

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 5th March. 1992at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Cllr. M. Barrett. T.D.	Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. B. Briscoe. T.D.	Cllr. E. Byrne. T.D.
Cllr. I. Callely. T.D.	Mrs. D. Clune
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
Dr. R Hawkins	Cllr. F. Hynes
Cllr. J. Jacob. T.D.	Dr. D. I. Keane
Cllr. T. Keenan	Cllr. D. Marren
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. O. Mitchell
Cllr. Dr. J.W. O'Connell	Dr. J. O'Boyle
Dr. B. O'Heriuhy	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. R Roche. T.D.	Cllr. R. Shortall

In the Chair

Cllr. I. Callely. T.D.

Officers in Attendance

Mr. KJ. 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. M. Gallagher. Finance Officer
 Ms. M. Kelly. A/Personnel Officer
 Mr. J. Curran. Chief Assistant Technical Services Officer
 Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

20/1982

CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy were passed with

- * Ms. Mary McMahon. Community Care Service. Emmet House, on the death of her father.
- * Mr. Tom Cahill. Administrator. Community Care Area 4, on the death of his mother.
- * Ms. Eileen Medlar. St. Mary's Hospital. Chapelizod. on the death of her sister.
- * The family of Mr. Eddie McGowan. James Connolly Memorial Hospital.
- * Michael Hughes. Chief Nursing Officer. Newcastle Hospital, on the death of his mother.
- * Ms. Pauline O'Hara. St. Mary's Hospital, on the death of her father.
- * Tony Fitzgerald. Cook. St. Brendan's Hospital, on the death of his father.
- * Mrs. Margaret Neville. St. Brendan's Hospital, on the death of her son.

21/1992

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report which was noted by the Board.

1. **Official Opening of Day Care Unit, Baltinglass District Hospital**
Members will have received their invitations to the official opening of the Day Care Unit in Baltinglass District Hospital which will take place on Thursday 19th March, 1992 at 2:30 p.m.
2. **Meeting of Committee on Headquarters Accommodation**
A meeting of the Committee on Headquarters Accommodation will be held on Friday 13th March, 1992 at 11:00 a.m. Notices regarding this meeting have been issued to the members of the Committee.
3. **Visit to St. James's Hospital**
At the invitation of the Chairman of St. James's Hospital Board arrangements have been made for members of our Board to visit the new Hospital on Friday 3rd April, 1992 at 4:00 p.m. Members will receive notice regarding this visit in due course.

22/1992

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY. 1992

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6th February. 1992. having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hynes. seconded by Cllr. Keenan.

23/1992

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

1. Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

Will the Chief Executive Officer give a break-down of the religious denominations of the 18 chaplains employed by the Eastern Health Board. Can he say how the chaplains are recruited and what are their terms of employment and can he further outline the total cost to the Health Board of employing these 18 chaplains.

Reply

Health Boards are statutorily obliged under Section 39 of the Health Act. 1970. to make arrangements with the appropriate authorities for the performance of religious services in each hospital and home maintained by them.

The 18 Chaplains referred to in the question are providing services in the General Hospital Care Programme and include 15 Catholic Chaplains, one Presbyterian Chaplain and two Church of Ireland Chaplains.

Chaplains are assigned to provide services in our Board's hospital and homes by the respective Church authorities. Some are assigned on a full-time basis, some on a part-time basis and others visit patients in our care as part of their parochial duties.

The total cost of Chaplaincy services provided by 30 Chaplains for residents in hospitals and homes in our three Programmes was £225.713 in 1991.

2. Cllr. E. Byrne, T D

Will the Chief Executive Officer outline his policies for the treatment of patients at St. Ita's Hospital. Portrane who are aged 55 years and over. Can he confirm that it is the Board's policy to classify these patients and alter their "status" from that of "psychiatric" to "elderly" and will he say what the effect of this reclassification will be for the treatment of these patients.

Reply

The total number of patients in St. Ita's Hospital at present is:-

394	Mental Handicap [St. Joseph's Mental Handicap Service]
97	Psychiatric [Under 65 years]
250	[Over 65 years]

In addition 70 patients live in former staff houses on the hospital estate. In the next month or so a further 24 patients will move into other houses on the estate, thereby reducing the total number of patients in the Hospital to 717.

Approx. 150 patients with a mental handicap could be regarded as frail elderly. As part of the overall reorganisation of the service at St. Ita's Hospital it is proposed to organise three separate services on the campus:-

- Psychiatry
- Mental Handicap
- Elderly [including the frail elderly mentally handicapped]

The frail elderly mentally handicapped will remain in appropriate therapeutic groups. Services will be focussed on particular needs, as appropriate.

The above proposals are currently the subject of appropriate consultation and discussions which are not yet complete. When these discussions are concluded recommendations will be brought to our Board through the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

24/1992

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board

1. *Additional Funding for the Development of services for Persons with a Mental Handicap*

I have circulated, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 20th February, 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the additional funding which the Government is making available this year for the development of services to persons with a mental handicap. The new services to be provided in our area include an expansion of current services such as residential and day care places, children's services and respite care, in addition new services will be initiated to deal with emergency cases as they arise and a home support service will be developed. Provision will also be made to improve and expand the existing services for people with mental handicap who are also disturbed.

Details of the services identified for additional funding, to the extent of £2.65m. revenue expenditure, are set out in the appendix to the letter. A capital allocation of £400,000 in 1992 is also being made available in respect of the service for the disturbed which will enable us to replace Unit B at St. Loman's Hospital.

Arrangements have been made to have the details of the additional services to be funded agreed by the Central Planning Committee at an early date.

2. *Health Services News*

I have circulated, for the information of members, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of the February, 1992 issue of Health Services News which is published by the Institute of Public Administration and prepared by its Health Services Development Unit.

Members will note that this issue contains a special feature on the proposed new structures in the Eastern region.

3. *Child Care Act. 1991*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 26th February. 1992 from the Department of Health referring to the announcement in the Budget Statement that a sum of £2 million is being provided in 1992 to enable further developments to take place in the child care services in accordance with the commitment in the Programme for Economic and Social Progress. Members will note that the Minister intends to use these additional monies to phase in the listed provisions of the Child Care Act 1991 this year.

The Minister's request for an assessment of the resource implications of operating the relevant sections of the Act in our Board's area is currently receiving attention and members will be kept informed, through the Community Care Programme Committee, of further developments in this regard.

4. *Code of Practice for the Marketing of Infant Formulae*

Further to the discussion at the February meeting of our Board regarding the promotion of breast feeding and the policy of the Maternity Hospitals in relation to the supply of free samples of dried milk. I have circulated, this evening, for the information of members, copies of the Code of Practice for the Marketing of Infant Formulae in the Republic of Ireland, published in January. 1991 by the Code Monitoring Committee for the Marketing of Infant Formulae in the Republic of Ireland. This was recently brought to my attention by the Committee Secretariat which operates under the aegis of the Confederation of Irish Industry.

The Code Monitoring Committee which drew up this code of practice has been in existence for over ten years and includes representatives of the Department of Health, the Medical and Nursing Professions, the Trades Unions, as well as manufacturers and suppliers.

The revised code of practice, which came into effect on 1st January. 1991, specifies that "Health Workers should not give samples of infant formulae to pregnant women, mothers of infants and young children or members of their families."

Copies of the Code have been circulated to each of our Directors of Community Care and Superintendent Public Health Nurses, for their information and attention. Copies are also being sent to the Dublin Maternity Hospitals.

5. *Child Psychiatrist - Academic Linkage*

I am pleased to inform members that Trinity College's Standing Committee on Staff Appointments and Policy has agreed on a college linkage with a Consultant Child Psychiatrist Post approved by Comhairle na n'Ospideal on the basis of nine sessions [Eastern Health Board] and two sessions [Our Lady's Hospital. Crumlin].

This agreement follows a proposal from the Dean of Health Sciences that an academic emphasis be incorporated in the post of Consultant Child Psychiatrist on the basis that our Board was willing to fund fully the nine sessions while permitting the University to make use of two of these sessions for academic purposes.

I am sure members will welcome the co-operative approach taken by all parties to this arrangement in the interests of the long-term development of our Child Psychiatric services.

6. *Consultants in Orthodontics*

I have circulated for the information of members, a copy of an advertisement which appeared recently on behalf of the Eastern Health Board and the Dublin Dental Hospital Board inviting applications for posts as Consultants in Orthodontics in the Dublin Dental Hospital. It is proposed to make two such appointments jointly with the Dublin Dental Hospital to replace the post of whole time Consultant Orthodontist under our Board which recently became vacant following the resignation of the previous holder."

Deputy Byrne referred to the allocation for additional funding people with a mental handicap and asked that it be recorded that, in his view, the amount allocated was actually lower than the amount specified as our minimum requirement in the Report of the Central Planning Committee

Cllr. Mitchell, while welcoming the additional funding, agreed with the sentiments expressed by Deputy Byrne and pointed out that there was no provision in the addition funding for the employment of adult mentally handicapped persons.

Following a discussion to which Mrs. Clune, Deputy Jacob, Deputy Briscoe, the Chairman and Dr, O'Boyle contributed, the Chief Executive Officer replied. He referred to the role of the Central Planning committee in identifying priority areas where additional funding was needed which was working very satisfactorily. The additional funding now being made in 1992 would result in the provision of a welcome increase in the number of day and residential places. Between new residential places and vacancies through transfers a total of 86 places would become available in 1992. Details of its proposed allocation would be brought to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

Deputy Briscoe referred to the press statement issued by the Minister for Health on 21st February, 1992 in relation to the provision of an additional £6m. for the development of services for people with a mental handicap. The Chairman requested that a copy of the statement should be circulated to each member for their information.

Dr Keane welcomed the agreement between our Board and the Dublin Dental Hospital which provided for the Joint appointment of two Consultants in Orthodontics and expressed the view that the structures being put in place would lead to significant improvements in the Orthodontic service levels.

25/1992

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following report No. 2/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted.

The approval of the Board to borrowing by way of overdraft during the period ending 30th June. 1992 to a maximum of £7.3 m is requested. This maintains our overdraft level at 2.8% of our approved revenue allocation."

On a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report

26/1992

OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS - COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO. 89/937 EEC

The following report no. 3/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was noted:-

The Minister for Health has made the following Regulations to Implement this EEC Directive in so far as his area of responsibility is concerned:-

1. *The European Communities [Health Act, 1947. Amendment of Sections 4 and 61] Regulations, 1991*

These Regulations give expanded regulatory powers to the Minister in relation to food, provide for safeguards on the confidentiality of information obtained by virtue of inspections and increase the maximum fines for offences.

2. *The Health [Official Control of Food] Regulations, 1991*

These regulations provide that inspections shall apply to foodstuffs intended for exportation as well as those for domestic consumption, detail the operations which are to be controlled, specify the powers of authorised officers and list the sampling procedures to be carried out.

The Directive is aimed at completion of the Common Internal Market for food through the creation of uniform food controls across the European Community. The object is to ensure mutual confidence between Member States in each others food control systems. This is seen as particularly important with the elimination of frontier controls.

The new Regulations envisage a more programmed system of food inspection and sampling than heretofore, at all stages of production and supply, whether the foodstuffs are designed for domestic or export markets.

Our Board will be responsible for implementation of the inspection programmes in our own area, in addition, it is proposed, in order to facilitate a uniform system, that a national co-ordinating group on Food Sampling and Inspection, including representatives of the Department of Health, the three regional public analysts and the health boards, will be established.

Extra resources have been made available for the implementation of these expanded food control measures to provide for the recruitment of additional Environmental Health Officers and the re-equipping of the three Public Analysts Laboratories, including £126.000 for re-equipment costs for our Public Analyst's Laboratory at 10 Cornmarket. Dublin 8."

27/1992

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED - APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEE

On a proposal by Deputy Briscoe, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, it was unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr. F. Byrnes to attend and vote at General Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited.

28/1992

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee**

On a proposal by Dr. O'Herlihy. Seconded by Dr. O'Boyle, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report: -

- (a) Psychiatric Services. Co. Kildare
- (b) Development of Day Centre at Clondalkin
- (c) Development of service in North Dublin
- (d) Development of Mental Health Centre and workshop in Ballyfermot
- (e) Central Planning Committee's report on priority needs in the mental handicap service
- (f) Report on services provided by the Daughters of Charity

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- (a) Comhairle n-Ospideal Report on Plastic Surgery Services (September 1991)
- (b) James Connolly Memorial Hospital
Interim arrangements for the provision of ENT services, agreement for the provision of two Consultant Neurology sessions, and the advertising of the vacant post of Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.
- (c) Service report on St. Colman's Hospital. Rathdrum

3. Community Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Deputy Doyle, it was agreed to adopt the reports of the meetings held on 19th and 27 February, 1992.

The following matters were dealt with in the reports:-

- (a) Child Care Act 1991.
- (b) Arrangements for joint appointments with the Dublin Dental Hospital of Consultants In Orthodontics
- (c) Report on services in Area No. 7.

29/1992

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Greene and seconded by Deputy Barrett:-

"That this Board welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Health that an extra £6 million is to be provided for the mentally handicapped and that some of it be used to fund supportive employment schemes for adult mentally handicapped."

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Byrne, Cllr. Mitchell, Dr. O'Herlihy, Cllr. Gallagher, Dr. O'Boyle, Cllr. Connolly, Mr. McGuire, Cllr. Dr. O'Connell and Deputy Roche contributed and to which the Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care replied, it was noted that a report would be brought to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee giving details of the proposed distribution of the £2.65 million additional funding notified in Department of Health letter of 20th February, 1992.

It was also noted that a paper would be prepared setting out details of the initiatives which have already been taken to create employment opportunities for the handicapped in areas such as horticulture, maintenance and computer skills.

2. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan and seconded by Deputy Roche:-

"That this Board would report on the number of cases of meningitis within its administrative area in the past 4 years with a view to compiling information which may be helpful to parents."

The following report from Professor Brendan O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health, copies of which were circulated, was noted.

There are several types of Meningitis depending on the causative Organism. However, Deputy Durkan probably has in mind Meningococcal Meningitis which has caused the outbreak in Cork and, to a lesser extent, in the Dublin area over the past two months. Figures in respect of these cases are as follows:-

	<i>Dublin City/County</i>	<i>Kildare</i>	<i>Wicklow</i>
1988	12	1	10
1989	13	2	2
1990	28	4	1
1991	24	7	2
(1992 – to date)	13	1	1
Total	90	15	16

The Meningococcus Organism usually causes Meningitis but occasionally it causes Septicaemia and as it is not easy to clearly differentiate between them, the figures represent both conditions."

Professor O'Donnell informed the members that, since he had written his report another case had been notified for Dublin City/County.

3. The notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Coffey regarding payment of rent allowance/ subsidies was, in her absence, deferred to April meeting of our Board.

30/1992

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

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



CHAIRMAN