

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 3rd September, 1992 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	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.	Cllr. B. Coffey
Dr. R. Corcoran	Cllr. L. Creaven
Cllr. J. Doyle, T.D.	Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.
Cllr. K. Farrell	Dr. J. Fennell
Cllr. C. Gallagher	Cllr. R. Greene
Cllr. F. Hynes	Cllr. T. Keenan
Cllr. D. Marren	Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. Dr. W. J. O'Connell	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. J. Reilly	Dr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Roche, T.D.	Cllr. R. Shortall
Dr. R. Whitty	Dr. M. Wrigley

Apologies

Dr. R. Hawkins, Dr. C. Smith

In the Chair

Cllr. F. Hynes

Officers in Attendance

Mr. M. Walsh, D/Chief Executive Officer
 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
 Mr. G. Brennan. Technical Services Officer
 Ms. M. Kelly, A/Personnel Officer
 Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

92/1992

CONDOLENCES

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

- Mary O'Dowd, Public Health Nurse. Rathfarnham Health Centre, on the death of her mother.
- Josephine Roche. Community Welfare Office, Park House, on the death of her mother.
- Gerry Brennan, Technical Services Officer, on the death of his sister.
- Alan Morrisroe. Clerical Officer, Payments Section, on the death of his mother.
- Mr. Kevin Whelan, Warehouse Manager, on the death of his wife.
- Mr. Michael Sheehan, Community Welfare Officer, Area 2, on the death of his brother.
- Pat Buggy, Ambulance Driver. Naas Hospital, on the death of his son.

93/1992

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

1. Exhibition "Dublin 1902 -A Healthy City?"

I have circulated, for the information of members, copies of a notice regarding the Dublin Healthy Cities Project Exhibition which will be officially opened in the Supper Room. Mansion House on Tuesday 22nd September, 1992 at 11:00 a.m. by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Chairmen of our Board. Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Corporation.

Members will receive their invitations with the next few days.

2. Visit by Minister for Health to AIDS Clinics at Baggot Street and Cherry Orchard Hospitals

I wish to inform members that the Minister for Health. Dr. John O'Connell, T.D., accompanied by the Vice-Chairman and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, visited our Board's Satellite Clinics at Baggot Street and Cherry Orchard Hospitals yesterday. 2nd September. 1992.

These Clinics were established in line with the recommendations of the National AIDS Strategy Committee."

94/1992

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 6TH AUGUST, 1992

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6th August, 1992, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Deputy Barrett, seconded by Dr. Corcoran.

95/1992

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

1. *Infectious Diseases [Maintenance] Regulations, 1992*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 28th July. 1992 from the Department of Health, enclosing a copy of the Infectious Diseases [Maintenance] Regulations. 1992 which gave effect to the budget increases with effect from 27th July. 1992.

2. *Immunisation Programme - Bacterial Meningitis*

I have circulated, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 30th July. 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the introduction from the 1st October. 1992 of an Immunisation Programme against Haemophilus Influenza Type B [HIB] which is designed to prevent, in particular, cases of Bacterial Meningitis.

Members will note that the U.K. and Northern Ireland are introducing a similar vaccination programme on the same day and that it is proposed that the launch of the Programme on a 32 County basis will be co-ordinated.

While the vaccine supply will be negotiated by our Board's Central Purchasing Unit, its distribution will be undertaken directly between the supplier Companies and the Health Boards in the usual manner.

3. *Lord Mayor's Commission on Housing*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 13th August 1992 from Dublin Corporation conveying the terms of reference of the Commission on Housing which has recently been established by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Ald. Gay Mitchell T.D. under the Chairmanship of Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald. T.D.

Our Board's views have been requested on the matters covered in the terms of reference.

With the members' agreement, it is proposed that this matter can be considered in further detail at the September meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.

4. *"Health Service News"*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of the August, 1992 edition of Health Service News which is prepared by the Health Services Development Unit of the Institute of Public Administration.

5. *"World Day of the Sick"*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 26th August, 1992 from the Department of Health enclosing information received from the Department of Foreign Affairs concerning the designation by the Vatican of the 11th February, 1993 as "World Day of the Sick".

6. *Forensic Psychiatric Nursing Course and Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing Course*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letters dated 28th July, 1992 from An Bord Altranais advising that Category 2 approval has been granted for two years by An Bord Altranais in respect of our Board's Forensic and Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing Courses.

7. *A Charter of Rights for Hospital Patients*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of the Charter of Rights for Hospital Patients which was announced by the Minister for Health on 31st August, 1992.

The information in the Charter of Rights has also been incorporated into a poster which will be widely displayed throughout our Board's General Hospitals.

8. *Home Help Service and the Worker Protection [Regular Part-time Employees] Act, 1991*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 27th July, 1992 from the Department of Health in response to the resolution passed at the July meeting of our Board regarding the Home Help Service and the Worker Protection [Regular Part-time Employees] Act, 1991.

As already noted at the July meeting of our Board, the issues which have been raised in this matter are the subject of discussion at national level through the auspices of the Local Government Staff Negotiation Board. I will advise members of the outcome of these discussions when they have been completed.

9. *Supports for Foster Parents*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of Department of Health letter dated 18th August giving details of new arrangements which came into effect on 1st September, 1992 in relation to the range and level of financial supports for foster parents and referring to the agreement that foster parents should not be required to undergo means testing in order to obtain financial assistance for clothing and other routine expenditure in respect of a foster child.

Members will note that reference is made in the letter to the fact that, generally speaking, the supports provided by our Board exceed those available in the other health boards.

10. *Bosnian Refugees*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of a report prepared by the Programme Manager. General Hospital Care, giving the up-to-date situation on our Board's accommodating Bosnian Refugees at Cherry Orchard Hospital

I am sure members will join with me in expressing our thanks to the Programme Manager, the staff at Cherry Orchard Hospital and the Technical Services staff for the expeditious manner in which they prepared the accommodation at the Nurses Home in Cherry Orchard Hospital to accommodate the refugees.

11. *AONTAS – The National Association of Adult Education*

I wish to let members know that AONTAS - the National Association of Adult Education, are holding a major exhibition displaying the wide range of opportunities which exist for adults to learn something new or to upgrade their existing skills.

The exhibition, which is being held in the Mansion House, commenced on 2nd September will continue until 9 p.m. on Friday 4th September.

Our Board has a stand in the Exhibition which concentrates on educational opportunities for the handicapped, on health information/education and on life style advice.

12. *Satellite Clinics*

The Chairman, in his report, referred to the visit yesterday by the Minister for Health to the Satellite Clinics at Cherry Orchard and Baggot Street Hospitals.

The Satellite Clinic at Cherry Orchard Hospital was opened on 26th August, 1992 and provides a comprehensive range of primary care services - General Practitioner, Counselling. Outreach and Community Welfare type services.

The Clinic in Baggot Street Hospital has been further developed recently to incorporate General Practitioner services.

Other services, which were funded in the May initiative, have also been put in place, namely, Palliative Care Services, Outreach Services and Community Drugs Teams."

96/1992

MEMBERSHIP OF BALLYMUN COMMITTEE

The following report no. 18/1992 was submitted:-

"Following the recent changes in our Board's membership three vacancies exist on our Board's Special Committee on Ballymun.

The current membership of the Special Committee on Ballymun is as follows:-

Cllr. F. Hynes [Chairman]
Cllr. M. Barrett, T.D.
Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. C. Gallagher
Cllr. R Greene
Cllr. T. Keenan
Mr. G. McGuire
Ms. M. Nealon
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. R Shortall

The filling of the vacancies, arising from the recent changes in our Board's membership, is a matter for our Board."

It was unanimously agreed that the following members should be appointed to fill the vacancies on the Committee:-

1. *Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.*
2. *Cllr. L. Creaven*
3. *Cllr. K. Farrell*

97/1992

INCIDENCE OF CANCER AND ASTHMA RELATED DEATHS IN BALLYMUN/SANTRY AREA

The following Report no. 14/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"At the June meeting of our Board it was agreed that Professor Brendan O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health, should carry out a comprehensive study in relation to reports of an unusually high incidence of cancer and asthma-related deaths in the Ballymun/Santry area.

Members noted at the July meeting of our Board that a full report would be available for the August meeting of our Board.

A copy of Professor O'Donnell's report is attached."

At the request of the Chairman, Professor O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health introduced and elaborated on his report [copy filed with official minute]. He summarised the conclusions of the study as follows:-

1. *The overall death rate for the Ballymun area is average compared with Dublin as a whole.*
2. *The overall death rate and the cancer death rates are slightly increased in the Ballymun "A". area for the years studied. However the increased cancer death rates are not attributable to environmental factors.*
3. *Electro magnetic radiation levels are within normal limits.*

4. *The local population can be completely reassured about electro magnetic radiation levels and their impact on health.*

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Shortall, Deputy Roche, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Byrne, Deputy Callely, Dr. O'Hertihy, Cllr. Coffey and Deputy Durkan contributed members noted the report and thanked Professor O'Donnell and his colleagues for the detailed information made available.

The direct link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer was noted and it was agreed that it was important that this message should be communicated to the public. It was also agreed that facilities for the early detection of cancer should be availed of .

Members requested that the available international literature in relation to high tension electricity cables and electro magnetic radiation should be monitored and agreed that a further check should be carried out in a particular location indicated by Councillor Shortall.

98/1992

REPORT OF BUDGET WORKING GROUP - FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30TH JUNE, 1992 AND OTHER MATTERS

Report no. F4/1992 from the Budget Working Group [copy filed with official minute] regarding our Board's financial position at 30th June, 1992 and other matters was adopted on a proposal by Dr. O'Hertihy, seconded by Deputy Callely.

Deputy Byrne, Cllr. Mitchell, Mrs. Bonar and Mr. McGuire requested that their dissension from the adoption of the report should be recorded.

99/1992

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. **Special Hospital Care Programme Committee**

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] **An Bord Altranais approval for Post-Graduate Training Programmes in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and in Forensic Psychiatry.**
- [b] **Approval from Comhairle na n'Ospideal for the filling of a number of Consultant posts.**
- [c] **Social skills development training.**
- [d] **Review of services in North County Dublin,**
- [e] **Review of Alcoholism service.**

2. Genera Hospital Care Programme Committee.

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Re-election of Dr. R Corcoran as Chairman of the Committee.
- [b] Re-election of Cllr. G. Brady as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.
- [c] Advertisement of post of Consultant Physician in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation at Naas Hospital.
- [d] Upgrading of the ICU/CCU Unit at St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.
- [e] Advertisement for the filling of post of Consultant Geriatrician South Dublin.
- [f] Reception of Bosnian Refugees into Cherry Orchard Hospital.
- [g] Report on services in Bru Chaoimhin. Cork Street.

100/1992

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. *The notice of motion in the name of Cllr. R. Roche, T.D. seeking a report on the potential health hazards from the operation of the sewerage plant in Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow was in his absence, not moved.*

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Greene and seconded by Mrs. Bonar.

That this Board recommend that there should be a tax on alcohol advertising on Radio and Television to help fund the Board's alcohol treatment programmes and finance advertising on the dangers of alcohol abuse and that alcohol products should carry a health warning similar to that on tobacco products or recommend that alcohol advertising on radio and television should be banned.

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Mrs. Bonar, Deputy Byrne, Deputy Callely and Deputy Shortall contributed and to which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied the motion, having been amended as follows on a proposal by Deputy Callely, was agreed:

"That this Board recommends that distillers, brewers and suppliers should make a contribution towards the cost of alcohol abuse treatment programmes related to the amounts spent on advertising of alcohol on radio and television."

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Greene and seconded by Mrs. Bonari:

That this Board recommend that ward F1 in St. Mary's be adequately furnished and equipped to function as a day room for the elderly patients there.

Mr. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care informed the members that Ward F1 accommodates 31 long-stay heavy dependent patients who were mostly immobile. A programme of re-organisation had already been undertaken to maximise the availability of floor space, including the conversion of the former day room into a bed area and the conversion of a former bed area into a day room in a more suitable location. The new day room would accommodate up to 20 patients. Work on this upgrading had been proceeding for the past three months and, when concluded, appropriate furniture would be put in place. He expected that the work would be completed in 6 weeks time.

The position as outlined was noted.

4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Greene and seconded by Mrs. Bonar:-

In view of the growing concern amongst parents about the Stay Safe programme that this Board hold a special meeting to discuss the programme.

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Cllr. Shortall, Deputy Byrne and Mrs. Bonar contributed and to which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer replied, the motion was lost on a show of hands.

101/1992

CORRESPONDENCE

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

102/1992

OTHER BUSINESS

- [i] In response to an enquiry from Mr. McGuire, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer informed members regarding the ongoing rationalisation of rehabilitation services and of the role played by EVE Holdings Ltd. He suggested that if there were difficulties in relation to an individual case he would examine the position on receipt of further details.*
- [ii] Mr. McGuire requested that his dissatisfaction be recorded in relation to the Chairman's ruling that a motion which he had tabled should be disallowed from inclusion on the agenda for the meeting.*

03/09/1992

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The Chairman explained that he had disallowed the motion as it related to staff matters which were an executive function.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.

Correct: M. Walah,
Deputy Chief Executive Officer.



CHAIRMAN

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Report No. F.4/1992

Report of the Budget Working Group - Financial position at 30th June, 1992 and other matters

At a meeting of the Budget Working Group on 24th August 1992 the Deputy Chief Executive Officer reported in relation to our Board's financial position for the six months to 30th June 1992.

Members noted the following matters in relation to the Demand Led Schemes.

- The Community Drugs Schemes had exceeded our budget capacity by approximately £2.9m at 30th June 1992 and should those trends continue a budget overrun of £5.5m is anticipated by the year end.
- Cash Allowances (DPMA, etc.) paid by our Board were approximately £0.5m over budget by the end of June, which would result in a projected overrun of £1.3m by the year end.
- The level of demand for these schemes is not answerable to any management action or control by our Board and can only be influenced by modifications in the individual schemes. The Department of Health have accepted this position and discussions are continuing regarding the provision of the necessary financial allocation to protect our Board's financial and cash liquidity position.

Members expressed concern regarding the spiralling costs of the demand led schemes and the restriction this was imposing on the level of funds left to meet the costs of other health services. It was recommended that the Department of Health should consider the setting up of a working group to examine ways of bringing the demand led schemes under control.

It was also noted that other adverse variances for the first six months of the year amounted to approximately £0.5m. This overrun relates to phasing of some of our Value For Money measures and will require to be eliminated in second half of the year. In addition to this, two other factors will cause additional financial pressure for 1992 unless they can be resolved with the Department of Health.

The first of these concern the developments which took place in 1991 in Child Care Services and the full year effect of these together with other developments being phased in during 1992 will cause additional expenditure of £0.5m over and above existing budget capacity.

The second area of expenditure relates to the carryover costs in 1992 of special pay awards and the cost of general wage rounds in 1992 for staff employed in external agencies funded by our Board. Commitments in respect of these claims, which our Board has not yet been funded for, will cost an additional £0.9m over and above the budget capacity available.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Health on these two matters.

Targets saving of £500,000 set for our Board by the Minister for Health (letter dated 30th July 1992 from Departments of Health attached, as previously circulated)

The addition of a further savings target of £0.5m will require intensive management action in the time remaining between now and the end of the year if it is to be achieved along with the elimination of the over-run of £0.5m for the first half of the year, especially if measures to be taken are to avoid any reduction in services.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer reported on proposals aimed at intensifying our existing Value For Money Programme across all cost headings, but with particular reference to the following broad target areas:-

[1] Extending Central Purchasing Arrangements	£100,000
[2] Intensifying Cost Efficiencies	£200,000
[3] Additional Income	£100,000
[4] Other Cost Reductions	£100,000
Total	<hr/> £500,000

It will be necessary for the Budget Working Group to closely monitor the results of the intensified efforts to achieve the additional savings sought, and our Board will be kept advised of the position. In this regard also I have already advised our Board that a further meeting is to take place between the Minister for Health and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer's of health boards this Autumn.

Frank Hynes
Chairman

3rd September 1992