

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the Proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board
held to the Boardroom St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 7th November, 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. Chine	Dr. R Corcoran
Dr. P. Devitt	Cllr. J. Doyle. T.D.
Cllr. B.J. Durkan. T.D.	Cllr. R Greene
Dr. R Hawkins	Cllr. F. Hynes
Dr. D.I. Keane	Cllr. T. Keenan
Cllr. D. Marren	Prof. J. McCormick
Mr.G. McGuire	Dr. J. Masterson
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. Cllr. K. Farrell.
Cllr. O. Mitchell

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
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

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CONDOLENCES

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

1. Ms. Joan O'Neill. Grade III Officer. Salaries Section, on the death of her brother.
2. Mr. Pdraig Rehill. Community Welfare Officer. Community Care Area 3, on the death of his mother.
3. Ms. Emer Walsh, Grade V Officer, Salaries Section on the death of her mother.
4. To Mr. Leo Sharkey, St Loman's Hospital, on the death of his wife.
5. Cllr. Dr. W. J. O'Connell. on the death of his mother.
6. Mr. Frank English, St. Ita's Hospital, on the death of his sister.

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

- "1. I have received a letter from the Minister for Health referring to the Government's concern to ensure that the highest standards of personal integrity are followed throughout the public sector and requesting me to let him have details of systems in place under our Board to ensure that Board members, executives and relevant staff are obliged to make a clear declaration of interest in matters pertaining to the affairs of the Board in any case in which the possibility exists of the conflict of interest

In the case of the members of our Board I would like to draw your attention to Standing Order no. 24 which reads as follows:-

"A member of the Board who has

- (a) any interest in any company or concern with which the Board proposes to make any contract, or
- (b) any interest in any contract which the Board proposes to make:

shall disclose to the Board the fact of the interest and the nature thereof, and shall take no part in any deliberation or decision of the Board relating to the contract and any such disclosure shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board."

I intend to reply to the Minister's letter to the effect that I have drawn the attention of the members of our Board to the Standing Order to which I have referred above.

Details of systems in place in relation to the staff of our Board will be communicated to the Minister by the Chief Executive Officer.

2. December Meeting of Board

With the members agreement it is proposed that the December meeting of our Board will be held on Thursday 12th December, 1991 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

It is also proposed that the General Hospital Care Programme Committee will meet at St. Columcille's Hospital on Monday 9th December, 1991 to coincide with a ceremony to mark the departure of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God from the Hospital.

3. Committee on Headquarters Accommodation

A meeting of the Committee on Headquarters Accommodation has been arranged for Friday 15th November, 1991 at 2:45 p.m. to review progress in the adaptation of Dr. Steeven's Hospital for use as headquarters accommodation for our Board.

Members of the Committee will be notified in the usual way.

4. Christmas Card

It is-proposed that our Board win have a Christmas Card similar to that produced in 1991. Members should contact the Secretary with an indication of the numbers which they will require."

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER.

1991

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3rd October, 1991.having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr. O'Hertihy, seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

[a] **Matters arising from the minutes**

Following a discussion on the reply to Mr. McGuire's question regarding grants paid to Family Planning Agencies to which Mr. McGulre and Deputy Byrne contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a report on this matter would be presented at the next meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Mis. dune. It was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

"[i]. **Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.**

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the extent of progress, if any. on the proposals for the provision of a new Ambulance Centre at Naas Hospital. Naas. Co. Kildare; if agreement has been reached as to the extent and location of the facilities and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Reply

Proposals have long since been drawn up for the re-location of the Ambulance Centre at Naas In upgraded facilities. These proposals have been the subject of discussions with the staff union which has recently responded to same. No agreement has yet been reached.

[ii] Cllr. D. Marren

"Is the site adjoining 37 Pinewood, Ballybrack which is in the ownership of the Eastern Health Board considered surplus to the Board's requirements, and if so what proposals, if any, are there for the disposal of this site?"

Reply

The site at Pinewood, Ballybrack, Is now surplus to our Board's requirements.

Discussions are taking place with representatives of Dun Laoghaire Corporation in relation to their wish to acquire the site for open space development."

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

"1. *Cancer/inland and the EC*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of a booklet entitled "Cancer Ireland and the EC" which has been published by the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland as a contribution to the Europe against Cancer Programme. The booklet contains up-to-date statistics on cancer in Ireland and compares these with data from other EC countries. It also presents information about some common cancers, their known or suspected causes, and advice on prevention.

The implications of the data in the booklet can be considered in further detail by the Community Care Programme Committee, with a report back to the Board in due course.

2. *St. James's Hospital – Report for 1990*

I have circulated, with the agenda papers of this meeting, for the information of members, copies of the St. James's Hospital Annual Report for 1990.

This Report can be considered further by the General Hospital Care Programme Committee.

3. *National Social Service Board Annual report, 1990*

I have circulated, for the information of members, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of the Annual Report for 1990 issued by the National Social Service Board.

This is their sixth Annual Report and sets out in some detail the objectives of the organisation and the activities undertaken to achieve them.

This Report can be considered in greater detail by the Community Care Programme Committee.

4. *Reports of Statutory Inspection by Assistant Inspector of Mental Hospitals*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of Reports issued by the Assistant Inspector of Mental Hospitals following his visits of inspection to Catchment Area No. 6 [St. Brendan's Hospital] and to Catchment Area No. 2 [Vergemount Clinic. Clonskeagh]. These can be considered in further detail by the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

5. *Environment Action Programme*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of the first Progress Report issued by the Department of the Environment in relation to the Environment Action Programme.

Reference is made in the Report to the Environmental Protection Agency Bill, 1990 the purpose of which is to improve the environmental regulation of industry and other activities with significant polluting potential. The aim of the new Agency is to bring greater efficiency to environmental decision making through the system of integrated environmental control which it will operate.

Section 27 of the Bill, which is currently being debated in the Dail, provides for the establishment of an Advisory Committee of between 5 to 12 members. Having regard to the interrelationship between environmental control and public health it is obviously extremely important that the available professional expertise from the health board sector should be included in this Committee.

6. *Mental Health Week 1991 and Silver Jubilee of Mental Health Association of Ireland*

As part of the celebrations our Board is arranging a number of events for week commencing Monday 18th November, 1991, including the official opening of a number of our mental health facilities and the launch of a brochure containing details of the range of services being provided by our Board.

Details of our Boards' programme of events will be circulated to the members at the earliest opportunity.

7. Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

At the September meeting of our Board I informed members regarding the financial review which our Board carried out in relation to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

The Report prepared by our Board following the financial and service review is under consideration by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and further discussions will take place with representatives of the Centre in the near future in relation to the implementation of the recommendations in the Report.

It is proposed to circulate copies of the Report for consideration at the December meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme."

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ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report no. 33/1991 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

"The St. James's Hospital Board (Establishment) Order 1971 (Amendment) Order, 1984 provides for the appointment by the Minister for Health of four members of the St. James's Hospital Board on the nomination of our Board.

We have been notified by the Department of Health in letter dated 27th September, 1991 that the Minister has decided that it would be appropriate to appoint a new Board for a further Interim period of one year expiring on 8th October, 1992 and have been requested to advise him of our Board's nominees for appointment to the Board for that period.

Our Board has been represented on the Board of St. James's Hospital by

Mrs. B. Bonar
Mr. D. Browne
Mr. M. Carroll
Cllr. A. Groome [R.I.P.]

At the annual meeting of our Board held on 25th July, 1991 Cllr. Dr. J. W. O'Connell was nominated for appointment by the Minister for Health to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cllr. A. Groome.

The nomination of members for appointment by the Minister is a matter for the Board.

In addition to Cllr. Dr. J. W. O'Connell who had been nominated for appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cllr. A. Groome, Groome, Mrs. B Bonor, Mrs. D. Clune and Cllr. F. Hynes were nominated for appointment, following secret ballot.

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SITE AT JAMES'S STREET – LEASE TO ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD

The following Report no. 34/1991 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

"Our Board, at a special meeting held on 24th July, 1986, decided to enter into an agreement with St. James's Hospital Board to facilitate Trinity College in carrying out the preliminary site works contract in relation to the proposed Clinical Sciences Complex at James's Street. Our Board also decided that if the contractual commitment to build its new offices on the St. Brendan's Hospital site was entered into, or if construction of the new offices commenced as planned at that time, the site at James's Street would be offered to the Hospital Board under a lease.

In the interval our Board acquired Dr. Steeven's Hospital following its closure and has brought its adaptation for use as headquarters accommodation to the point where it is expected that the buildings will be ready for occupation in mid-1992.

Having regard to the changed circumstances, and the satisfactory rate of progress in the provision of headquarters accommodation for our Board at Dr. Steeven's Hospital. It is now proposed to formally lease the site outlined [marked A] on the attached map to the St James's Hospital Board, who will sub-lease the site to Dublin University. It is also proposed that the lease will run concurrently and in the same terms and conditions as those contained in the lease dated 15th April, 1974 relating to the main part of the hospital site.

When our Board vacates the buildings occupied by it at James's Street the remainder of the site, as outlined on the attached map [marked B], will be formally leased on similar terms to the St. James's Hospital Board.

The approval of our Board to these proposals is requested."

In response to queries from members the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer confirmed that outstanding matters in relation to Dr. Steeven's Hospital, St. James's Hospital and Trinity College are being brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

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

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. **Special Hospital Care Programme Committee**

On a proposal by Mrs. Chute, seconded by Mrs. Honor, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

The following matters were dealt with in the Report.

- [a] Cheeverstown House Progress Report
- [b] Psychiatric service. North County Dublin
- [c] Mental Health Week
- [d] Training Centre. North Circular Road

- [e] Psychiatric service, Co. Kildare
- [f] "Needs and Abilities" Policy Document on Mental Handicap Services
- [g] Report on services at St Raphael's, Celbridge

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:

- [a] Equipping new Psychiatric Unit at Naas General Hospital
- [b] Consultant Physician posts, Naas General Hospital
- [c] Interviews for the filling of Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon's post and Consultant in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation in James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.
- [d] Progress report on the Dublin Accident & Emergency Hospital services.
- [e] Filling of Consultant Histopathologist post in St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.
- [f] Rationalisation of services at Peamount Hospital
- [g] Report on services in Cherry Orchard Hospital.

In response to an enquiry from Deputy Durkan, the Chief Executive Officer informed the members that, following discussions with officials in the Department of Health, he was satisfied that funding would be made available for the psychiatric services in Co. Kildare for 1992 following the part-year funding made available to commence the services in 1991.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the Report:-

- [a] Annual Report of G.M.S. (Payments) Board for 1990
- [b] Community Drugs Schemes
- [c] Child Care Act, 1991
- [d] Report on services in Area 9 (Kildare] and on dental services In Area 4
- [e] Report on services in Area 4 [Crumlin / Tallaght]

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NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The notice of motion in the name of Cllr. K. Farrell regarding orthodontic treatment was, in his absence, not moved.
2. The notice of motion in the name of Cllr. O. Mitchell regarding assessments for foreign adoptions was, at her request, deferred to the December meeting of the Board.
3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. B. Durkan. T D.

"That this Board would as previously requested provide for the location of Cardiac Ambulances in Counties Kildare and Wicklow, with a view to making available such services to the population of the counties concerned and similar to those that currently exist in Dublin, with particular reference to the need for such facilities in rural areas where long distances have to be travelled to hospital."

Mr. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care informed the members that our Board is committed to the extension of the cardiac ambulance service to Kildare and Wicklow, in respect of which funding had been requested from the Department of Health. The Minister of State at the Department of Health had recently announced that a Review Group would examine the working of the total ambulance service under four headings:-

- *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 outcome of this examination of the ambulance service is awaited.

It was agreed to note the terms of the motion.

4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Marren, seconded by Deputy R. Roche and agreed.

"That a report be presented on the subventions received by private nursing homes from the Eastern Health Board which will outline the basis on which such subventions are calculated, the frequency of payments and the changes, if any, introduced or proposed to be introduced in the operation of the scheme."

Copies of the following report were circulated:-

"Subventions are paid by the Eastern Health Board towards the cost of nursing home care. The main categories of subventions paid are as follows:

Section 54 subventions:

Persons in receipt of care under Section 54 of 1970 Health Act in Homes approved by the Department of Health are entitled to a fixed payment irrespective of means. The current rate is £7.02 per day and this figure is revised annually by the Department of Health. The list of Homes approved by the Department of Health has not been revised since 1980 and therefore, residents in the newer Nursing Homes would not qualify for this payment. Within the Eastern Health Board area, payment of Section 54 is confined to short-stay care, i.e. six weeks

Section 26 Subventions:

Subventions are also paid under Section 26 of the 1970 Health Act. Payments under this section are discretionary. All patients medically assessed as in need of Private Nursing Home care may make application for a subvention. Each application is considered on an individual basis and the amounts paid are based on a full assessment of need in each case. Amounts paid range from £20.00 per week to £130.00 per week depending on need and the availability of resources.

Payment Arrangements:

Accounts in respect of the these subventions are submitted by the nursing homes and certified for payment on a monthly basis.

Future Payments:

The new legislation on Private Nursing Homes allows for the payment of subventions having regard to the dependency level of the patient. The precise amounts payable and the criteria to be used are currently being examined by the Department of Health."

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Marren, Deputy Roche, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Greene, Cllr. Dr. O'Connel, Deputy Byrne, the Chairman and Mrs. Chune contributed and to which Mr. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care replied, it was agreed that a more detailed report would be prepared for a future meeting of the General Hospital Care Programme Committee.

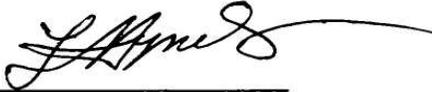
5. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan

"That this Board would outline the medical requirements in respect of qualification for D.P.M.A., with a view to determination of similar guidelines as those applied by the Department of Social Welfare medical referees."

It was agreed that a note would be circulated to each member of the Board setting out the medical requirements specified for the purposes of the Disabled Persons [Maintenance] Allowances Regulations.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Hickey', written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHAIRMAN