

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board
held in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 2nd July, 1992 at 6.30 pm.

Present

<p>Cllr. M. Barrett. T.D. Cllr. G. Brady Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D. Cllr. B. Coffey Dr. R Corcoran Cllr. J. Doyle. T.D. Cllr. K. Farrell Cllr. C. Gallagher Dr. R Hawkins Cllr. J. Jacob. T.D. Cllr. T. Keenan Mr. G. McGuire Ms. M. Nealon Dr. B. O'Herlihy Dr. J. Reilly Cllr. R Shortall Dr. M. Wrigley</p>	<p>Mrs. B. Bonar Cllr. B. Briscoe. T. D. Cllr. I.Callely, T.D. Cllr. J. Connolly Cllr. L. Creaven Cllr. B.J. Durkan. T. D. Dr. J. Fennell Cllr. R Greene Cllr. F. Hynes Dr. D.I. Keane Cllr. D. Marren Cllr. O. Mitchell Cllr. Dr. W. J. O'Connell Cllr. J. Reilly Cllr. R Roche. T. D. Dr. C. G. Smith</p>
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In the Chair

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
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

67/1992

CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman a vote of sympathy was passed with the family of Patrick Flood, Porter, Community Care Office, Coolock.

68/1992

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

1. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of our Board to their first meeting of the Board:-

Cllr. Liam Creaven
Dr. John Fennell
Dr. James Reilly
Dr. Charles Smith
Dr. Richard Whitty
Dr. Margo Wrigly

I wish also to thank the outgoing members of our Board for their contribution to our Board's business during their terms of office. I refer to

Mrs. Dymphna Clune
Prof. Stephen Doyle
Dr. Pat McCarthy
Prof. James McCormick
Dr. Pat Devitt
Dr. Jim O'Boyle

In this regard, members, I wish to say that it was with great regret that I learned that Mrs. Dymphna Clune, who served as a member of our Board for the past 10 years, had not been re-appointed for a further term. I am sure members will join with me in expressing our thanks to Mrs. Clune for her dedicated work as a member of our Board during that time, including the two years during which she served with great distinction as Chairman of our Board.

2. *Guidelines for State Bodies*

I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 22nd June which I received from the Minister for Health enclosing guidelines for State Bodies based on the recommendations of a Report prepared by the Secretary of the Department of Finance.

The Minister requests that these guidelines are followed by our Board. I know that I can rely on members to co-operate in their implementation."

69/92

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 1992 AND OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE. 1992

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th June, 1992, and of the Special Meeting held on 22nd June, 1992, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Deputy Callely.

(a) Matters arising from the minutes

In response to an enquiry from Cllr. Shortall regarding progress in the study of recent reports of an unusually high incidence of cancer and asthma-related deaths in the Ballymun/Santry area [Minute no. 53/1992 refers] Professor O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health stated that he had prepared an interim report and that he would present a full report at the August meeting of our Board.

Following a discussion regarding the role of E.S.B. International in assisting with the conduct of the study in relation to the allegedly high levels of radiation from overhead electricity cables in the area to which Cllr. Shortall, Mrs. Bonar, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Roche, Cllr. Gallagher, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Coffey, Dr. Hawkins and Deputy Byrne contributed and to which Professor O'Donnell replied, Cllr. Shortall proposed that Eolas should be commissioned to participate in the study. Following a further discussion it was agreed to await Professor O'Donnell's report. Deputy Roche asked that his unhappiness with the engagement of E.S.B. International be recorded.

70/1992

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

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

"Is the Chief Executive Officer aware that the residents of Lower Crumlin must now travel to Terenure to see their Community Welfare Officer and this is causing many of them extra expense and hardship as there is no direct bus out to Terenure.

This Board therefore, now agrees to review the position whereby the services of the C.W.O. were removed from our Parnell Road Clinic".

Reply

The arrangements whereby a number of residents in the Lower Crumlin area are dealt with for Supplementary Welfare Allowance purposes from Terenure Health Centre have been in operation for the past three years. At that time an additional community welfare officer was assigned to Terenure Health Centre to cater for an increase in demand for Supplementary Welfare Allowance services in both the Terenure and Parnell Road areas. This Community Welfare Officer had to be based at Terenure Health Centre because the great majority of his clients were from that area.

The caseloads for Community Welfare Officers in the Terenure/Parnell Road areas have continued to rise and the staffing level is now being reconsidered further. In the event of any further re-organisation the opportunity will be taken to facilitate the residents of the areas in question.

[I] Cllr. R. Shortall

“Will the Chief Executive Officer please report on what health standards are applied to different types of restaurants in Dublin's City Centre in general, and in the Dame Street area in particular, and will he say how this system is operated?”

Reply

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1950/1989 specify that proprietors of restaurants must apply for registration with the appropriate Health Board before commencing business. Before full registration is granted by the Health Board the premises must conform with the required standards as set down in the aforementioned Regulations.

Following registration, inspections are carried out regularly to ensure that these standards are maintained. In Dublin City restaurants are inspected up to four times per year to ensure compliance with a good operational hygiene standard. In individual instances inspection may be more frequent if circumstances so warrant.

71/1992

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. Health Board Regulations, 1970, Health Board (Election of Members) Regulations 1972

I have circulated this evening for the information of members a report setting out the names of members elected/appointed to be members of our Board for a five term commencing on 1st July, 1992 as follows:

Consultant in a General
Hospital

Dr. John Fennell,
SL Coluncille's Hospital,
Loughlinstown,
Co. Dublin

Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. Charles G. Smith,
Central Mental Hospital,
Dundrum,
Dublin 14.

General Medical Practitioners	Dr. Ray Hawkins, 2 Duncaim Tec, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Dr. James Reilly, Fingal House, Lusk, Co. Dublin.
Medical Practitioner with special knowledge of or experience in preventive medicine	Dr. Brian O'Herlihy, Cromcastle Road Health Centre, Coolock, Dublin 15.
Registered Medical Practitioners	Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran, Poplar House, Naas, Co. Kildare. Dr. Richard Whitty, St Brendan's Hospital, Dublin 7. Dr. Margo Wrigley, James Connolly Memorial Hospital. Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
Registered Dentist	Dr. D.I. Keane, Old County Road Health Centre, Crumlin, Dublin 12.
Registered Nurse	Ms. Margaret Nealon, St Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20.
Registered Psychiatric Nurse	Mr. Gerry McGuire, St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, Co. Dublin.
Registered Pharmaceutical Chemist	Mrs. B. Bonar, Farmer's Pharmacy, Dundrum Shopping Centre, Dublin 14.

The following persons have been appointed by the Minister for Health as members of our Board for the period ending 30th June. 1997:-

Cllr. Liam Creaven,
43 St. Fintan's Park,
Sutton, Dublin 13.

Mr. Joe Jacob T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.
Mr. D. Roche T.D.,
Dail Eireann.
Dublin 2.

I have also today received a letter from the Department of Health advising me that the Minister has now appointed Mr. Patrick April, 61 College Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, to the casual vacancy on the Eastern Health Board following the non-election of a Medical Practitioner during the recent health board elections.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those members who have been elected, re-elected or appointed and to wish them every success during their term of office as members of our Board.

At the same time I wish to pay a tribute to the outgoing members of our Board including Professor James McCormick and Mrs. Dymphna Clune, for their excellent service during terms of office ranging from 5 years to 21 years. In this regard I wish to endorse the sentiments expressed by the Chairman in relation to Mrs. Chine. She took a deep interest in the business of our Board since she was first appointed as a member in 1982 and I particularly admired her committment when Chairman of our Board from 1986 to 1988.

2. *Ballymun Home Help Service*

At the June meeting of our Board I informed members that discussions were being held with the Ballymun Home Help Organisation regarding their funding from our Board.

I wish to report that the discussions with the Organisation have since been satisfactorily concluded and I have written in detail to Cllr. Shortall in that regard.

3. *Letter from the Department of Health dated 15th June, regarding the Commission and Status of Women*

I have circulated this evening for the information of members copies of letter dated 15th June. 1992 from the Department of Health enclosing a summary of the recommendations of the interim report of the Commission on the Status of Women, one of which relates to the appointment of women to boards.

Our Board is requested to bear the recommendations in mind in considering future nominations.

4. Foreign Adoptions

I have circulated this evening for the information of members copies of letter dated 18th June 1992 from the Adoption Board regarding the recognition under Irish law of adoptions effected in foreign countries by persons resident in or outside the state.

5. Outlying Ante-Natal Clinics for the Coombe Hospital

I am pleased to inform members that we have received confirmation from the Coombe Hospital regarding the development of outlying ante-natal clinics in Tallaght with effect from 1st July, 1992 and the establishment of a new outlying ante-natal clinic in the Rowlagh/ Neilstown area with effect from 1st August, 1992.

These arrangements will continue in place until 1st July, 1993 and will be the subject of a formal review before 1st April, 1993.

6. Mental Treatment (Amendment) Bill 1992

I have circulated this evening copies of the Mental Treatment (Amendment) Bill 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum.

With the members agreement this Bill can be considered in greater detail by the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

7. Membership of Comhairle na nOspideal

I have circulated this evening copies of letter dated 30th June from the Department of Health requesting, as a matter of urgency and, in any event, not later than 8th July, a list of persons willing to act on Comhairle na nOspideal.

In March 1989 our Board nominated Dr. B. O'Herlihy, Dr. J. O'Boyle and myself for consideration by the Minister for appointment to Comhairle."

The following persons were nominated for consideration by the Minister in the appointment of Comhairle na nOspideal:-

Mr. K.J. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer and the following Board members, Dr. M. Wrigley, Dr. B. O'Herlihy, Dr. C. Smith and Dr. J. Reilly.

72/1992

PROGRAMME COMMITTEES - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 9/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"At the June meeting of our Board it was agreed that consideration of the membership of the Programme Committees should be deferred until the first meeting of our Board following the elections to our Board of the members by professions.

The membership list for the three Programme Committees, amended as provided for in Standing Orders, is enclosed. This incorporates new members of our Board elected in the elections referred to above.

In accordance with Standing Orders any two members who wish to jointly exchange Committee membership may make one such exchange and should jointly notify the Secretary to this effect not later than 21st July, 1992.

The final lists of membership of the three Programme Committees will be circulated for confirmation at the August meeting of our Board.”

It was agreed to note the Report.

73/1993

BUDGET WORKING GROUP - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 10/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

“At the June meeting of our Board it was agreed that consideration of the membership of the Budget Working Group should be deferred until the first meeting of our Board following the elections to our Board of the members by professions.

Standing Orders provide that the Budget Working Group shall consist of:-

- (a) a core group of nine members who shall serve for their full five-year term of office, and
- (b) a group of four members who shall change each year and be appointed at the annual meeting of our Board

The membership of the Budget Working Group for 1991/1992 is set out hereunder.-

- (a)
 1. Cllr. I. Callely T.D.
 2. Mrs. D. Clune
 3. Prof. J. McCormick
 4. Cllr. F. Hynes
 5. Dr. J. O'Boyle
 6. Ms. M. Nealon
 7. Dr. B. O'Herlihy
 8. Cllr. T. Keenan
 9. Dr. D.I. Keane
- (b)
 1. Dr. J. Masterson
 2. Cllr. J. Reilly
 3. Cllr. J. Connolly
 4. Cllr. K. Farrell

Cllr. I. Callely T.D. Cllr. F. Hynes and Cllr. T. Keenan will continue to serve as members of the core group for the duration of their present 5-year term of Board membership.

It will be necessary to seek nominations for the other six places on the core group and for four places on the group under (b) above.

If the number of nominations made exceeds the number of vacancies the agreed procedure is that the election for appointment of members to the Budget Working Group will take place at the following meeting of our Board.”

The following members were then nominated for election to the core group (a)

1. Cllr. O. Mitchell
2. Ms. M. Nealon
3. Dr. B. O’Herlihy
4. Dr. D.L Keane
5. Cllr. K. Farrell
6. Cllr. J. Connolly
7. Cllr. M. Barrett T.D.

Six members from the above list to be elected at the August meeting.

The following members were nominated for election to group (b)

1. Cllr. D. Marren
2. Dr. R. Corcoran
3. Cur. G. Brady
4. Cllr. R. Shortall
5. Cllr. R. Roche T.D.
6. Dr. J. Fennell

Four members from the above list to be elected at the August meeting.

74/1992

ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS IN IRELAND - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 11/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

“Our Board has been represented at meetings of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland by the under-mentioned members:-

1. Cllr. I. Callely T.D.
2. Cllr. F. Hynes
3. Cllr. B. Briscoe T.D.
4. Dr. P. McCarthy
5. Dr. R Hawkins
6. Dr. J. O’Boyle
7. Cllr. B. Coffey
8. Cllr. M. Barrett T.D.

The Association’s Consitution provides that nominated members shall represent the Health Board for their term of office and that fresh nomintions shall be made on the termination of their terms of office.

The term of office of the following members of our Board has now expired:-

1. Dr. P. McCarthy
2. Dr. R Hawkins
3. Dr. J. O'Boyle

The nomination of three members to represent our Board at meetings of the Association of Health Boards is a matter for our Board."

The following three members were elected to fill the vacancies:-

1. Cllr. C Gallagher
2. Dr. R. Hawkins
3. Mr. G. McGuire

75/1902

**REPORT OF BUDGET WORKING GROUP - FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST MAY.
1992 AND OTHER MATTERS**

Report No. F3/1992 (copy filed with official minute), copies of which were circulated, was noted on a proposal by Dr. O'Herlihy, seconded by Deputy Briscoe.

76/1992

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report

- (a) North County Dublin Psychiatric Service
- (b) Forensic Service
- (c) Resettlement/Rehabilitation Progress Report
- (d) Review of Rehabilitation Services at St. Lomans' Hospital and services at Larine Hostel and Larine Court, Maynooth
- (e) Report of Inspector of Mental Hospitals for 1988 and 1989 and commentary by the Chief Executive Officer

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. Dr. O'Connell seconded by Cllr. Keenan, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report

- (a) Commencement of work on the ambulance base at Naas General Hospital
- (b) Upgrading of the Coronary Care Unit/ICU. Pharmacy and completion of the new Histopathology Laboratory at St. Columcille's Hospital
- (c) Commencement of ante-natal clinics at Rowlagh Health Centre with effect from 1st August. 1992 and further development of ante-natal clinics in Tallaght from 1st July. 1992.
- (d) Need for a North City Ambulance base
- (e) Report on services in James Connolly Memorial Hospital

3. Community Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Cllr. Coffey, seconded by Cllr. Marren, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report

- (a) Transfer of staff from Emmet House and River House to Dr. Steeven's Hospital
- (b) Progress report on the processing of applications for foreign adoptions
- (c) Refurbishment of Carneige Centre. Lord Edward Street.
- (d) Report on Services in Area No. 3.

77/1992

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. *The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, and agreed:-*
"That this Board would contact the Minister for Health with a view to obtaining a definite schedule for the implementation of the remaining stages of the Naas Hospital Development Plan objectives in this regard before the end of the current year."
2. *The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, and agreed:-*
"That this Board would report on the progress to date on the home maker scheme as it relates to 'at risk' families."

It was noted that a progress report on the development of the various schemes would be presented to the Board in six months time.

3. *The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan:-*

“That this Board would again evaluate its progress to date dealing with a reduction in the numbers on the orthodontic waiting list with a view to setting attainable objectives in this regard before the end of the year.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Reilly and, following a discussion to which Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Reilly, Deputy Callely and Cllr. Shortall contributed, the Chief Executive Chief informed the members that six monthly progress reports are presented to the Board through the Community Care Programme Committee.

In the meantime the current position in relation to the waiting list for Co. Kildare will be advised to Deputy Durkan following its current review.

4. *The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Shortall*

“That this Board is opposed to attempts to exempt workers in the Home Help services from recent labour legislation which would give them an entitlement to holiday pay and further calls on the Minister for Health to ensure that these workers be given the full protection of the law.”

The motion was seconded by Deputy Barrett and, following a discussion to which Cllr. Shortall, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Roche, Cllr. Dr. O’Connell and Dr. O’Herlihy contributed, the Chief Executive Officer informed the members regarding discussions taking place at national level in this matter; he stated that workers in the Home Help service in our Board’s area were not employees of the Eastern Health Board and that no attempt had been made by our Board to exempt workers from recent labour legislation. He suggested that the outcome of the review which was taking place at national level should be awaited.

The motion, having been put at the request of Cllr. Shortall, was agreed on a show of hands. Deputy Roche and Cllr. Reilly asked that their abstention should be recorded.

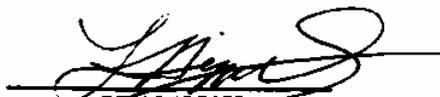
78/1992

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The meeting concluded at 8.90 p.m.

**CORRECT: K. J. HICKET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



CHAIRMAN

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Report No. F.3/1992

Report of Budget Working Group-Financial position at 31st May, 1992 and other matters

- 1 At a meeting of the Budget Working Group on 29th June, 1992 the following financial report for the period ended 31st May, 1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was noted:-

<u>“Summary Results</u>	£000
Budget to 31st May 1992	107.581
Expenditure to 31st May 1992	110.481
Unfavourable Variance	<u>£2.900</u>

Summary Analysis of Variance

[1] <u>Demand Led Schemes</u>	£000	
Refund of Drugs	1.370	
Drug Cost Subsidisation Scheme	260	
Long Term Illness Scheme	480	
Hardship Medicines Scheme	162	
Total Community Drugs Schemes	<u>2.272</u>	
Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance	348	
Total Demand Led Schemes		£2,620
[2] <u>Other Variances</u>		
Pay Costs	186	
Non Pay Costs	174	
	360	
Favourable Income Variance	<u><80></u>	
Total Variance		<u>280</u>
		<u>£2.900</u>

DEMAND LED SCHEMES

The escalation in demand and expenditure levels experienced in 1991 appears to have continued in 1992. We are unable to give precise figures in regard to the Community Drugs Schemes at this juncture due to the effects of the recent postal strike, which has significantly delayed claims. An estimate based on trends in claiming and expenditure levels for the first quarter 1992 indicates that Community Drugs Schemes will cost £5m in excess of the available budget this year. In addition an estimated £1.3m extra will be spent on the Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances Scheme. The Department of Health is being kept informed of the trends in these open ended schemes. We have requested a meeting between our Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer and the Minister and his Senior Officials to discuss our estimated over-expenditure of £6.3m on demand led schemes in 1992. A date has not yet been fixed for this meeting but indications from contacts at official level are that our Board's request for funding of the actual costs of these open-ended schemes, which are not amenable to any control by us, is accepted in principle.

OTHER VARIANCES

POU

Our Boards pay budget is £186.000 over budget at the end of May. The analysis of this variance is as follows:

	£000
Special Hospitals	139
General Hospital	<u>96</u>
	235
Other Net Favourable Variances	<u><69></u>
	186

The variance arises mainly in respect of the phasing of arrears payments due to consultants under the terms of the revised Consultant Common Contract. Additional funding has been provided by the Department of Health and an adjustment will be made to the budget base to reflect the increased costs involved. Other minor variances in respect of on-call allowances will also be cleared before the year end.

Non Pay

The analysis of the non pay variance is as follows:

	£000
General Hospital	94
Maintenance Costs	<u>204</u>
	298
Other Net Favourable Variances	<u><124></u>
	174

In the General Hospital Programme the increased expenditure mainly reflects the impact of additional service activity in both James Connolly Memorial and Cherry Orchard Hospitals. The costs of drugs and medicines account for most of the unfavourable variance reported. Management action has already been taken to correct this position and the variance reported for May in fact shows a reduction on the corresponding figure for April.

Our maintenance costs to the end of May have exceeded budget targets by approximately £200,000. This over-expenditure reflects the progress that has already been achieved in tackling the priority maintenance programme agreed by our Board for this year. As the year progresses and as the priority work is completed we will see a reduction in this expenditure to bring it back in line with targets.

Cash Flow

As members are already aware our Board experienced significant cash flow difficulties in the latter part of 1991. This situation improved during 1992 but however, due to the effects of having to meet the additional costs associated with the budget overrun on the demand led schemes, our Board is again beginning to experience pressure on our cash resources. As the year further progresses it is anticipated that this pressure will become more acute thus affecting our ability to settle accounts on time. The Department of Health has been made fully aware of the difficulties we face in this area and this problem will be the subject of further discussion with them.”

2. Department of Health Circular No. 11/92 dated 10th June. 1992 drawing attention to the statutory requirement in Sections 77 and 78 of the Health Act 1947 in relation to the sanction of the Minister for Health to the acquisition of land by a health board was noted.
3. Members noted that discussions were taking place regarding the acquisition of St. Kyran's property for mental handicap services and houses to replace Unit B at St. Loman's.

Members also noted that it is proposed to dispose of portion of our Board's site at Greystones Health Centre to the local Bridge Club; a Section 83 notice will be submitted to the Board in due course.

Ivor Callely T.D.
Chairman

1st July, 1992