

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 3rd October, 1991 at 6.00 p.m.

Present

<p>Cllr. M. Barrett. T.D. Cllr. G. Brady Cllr. E. Byrne. T.D. Mrs. D. Clune Dr. R Corcoran Cllr. B.J. Durkan, T.D. Cllr. C. Gallagher Cllr. F. Hynes Cllr. T. Keenan Cllr. O. Mitchell Dr. J. O'Boyle Cllr. J. Reilly Cllr. R Shortall</p>	<p>Mrs. B. Bonar Cllr. B. Briscoe. T.D. Cllr. I. Callely, T.D. Cllr. B. Coffey Cllr. J. Doyle. T.D. Cllr. K. Farrell Cllr. R Greene Dr. D.I. Keane Cllr. D. Marren Cllr. Dr. W.J. O'Connell Dr. B. O'Herlihy Cllr. R Roche. T.D.</p>
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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. M. Gallagher, A/Programme Manager. General Hospital Care
Prof. B. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health
Mr. G. Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Ms. M. McGahern, A/Finance Officer
Ms. M. Kelly, A/Personnel Officer
Mr. M. O'Connor, Secretary

106/1991
CONDOLENCES

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

1. Mary O'Halloran, Public Health Nurse, Terenure Health Centre, on the death of her mother.
2. Mrs. Kathleen D'Arcy, Supervising Cleaner, 1 James's Street, on the death of her brother
3. Ms. Bridget Brady; Cleaner. 1 James's Street on the death of her sister.
4. The family of Declan Sullivan, St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane.

107/1991
CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

"St. James's Hospital Board

The term of office of the St. James's Hospital Board expires on 8th October.

I have been notified by the Department of Health that the Minister has decided that it would be appropriate to appoint a new board for a further interim period of one year.

The St. James's Hospital Board [Establishment] Order provides that four members of the Board shall be appointed on the nomination of our Board and the Minister has requested that we advise him of our Board's nominees for appointment to the board for the period ending on 8th October, 1992.

In accordance with the usual practice the nomination of four members for appointment as members of the St. James's Hospital Board will be on the agenda for the November meeting of our Board."

108/1991
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 5TH
SEPTEMBER, 1991

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5th September, 1991, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Deputy Durkan.

[a] Matters arising from the minutes

Deputy Durkan referred to item no. 3 on page 116 regarding the proposed meeting with representatives of the South Eastern Health Board and requested that arrangements be made for the meeting as soon as possible.

109/1991

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Deputy Barrett, seconded by Mrs. Bonar, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

[i] Cllr. O. Mitchell

“To ask the Chief Executive Officer to outline how the geographic areas of responsibility are determined for Health Inspectors and how often these areas are reviewed?”

Reply

Environmental Health Officers are officers of the Eastern Health Board but as a major portion of their work relates to local authority functions they are also Authorised Officers of Dublin Corporation, Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Borough Council, Kildare and Wicklow County Councils in relation to these functions i.e. Housing, Planning and Sanitary Services. Air and Noise Control and Community and Environmental matters.

The Environmental Health Officer's duties for the Health Board include Food Hygiene Regulation and Education, Infectious Diseases. Port/Air Service and Pest Control.

For the purpose of the delivery of the service our Board's area is divided into five districts as follows: -

Dublin City
Dublin County
Dun Laoghaire Borough
Kildare County
Wicklow County

Dublin City is further subdivided into six food hygiene districts north and south of the Liffey and nine local authority districts north and south of the Liffey. Officers work exclusively on either health board duties or local authority duties.

The above divisions for delivery of services may be reviewed from time to time in the light of changed needs or circumstances.

[ii] Cllr. K. Farrell

“To ask the Chief Executive Officer to report on the orthodontic service and the waiting list for treatment in the Board's area, and give the following details:-

- (a) Numbers on the waiting list for orthodontic care, and numbers on priority list 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) Number of Eastern Health Board patients who finished their course of treatment last year
- (c) Number of orthodontists employed by the Eastern Health Board, and where they are located

- (d) Number of patients currently receiving treatment from each orthodontist
- (e) Number of Board's dentists who have received orthodontic training from our consultant orthodontists
- (f) Number of Board's dentists currently in training for orthodontic care
- (g) Number and location of properly equipped orthodontic clinics"

Reply

Our Board is at present making arrangements with the recently appointed Consultant Orthodontist to provide a modern orthodontic service together with the facility to train our Dentists in this particular area of dental care as well as treating patients with more severe orthodontic conditions.

- [a] The priority waiting list is as follows:-

Category 1	17	
Category 2	3,254	
Category 3	2,545	
Category 4	1,635	Total 7,451

A further 1,500 on the waiting list are in the process of categorisation.

- [b] 2,250

- [c] [i] A full time Consultant Orthodontist is now employed and is currently based in Baggot Street Community Hospital.
- [ii] Two Consultant Orthodontists provide three night sessions per week in the Dental Clinic. Old County Road, Crumlin.
- [iii] One trainee Consultant Orthodontist provides one night session per week in Old County Road.
- [iv] Four dentists who are training for the Diploma in Orthodontics provide four (4) sessions in Old County Road.
- [v] Five dentists with the Diploma in Orthodontics provide 8 day sessions per week in North Strand.
- [vi] One dentist with the Diploma in Orthodontics provides two sessions in Greystones and two in Leixlip per week. Another dentist with specialist qualifications provides occasional sessions in Kildare.

Total Consultant/Specialist sessions - 20 per week.

- [d] [1] Number in treatment by consultants/ Specialists - 1,460
- [2] Number In treatment by our Board's Dental Surgeons - 2,200
- TOTAL - 3,660

[e] Our Board employs one whole time Consultant Orthodontist who recently joined the staff. She has not yet commenced orthodontic training of dental staff. Under the tuition of Consultant staff from the Dublin Dental Hospital, 7 of our Dental Surgeons have had training in orthodontics.

One Dental Surgeon will qualify with the Diploma in Orthodontics in early 1992 and a second started training in this qualification this year.

[f] 2(See question (e))

[g] All our Board's Dental Clinics are suitable for the provision of Orthodontic treatment. Some clinics have recently been provided with special equipment at the request of the Specialists – i.e. Greystones, Old County Road, Crumlin, North Strand, Leixlip.

[iii] Mr. G. McGuire

"Can the Chief Executive Officer outline what grants or monies are paid by this Board to Family Planning Agencies, also will he list the amount and the agencies to which grants were made for the years 1989, 1990, 1991 and the criteria used for determining the amount each agency received?"

Reply

Grants were paid by our Board in the years stated to the following agencies:-

AGENCY	GRANTS PAID OR TO BE PAID		
	For 1989	For 1990	For 1991
Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	£33,000	£33,000	£33,000
Irish Family Planning Association	Paid by the	Directly Dept of Health	£10,000**
National Association of the Ovulation Method of Ireland	£16,500*	£16,500	£16,500

* A special grant from the National Lottery proceeds was paid in this year.

** Grant payment transferred to our Board by Department of Health.

[iv] Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer, in the light of the letter from the Minister for Health, Rory O'Hanlon (enclosed), he will say.

(a) if he has ever received an application from Ard Scoll Eanna, Crumlin Road to have eligibility for Dental Service extended to its pupils

- (b) what the Board's position is to requests of this nature”

Reply

- [a] Ard Scoil Eanna is a fee paying Junior (Primary) and 2nd Level school. It has not applied to our Board to have eligibility for the School Medical/Dental Services extended to its pupils. Pupils attending this school whose parents have medical cards are, of course, covered for dental treatment.
- [b] There is discretion to extend the school medical service to schools which are not national schools, on application. All such applications would be considered in the light of available resources and the impact on our Board's capacity to deliver statutory services in the short term.

The total number of such schools in our Board's area is 24.”

110/1991

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *Health Screening - Motile Clinics*

This matter was raised by notice of motion by Cllr. Farrell at the last meeting and I undertook to report further on the subject to the next meeting of the Board. I asked the Dublin Medical Officer of Health, Professor Brendan O'Donnell to look into this matter and to comment generally for the information of our Board on the subject of health screening: also to follow up on mobile screening clinics, as distinct from established health screening organisations, and to try and identify the extent to which such mobile screening units are in operation in our Board's area and to comment as to what general advice might be given to our Board and to the general public in that regard.

I have circulated for the information of members a copy of Professor O'Donnell's general comments to me on this subject. Since that report he has been carrying out further follow-up work in relation to the activities of the mobile screening units and with Chairman's agreement I am asking him to make a further report to our Board at this meeting on this subject.

2. *Adoption of Romanian children*

I have circulated under correspondence with the agenda papers for this meeting copy of Department of Health letter of 13th September, 1991 regarding the advice which they had received from the Department of Justice that the Romanian Adoption Committee has suspended all its operations until October/November 1991.

The letter also refers to the requirement that, in future, for a period of six months from the date of registration of a child for adoption, the Romanian Adoption Committee must make every effort to place the child with a Romanian family resident in that country or, failing that, with a Romanian family living outside the country. If, after this six month period, the child has not been placed, the Committee can offer the child for adoption to a foreign family.

3. *Review of Ambulance Service*

The Minister of State at the Department of Health. Mr. Chris Flood, T.D., has announced that a major review of the organisation management and coordination of the ambulance service, which will be undertaken by the Department of Health together with the Health Boards, will start immediately and will examine the nature and level of service required.

The review will cover the following main areas:-

- Communications
- Cardiac Ambulance Services
- Organisation, management and co-ordination of the ambulance service, and
- Contractual arrangements and relationships for the ambulance service in Dublin.

The Minister has indicated that the review will take into account the views of all interested parties and that wide ranging discussions and consultations will be held.

4. *Child Abduction and Enforcement of Custody Orders Act, 1991*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 30th September, 1991 from the Department of Justice enclosing a copy of a statement which has been issued in relation to the Child Abduction and Enforcement of Custody Orders Act. 1991 which came into force on 1st October, 1991.

The Act gives the force of law to

- [a] the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction and
- [b] the Council of Europe Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of decisions concerning Custody of Children and on the Restoration of Custody of Children.

The Central Authority, for the purpose of the Conventions, is the Minister for Justice.

5. *National Fuel Scheme 1991/1992*

I have circulated this evening for the information of members a copy of the Circular we received today from the Department of Social Welfare in relation to National Fuel Scheme.

Members will note that the scheme will operate from Monday 14th October next for a period of 26 weeks up to and, including Friday 10th April, 1992.

The weekly allowance to qualified applicants will be £5.00 and details of the qualifying conditions are as set out in the Circular as are the categories of persons eligible to receive a Fuel Allowance either from the Health Board or directly from the Department of Social Welfare.

A special additional smokeless fuel allowance of £3.00 per week applies to low-income households in the Dublin area.

6. *Health Research Board Annual Report, 1990*

The Health Research Board has recently published its annual report and accounts for 1990 and a copy has been circulated this evening to each member

An outline of a number of epidemiological studies relevant to interests and responsibilities of our Board is included in the Report.

A number of these studies will be the subject of reports to the Special Hospital and Community Care Programme Committees in due course."

Following a discussion on Health Screening Clinics to which Cllr. Farrell, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr, Gallagher and Deputy Durkan contributed and to which the chief Executive Officer and Prof. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health replied it was agreed to convey to the Minister for Health the concern expressed by members in relation to the members of mobile screening clinics operating throughout the country.

111/1991

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BALLYMUN- MEMBERSHIP

The following Report no. 90/1991 was submitted.

"Following the recent changes in Board membership six vacancies exist on our Board's Special Committee on Ballymun, which has been concerned with the service needs and problems of the Ballymun area.

The current members of the Special Committee are:-

1. Cllr. F. Hynes. (Chairman)
2. Mrs. B. Bonar
3. Cllr. I. Callely T.D.
4. Mrs. D. Clune
5. Prof. J.S. Doyle
6. Cllr. T. Keenan
7. Mr. G. McGuire
8. Cllr. J. Reilly

The appointment of six members to fill the vacancies on the Special Committee is a matter for our Board."

The following members were nominated to fill the vacancies on of the Special Committee on Ballymun:-

Cllr. R. Shortall, Ms. M. Nealon, Dr. J. O'Boyle, Cllr. C. Gallagher, Cllr. M. Barrett, T.D., Cllr. R. Greene.

112/1991

COMMITTEE ON HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION

The following Report no. 31/1981 was submitted.

“Following the recent changes in Board membership four vacancies exist on the Committee appointed in connection with the conversion of Dr. Steeven's Hospital for use as Headquarters Accommodation for our Board.

The current members of the Committee are

1. Cllr. I. Callely T.D. (Chairman)
2. Cllr. F. Hynes
3. Mrs. D. Clune
4. Dr. B. O'Herlihy

The appointment of four members to fill the vacancies on the Committee is a matter for our Board.”

The following members were appointed, to be members of the Committee:-

Cllr. G. Brady, Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. O. Mitchell, Cllr. D. Marren

113/1991

FORMER INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY SITE

The following Report no. 32/1991 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

“An agreement concluded by our Board in September 1980 with the Biological and Medical Research Institute [subsequently called the Institute of Clinical Pharmacology] provided for compensation by our Board to the Institute in respect of temporary buildings which it had on the Garden Hill site in order to facilitate the development of St. James's Hospital. That site had been leased to BMRI/ICP by our Board. The agreement also provided for the lease by our Board of an alternative site at Rialto for the construction of permanent buildings by the Institute.

The figure agreed in respect of the compensation was £175,000 subject to adjustment for inflation in accordance with the price index of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors [Ireland]. As this compensation was to facilitate the development of St. James's Hospital it was to be part of the cost of that project.

A lease was made between our Board and the Institute of Clinical Pharmacology in December 1983 as envisaged in the agreement of September 1980 in respect of the Rialto site as outlined in the attached map.

Discussions have taken place with representatives of St. James's Hospital Board resulting in a suggestion that if our Board transfers its interest in the Rialto site to St. James's Hospital Board then that Board will take full responsibility in negotiations with the Liquidator of the Institute of Clinical Pharmacology for any compensation that may be agreed as outstanding on foot of the agreement referred to in the first paragraph above.

At the September meeting of our Board it was agreed in principle that the Rialto 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 dated 15th April, 1974 relating to the main part of the hospital site. The Rialto site contains 0.8 acres and the only access to it is through the Rialto gate of St. James's Hospital and the adjoining hospital grounds. Consequently, the Estate Management Officer advises that it has no marketable commercial value as far as our Board is concerned.

I recommend that our Board should now give its formal approval to proceed as outlined in the preceding paragraph."

On a proposal by Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the Report.

114/1991

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [i] Election of Dr. B. O'Herlihy as Chairman of the Committee and of Cllr. T. Keenan as Vice-Chairman.
- [ii] Progress report on Mental Health Centre. Clondalkin.
- [iii] Appointment of Consultant in Psychiatry of Old Age at St. James's Hospital.
- [iv] North County Dublin Psychiatric Service
- [v] Report on services in Area no. 7.

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

The following matters were dealt with in the Report.

- [i] Election of Dr. R Corcoran as Chairman of the Committee and of Cllr. G. Brady as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

- [v] Progress report on the equipping of the new psychiatric unit at Naas General Hospital and on the filling of Consultant Physician posts.
- [v] Filling of Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon's post at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.
- [v] Dublin Accident & Emergency Hospital service.
- [v] Report on services in Bru Chaomhin.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Deputy Barrett, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:-

- [i] Election of Mrs. D. Clune as Chairman of the Committee and of Cllr. D. Marren as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.
- [ii] Filling of four vacancies in the General Medical Services Scheme.
- [iii] Allowance for carers of disabled persons.
- [iv] Draft Food Hygiene Regulations.
- [v] Report on services in Area 9 [Kildare].

115/1991

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. R. Greene:-

"That the Eastern Health Board seek Counsel's opinion on the constitutionality of the proposed Health [Family Planning] BUI 1991"

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bonar and following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Deputy Briscoe, Deputy Roche, Dr. O'Herlihy, Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Reilly, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Hynes, Deputy Barrett and Dr. O'Boyle contributed the members agreed that the motion could be withdrawn.

2. Cllr. K. Farrell indicated that he wished to re-submit for the November meeting the following motion which he had tabled:-

"That this Board expresses its concern at the long waiting list for orthodontic treatment and calls for an adequately funded plan to clear this backlog over the next two years."

The Chief Executive Officer informed the members that substantial progress had been made in the last two years in dealing with the waiting list of those seeking orthodontic treatment. The waiting list now stood at approx. 9,000, 17 of whom were in Category 1, 3,250 were in Category 2, 2,500 were in Category 3 and 1,600 were in Category 4. Additional funding had been made

available by the Department of Health in 1990 and 1991 for dental and orthodontic treatment. 2,250 cases had received orthodontic treatment in 1990 and 3,600 cases are currently undergoing treatment. A full-time consultant orthodontist had recently joined the staff and steps would be taken to redress the situation where progress had not been uniform throughout the Board's area.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence as referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's Report were noted.

The meeting concluded at 7:50p.m.

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



CHAIRMAN