would amount to £3m for the Refund of Drugs Schemes and £1.8m for Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances. Actual expenditure for the seven months to the end of July 1991 is in line with this estimate.

Taking account of the Minister's commitment to fully fund the costs of the open ended schemes in 1991, our Board still incurred an expenditure over-run of £846.000 as at the end of July 1991. The Budget Working Group noted that this resulted from exceptional additional expenditure in dealing with a backlog in the dental service in particular which will not be repeated and that steps are being taken to bring our expenditure back into line during the second half of the financial year in accordance with the overall budget plan already agreed by our Board.

**Prospects for the Rest of the Year**

For the first seven months of the year our Board has successfully contained expenditure within the level of allocation provided, except for the matters already outlined. The continued achievement of this financial performance will require close monitoring of all expenditure trends between now and the end of the year and strict management control of all service and overhead costs.

The achievement of our financial objectives for 1991 will require a redoubling of our efforts to secure economy and value for money in respect of all our activities in line with the budget plan adopted by our Board at the outset of this year.

**Government Announcement of Public Expenditure Reductions**

On 19th July 1991 the Minister for Health announced a reduction of £ 11.5m in the Health Vote for the remainder of 1991. The details of this reduction were as follows:-

Capital Expenditure	£4.0m
General Medical Services	£2.5m
Drug Refund Scheme	£2.5m

<b>Charges for Private/Semi Private Accommodation</b>	<b>£1.5m</b>
<b>Restructuring of Accident and Emergency Services in the Dublin Hospitals</b>	<b>£0.750m</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>	<b>£0.600m</b>

Following consideration and clarification of matters arising from the Chief Executive Officer's Report the position as outlined above was noted by the Budget Working Group which will continue to monitor budgetary trends for the remainder of the year.

**2. *Institute of Clinical Pharmacology***

Members agreed to recommend to our Board that it should agree in principle that the former Institute of Clinical Pharmacology site on the St. James's Hospital campus should be the subject of a lease to St. James's Hospital Board on the same terms as those contained in the lease relating to the main part of the hospital site. This matter will be the subject of a formal report to our Board in due course.

**3. *National Lottery Funding***

The Budget Working Group also noted and agreed with the enclosed Report from the Chief Executive Officer in relation to grants proposed from our Board's block allocation of £255,000 from National Lottery Funding for 1991.

2nd September, 1991,

**CHAIRMAN,  
Budget Working Group.**