

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the Proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board
held in the Boardroom St. Mary's Hospital, Chapellzod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 6th February, 1992 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	Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. J. Connolly	Dr. R Corcoran
Dr. P. Devitt	Cllr. J. Doyle, T.D.
Cllr. B. J. Durkan, T.D.	Cllr. K. Farrell
Cllr. C. Gallagher	Cllr. R Greene
Cllr. F. Hynes	Cllr. J. Jacob, T.D.
Cllr. T. Keenan	Cllr. D. Marren
Mr. G. McGuire	Dr. J. Masterson
Cllr. O. Mitchell	Ms. M. Nealon
Cllr. Dr. J. W. O'Connell	Dr. J. O*Boyle
Dr. B. O'Herlihy	Cllr. R Roche, T.D.
Cllr. R. Shortall	

In the Chair

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D
Cllr. F. Hynes

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
Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

11/1982

CONDOLENCES

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

- Cllr. Gerry Brady, Main Street, Maynooth on the death of his brother.
- Gerry Kenny, Supt. Community Welfare Officer, on the death of his father.
- Tadgh O'Connor. Personnel Department, on the death of his father.
- Ann Kenny, Public Health Nurse. Rathfarnham on the death of her brother.
- Anne Moore, Personnel Department, on the death of her father.

12/1992

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

Councillor Austin Groome [deceased]

I have received a letter from a member of Councillor Groome's family expressing their gratitude for the members' kindness and sympathy during their bereavement.

13/1992

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY, 1992 AND OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY. 1992

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 9th January. 1992, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

The minutes of the special meeting held on 28th January. 1992. having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Dr. O'Herlihy. seconded by Dr. O'Boyle.

14/1992

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Mis. Bonar, seconded by Mis. Clune. It was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Mr. G. McGuire

Can the Chief Executive Officer outline:-

- (a) the number of supervised hostels, nursing and non-nursing, and the number of unsupervised hostels within the Board's area.
- (b) the number of re-admissions from nursing supervised, non-nursing supervised and unsupervised hostels for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Reply

[a] Our Board currently operates 108 community residences [hostels] in the following categories:-

High Support	-	14
Medium Support	-	34
Low Support	-	60

[b] The numbers of re-admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals from community residences for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 are as follows:

1989	1990	1991
181	184	202

Although the community residences are broken down into high, medium and low dependency, each residence has nursing support ranging from Community Psychiatric Nurses to full day support and 24 hours cover, appropriate to the level of dependency of the occupants of the residence, or of a particular resident, in the hostel from time to time.

In addition some residences are used for-

- (i) Rehabilitation
- (ii) Respite Care
- (iii) Half-way houses for assessment pre- discharge

From our records also we are satisfied that individual patients may require a number of admissions in one year. This is consistent with their rehabilitation care treatment plan and is also a feature of the treatment programme of many patients in the general community with residual psychiatric disabilities.

2. **Cllr. R. Shortall**

In relation to the Dental Service within the Eastern Health Board area will the Chief Executive Officer please state:-

- [a] What the current policy is in relation to school-going children?
- [b] When this policy decision was taken?
- [c] What is the thinking behind this policy in relation to preventive dental care?

Reply

Our Board is required to make dental services available for defects noticed at child health & school health examinations.

Our Board, at a special meeting on 30th March, 1989, adopted a "Report on Dental Services in the Eastern Health Board Area which recommended that the children's dental services should become based on attendance by dentists at schools. rather than responding to demand at health centres for non-emergency procedures.

The system is now in place, in all areas, of examining children on an incremental basis in school classes and providing comprehensive dental education, preventive (fissure sealing] and treatment services for children. The objective is to ensure that children have at least three examinations during their primary school years.

It is hoped that, in this way. children for whom a service was previously rarely, if ever, demanded [often those in lower socio-economic groups] and those in greatest need of dental care, win be screened, advised of the services available, educated in dental hygiene and referred for care as necessary.

Emergency and scheduled maintenance services, of course, continue to be provided at our health centres.

15/1992

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief executive officer read the following report which was noted by the Board.

1. *Development of Naas General Hospital*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 16th January. 1992 from the Department of Health stating that it has not been possible to make any provision for the next phase of the development of Naas General Hospital in the 1992 Capital Programme and that the question of proceeding with It will have to be deferred pending decisions on the availability of resources in 1993 and subsequent years.

Arrangements have still to be made with senior officers of the Department of Health for a joint review and update of the brief for Naas Hospital and every effort will be made to ensure that this review is completed as soon as possible. Progress in relation to this review will be advised to the members through the General Hospital Care Programme Committee.

2. *Poisons [Amendment] Regulations, 1991*

I have circulated, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 16th January. 1992 from the Department of Health enclosing copies of the Poisons [Amendment] Regulations. 1991 which came into effect on 20th December. 1991.

These Regulations, inter alia, prohibit the sale, supply, or the keeping for sale or supply, of strychnine and preparations containing chlordane. chlordecone or reserpine for use as a pesticide.

3. *Elections of members to Eastern Health Board*

Members will recall the request made by our Board that, in view of the announcement by the Minister for Health on 18th September, 1991 regarding the Government's decision to create a single new authority for the Eastern Health Board region, the election by the professions of members to the Eastern Health Board, due to be held this year, should be postponed.

I have since followed up this request with the Department of Health and have been advised that the elections should proceed on schedule.

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of a Report regarding the timetable of procedures which will be followed in the election of members of health professions for appointment to our Board with effect from 1st July, 1992.

4. *National A.I.D.S Strategy Committee*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of a statement issued on behalf of the Minister for Health regarding the first formal meeting of the National A.I.D.S. Strategy Committee which was held on 3rd February, 1992.

Members will note the decision to establish sub-Committees to address four areas of immediate concern.

The sub-Committees have been requested by the Minister to prepare an interim Report not later than the end of March.

5. *Combat Poverty Agency-Fourth Annual Report (1990)*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of the Fourth Annual Report (1990) of the Combat Poverty Agency.

The Report highlights three areas in which significant progress has been made over the past year and in which the Agency has been involved

- * The Programme for Economic and Social Progress
- * Community development
- * Work with local women's groups

Attention is also drawn to the establishment, in January 1990, of a Community Development Programme under the auspices of the Department of Social Welfare which made provision for financial support to community-based resource centres in disadvantaged areas. The budget for the programme in 1990 was £525,000 and from this fifteen resource centres were granted funding on a three-year basis. (Average level of funding per project is £40,000 per annum). Nine of these projects are in our Board's area

- Inner City Renewal Group (Amiens St.).
- Ballymun Community Development Project.
- St. Andrew's Resource Centre (Pearse Street)

- South Inner City Development Association,
- North Clondalkin Community Development Programme.
- Ringsend Community Action Project.
- Parents Alone Resource Centre (Coolock),
- Greater Blanchardstown Development Project, and
- The Tallaght Partnership.

With regard to work with local women's groups the Agency continued to fund three women's projects to mid 1990 in the North Wall, Little Bray and in Ronanstown. following which an evaluation report "Working for Change" was published. The report identified the advantages which women felt had resulted from their involvement in their local project, ranging from individual development to a greater confidence about their roles within their families, the labour market and the local community. The evaluation report also raised the issue of the need for secure, long-term funding for such groups in the future.

16/1902

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report: -

- [a] Psychiatric services. Kildare
- [b] Community Project - North County Dublin
- [c] Community Projects. Crumlin/Tallaght and Ballyfermot
- [d] Central Mental Hospital
- [e] Report on Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

In response to an enquiry from Deputy Byrne it was confirmed that the report the meeting of the community care committee at which the Child Abuse Prevention Programme had been considered was adopted by the Health Board at its December meeting.

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report: -

- [a] Proposals for amendment to the Medical Practitioners Act. 1978
- [b] Commencement of Psychiatric In-Patient and Out-Patient facilities at Naas General Hospital

- [c] Presentation by West Wicklow Day Care Committee of Minibus for the transport of patients at Baltinglass District Hospital.
- [d] Comhairle na n'Ospideal approval to the filling of a vacant Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon's Post at James Connolly Memorial Hospital.
- [e] Introduction of two Consultant Neurology sessions at James Connolly Memorial Hospital.
- [f] Report on services at St Clare's Home.

Deputy Durkan referred, to a recommendation from Kildare County Council that the development of Naas Hospital should continue as a matter of urgency and asked that the joint review of the brief for the Hospital between officers of our Board and the Department of Health should commence at the earliest opportunity.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] The need to test and ensure the quality of all drugs
- [b] The development of an afterhours and weekend social work consultation service to deal with homeless young persons
- [c] Report on services in Area no. 6
- [d] Approval of applications from two General Practitioners in the G.M.S. Scheme to take on an assistant with a view to partnership and a partner.
- [f] Report on services in Area no. 5

17/1982

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. *Cllr. Coffey asked that her notice of motion regarding the issue of rent subsidies on a monthly basis be deferred to the next meeting.*
2. *The following motion was. in the absence of Deputy Roche, proposed by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Cllr .Keenan and agreed.*

That the Eastern Health Board takes note UNICEF's 'State of the World's Children Report. 1992' and. in particular, the recommendations on the establishment of 'baby friendly' hospitals.

It was noted that all hospitals following a code of practice drawn up by WHO and UNICEF would be designated "baby – friendly". The code of practice set out "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" designed to promote breastfeeding taking into account that happens in the first few hours after birth can decide whether or not a mother will successfully breastfeed.

Following a discussion to which Mrs. Clune, Dr O'Herlihy, Deputy Byrne Cllr. Shortall, Dr. Corcoran, Ms, Neglon, Cllr, Gallagher and Cllr. Greene contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed to convey the terms of the resolution to the promotion of breastfeeding and to enquire if they allow the supply of fire samples of dried milk products. It was also agreed to bring the recompilations to the attention of appropriate member of our boards staff and to the Health promotion Unit in the Department of Helath

3. *The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Mitchell
That this Board requests the Minister for Health to use her influence at cabinet and specifically with the Minister for Social Welfare to bring about changes in the qualifications required for the care of the handicapped and the elderly in the commuity.
The motion was seconded by Deputy Byrne and, following a discussion to which Cllr, Mitchell, Cllr. Hynes, Deputy Doyle, Deputy Byrne, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Greene and Dr. O'Boyle contributed, was agreed.*

4. *The following motions was proposed by Cllr. Shortall and seconded by Cllr. Connolly*

That this Board is not satisfied with the current level of dental care for school going children and recommends that a full check-up services on demand be restored immediately.

During a discussion to which Cllr. Shortall, Cllr. Connolly, Dr. O'Herlihy, Dr. O'Boyle, Deputy Byrne, Cllr. Hynes and Cllr. Brady contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was noted that our Board, at a special meeting held on 30th March, 1989 had adopted a report on Dental Services which recommended that children's dental services should become based on attendance by dentists at schools rather than responding to demand at Health Centres for non-emergency productizes. There is now in school classes and of providing comprehensive dental education, preventive and treatment services for these children with the objective of ensuring that they have at least three examinations during their time at Primary School. Emergency and scheduled maintenance services continue to be provided at the health centres.

Following the discussion it was agreed that the matter could be considered further at the special meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee arranged for 11th March, 1992 to consider Dental Services generally.

18/1982
CORRESPONDENCE

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

19/1992
OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was expressed by members regarding reports of the sale of drugs in the vicinity of the Mansion House on the occasion of concerts. The Chief Executive Officer agreed to bring this matter to the attention of our Board's Drugs/AIDS Coordinator.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m

Correct: K.J. Hickey
Chief Executive Officer



CHAIRMAN