

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Eastern Health Board Meeting
held in
The Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 17th December, 1992 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. M. Barrett
Mrs. B. Bonar	Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. J. Connolly	Dr. R Corcoran
Cllr. L. Creaven	Cllr. J. Doyle
Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.	Cllr. K. Farrell
Dr. J. Fennell	Cllr. C. Gallagher
Cllr. R Greene	Dr. R Hawkins
Dr. D. I. Keane	Cllr. T. Keenan
Cllr. D. Marren	Mr. G. McGuire
Ms. M. Nealon	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Dr. B. O'Herlihy	Cllr. J. Reilly
Dr. J. Reilly	Cllr. R Shortall, T.D.
Dr. C. Smith	Dr. M. Wrigley

Apologies

Cllr. F. Hynes

In the Chair

Cllr. M. Barrett

Officers in Attendance

Mr. K.J. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. J. Doyle, A/Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr. S. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr. T. Harmon, A/Programme Manager, Special 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

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CONDOLENCES

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

- Ms. Martha Carroll, Cleaner. Community Care Area 3 on the death of her sister.
- The family of Mr. John Brennan, Administrator. St. Loman's Hospital.
- Mr. Frank Murphy. Community Care Service. Area no. 7. on the death of his father.
- Mr. Paddy Doran. Community Welfare Officer. Area no. 8. on the death of his father.
- Mr. Paul Byrne. Community Care Area 1. on the death of his father.

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Acting Chairman, Councillor Michael Barrett, informed the members that the Chairman, Cllr. Frank Hynes, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The members ? that their best wishes for a speedy recovery, and for a happy Christmas, should be conveyed to him.

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

“1. Results of General Election

On behalf of the members I congratulate those members of our Board who were successful in the recent General Elections. Our commiserations go to those Dail Deputies who sought re-election and who were unsuccessful on this occasion; also to those members who sought election but were unsuccessful in their campaigns.

2. January 1993 Meeting of our Board

With the members' agreement. it is proposed that the January meeting of our Board will be held on the 2nd Thursday In January i.e. 14th January. 1993 at 6:00 p.m.

3. European Heritage Award - Dr. Steevens' Hospital

I am pleased to inform members that, at a function in Brussels on 10th December. 1992 at which our Board was represented by myself as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Kieran Hickey. Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Philip Doyle. Estate Management Officer, our new Headquarters in Dr. Steevens' Hospital was recognised as one of the successful conservation/ restoration projects in the Commission of the European Communities programme aimed at the preservation of the European Architectural Heritage for 1992.

This was indeed a very prestigious award since it was one of only 46 successful projects out of 959 applications from the 12 Member States of the E.C. Three awards were also made to Eastern European countries. Our Board can feel very proud of this award and I am sure members would like to express their appreciation to all those connected with the Project.

The award which was made to our Board is on exhibition just inside the door to the Boardroom together with the very fine illustrated booklet showing all of the projects."

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER. 1992

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November, 1992, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Keenan.

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ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The following Report No. 27/1992 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.

The term of office of the St James's Hospital Board expired on 5th December. 1992 and we have been requested to advise the Minister for Health as soon as possible of our Board's four nominees for appointment to the Board for a five year term of office.

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

1. Councillor Frank Hynes
2. Mrs. Bernadette Bonar
3. Mrs. Dymphna Clune
4. Councillor W J. O'Connell

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

Following a secret ballot the under-mentioned were nominated for appointment by the Minister for Health to be members of the Board of St. James's Hospital:-

1. *Dr. Don Keane*
2. *Cllr. Eric Byrne*
3. *Cllr. Frank Hynes*
4. *Mrs. Dymphna Clune*

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. Farrell, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

“1. Cllr. J. Connolly

Will the Chief Executive Officer report on the various eating houses in O’Connell Street and if visits are frequently made to these and if any incidence of poor quality or otherwise is reported.

Reply

There are 38 food premises in O’Connell Street comprising:-

Restaurants, including Fast Food	22
Licensed Premises	2
Retail, including Sandwich Bar, Doughnut Kiosk	12
Hotels	2

In the last six months, seventy inspections were carried out on these premises. One prosecution resulted in a conviction and one recommendation was made for prosecution. Warning letters in respect of seventeen premises and four notices were served.

Thirty six food samples, including ice samples, were taken. Four applications for registration were submitted - two were granted provisional registration and two were refused.

2. Cllr. J. Connolly

Has the Chief Executive Officer a full register of “Pub Eating Houses” and can he say if regular visits are made to them by Health Inspectors and what is the incidence of poor quality or otherwise.

Reply

A register of food premises is maintained by our Board. This register incorporates all registrable food premises including “pub eating houses”. Regular inspections are carried out on all food premises and action is taken in relation to any contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

3. Cllr. K. Farrell

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to give a detailed report on negotiations between the Eastern Health Board and Cherry Orchard Football Club about the possible purchase of approx. 17 acres of land at Cherry Orchard Hospital from the Eastern Health Board by Cherry Orchard Football club and in his reply could be indicate when this possible sale might be finalised.

Reply

Very preliminary discussions only have taken place in recent weeks in response to an approach by Cherry Orchard Football Club. They had a primary request for 17 acres of land and a secondary request for 3 acres approx. If their primary request could not be granted.

It was indicated to the representatives of Cherry Orchard Football Club that their requirement for 17 acres almost certainly cannot be facilitated and that they would be informed as soon possible if their secondary request for 3 acres could be negotiated. This would depend on a number of factors which are currently under examination but it is not certain at this stage if any sale can be recommended to our Board.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted and agreed subject to the comments recorded below:-

1. *Letter dated 19th November, 1992 from Drinks Industry Group*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 19th November, 1992 from the Drinks Industry Group in response to the resolution adopted at the September meeting of our Board which recommended that distillers, brewers and suppliers should make a contribution towards the cost of alcohol abuse treatment programmes related to the amounts spent on the advertising of alcohol on radio and television.

2. *Extra Payment of Allowances for One Week in November*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 11th November, 1992 from the Department of Health authorising the making of an additional payment of 70% of the value of a single week's payment to recipients of long-term welfare allowances for one week in November, 1992. This has been implemented.

3. *Child Care Services*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 13th November, 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the making available of £75,000 to our Board from the special allocation of £2m. for child care set aside in the 1992 budget. The allocation is intended for certain minor capital works and other once-off items of expenditure in the child care area as detailed in the letter.

4. *Additional funding for services for persons with a mental handicap*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 16th November, 1992 from the Department of Health notifying approval to capital expenditure to the level of £323,000 in respect of a number of developments for persons with a mental handicap in our Board's area as detailed in the letter.

5. *National Lottery Proceeds, 1992*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 24th November, 1992 from the Department of Health listing a number of miscellaneous grants to Organisations issued directly by the Department in 1992 from the proceeds of the National Lottery as detailed in the letter.

6. *Task Force on Special Housing Aid for the Elderly*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 3rd November, 1992 from the Department of the Environment, advising that a further £114,000 had been allocated to our Board by the Task Force on Special Housing Aid for the Elderly, bringing the total provision for our Board in 1992 to £367,000.

7. *Health Family Planning [Amendment, Act, 1992 and Health Family Planning [Amendment] Regulations, 1992*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 16th November, 1992 from the Department of Health enclosing, for information, copies of the Health Family Planning [Amendment] Act, 1992 and the Health Family Planning [Amendment] Regulations, 1992.

8. *Off the Streets Safe House for the Young Homeless*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 30th November, 1992 from the Department of Health advising that a sum of £25,000 is being made available from the special allocation of £2m. for child care towards the cost of refurbishment work at Sliabh na mBan premises at Stanhope Street to provide a safe house for young homeless people there.

9. *GMS Guidelines*

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of the guidelines for the assessment of application for medical cards which have been revised with effect from 1st January, 1993 in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index in the year to mid-August, 1992.

10. *Services for Homeless Persons*

Members will be aware of the public concern at the recent death of three single adult persons to Dublin, two of whom were found on an open site and one in a derelict building

- [a] The statutory responsibility for providing accommodation and services for young homeless persons under the age of 18 years lies with our Board.

- [b] Under the Housing Act 1988 the primary statutory responsibility for accommodating adult homeless persons lies with the local housing authorities including:-
- (i) making arrangements with voluntary housing organizations
 - (ii) providing assistance, including financial assistance to homeless persons, and
 - (iii) if necessary, by renting accommodation for homeless persons.
- [c] Our Board co-operates with the Dublin Corporation in regard to adult homeless in the following ways:-
- (I) Through participation in a Housing Forum which was set up by the Corporation and on which there are also representatives of the voluntary agencies dealing with the adult homeless
 - (II) Through the Homeless Persons Unit at Charles Street which is operated by our Community Welfare Section the cost of which is recouped by the Dublin Corporation.
- [d] Our Board has been co-operating fully with the following initiatives taken in response to the recent tragic events:-
- (I) Co-operation with Dublin Corporation and to particular through participation to the Group set up by the Lord Mayor to report urgently to Dublin Corporation on steps necessary to respond to the problems of the single adult homeless.
 - (II) Co-operation with the initiatives taken by the Government by making available to the Army authorities accommodation for 25 adult homeless persons to a building at Lower Grange Gorman. This building is now entirely separate from St. Brendan's Hospital and has no association with the psychiatric service.
- [e] It is unfortunate that to the course of some media reports over the past week the impression may have been created that the discharge of former psychiatric patients into the community has created a further problem of adult homelessness. I want to take this opportunity of stating publicly that all of the 450 former long-stay psychiatric patients who have been rehabilitated and resettled by our Board are now living successfully to the community to a range of accommodation provided by our Board and with a range of supports geared according to their needs. None of these patients who have been resettled to the community has had to rely on any of the hostels for the homeless run by the voluntary organisations.
- However our Board does provide a day care and support service at St. Brendan's Hospital for a number of adult homeless who are living in hostels provided by the voluntary sector.

- [f] I shall keep our Board informed of any further developments in relation to the initiatives I have referred to above and we shall continue to co-operate with the Dublin Corporation and the other housing authorities in our area in whatever way we can to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities for the adult homeless.
- [g] Finally, as our Board will be aware, during the course of the past year our Board has, with the support of the Department of Health, put in place a considerable range of additional services for young homeless persons, including a 24 hour emergency social work service.

11. *The Drug Treatment Centre Board [Establishment] Order, 1988 [Amendment] Order, 1992*

A copy of the Drug Treatment Centre Board [Establishment] Order, 1988 [Amendment] Order, 1992, has recently been received from the Department of Health.

Article 5[i] provides that the Board shall consist of ten members, appointed by the Minister for Health, nominated as follows:-

[a]	Charitable Infirmary Charitable Trust	3
[b]	Regional Health Boards, other than the Eastern Health Board	1
[c]	Eastern Health Board	1
[d]	Minister for Health	3
[e]	Irish College of General Practitioners	1
[f]	To represent the statutory training and occupational rehabilitation services	1
		<u>10</u>

A decision on the Eastern Health Board nominee to the Drug Treatment Centre Board is a matter for our Board but, in view of the expanding role of our Board in the provision of AIDS/HIV and Drug Misuse treatment services. I would strongly recommend that our Board should nominate our AIDS/Drugs Co-ordinator, Dr. Joseph Barry.”

Following a discussion on services for homeless persons and references by Mr. McGuire to former psychiatric patients in hostels and group homes, to which Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Byrne, Deputy Callery, Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Keenan, Cllr. Farrell, Cllr. Gallagher, Dr. O’Herlihy, Deputy Shortall, Dr. Smith, Dr. Hawkins contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed that a report would be prepared for a meeting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee on receipt of written submission from Mr. McGuire outlining the areas of concern to which he had referred.

Cllr. Byrne referred to Department of Health letter dated 24th November, 1992 listing grants issued directly by the Department from the proceeds of the National Lottery and enquired if grants of this nature were usually issued directly by the Department, and if there had been any consultation with our Board prior to the issue of the grants.

The Chief Executive Officer replied that In recent year a block grant of £300,000 approx. had been made available to our Board from National Lottery funds far disbursement by way of miscellaneous grants to voluntary agencies. However, it was not unprecedented for grants of this nature to issue direct from the Department of Health and there had been consultation with officers of our Board regarding some but not all of the grants listed in the Departments letter.

143/1992

TEMPORARY BORROWING

The following Report no. 25/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

“Our Board’s allocation has recently been adjusted upwards to meet increased service costs and pay increases due under the Programme for Economic and Social Development. Approval is requested to borrowing by way of overdraft up to a maximum of £7.9m from 1st December, 1992 to 31st March, 1993.’

On a proposal by Dr. Hawkins, seconded by Deputy Callely, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the report.

144/1992

CHILD CARE ACT, 1991

The following Report no. 26/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-’

“I attach a copy of letter dated 23rd November, 1992 from the Department of Health advising that the following provisions of the Child Care Act, 1991. have been brought into operation on 1st December, 1992:-

Section 3 which places a statutory duty on health boards to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection and to provide child care and family support services.

Section 7 which requires each health board to establish a Child Care Advisory Committee to advise it on the performance of its functions under the legislation.

Section 8 which requires health boards to undertake an annual review of the child care and family support services available in their areas.

The Minister’s directions in relation to the membership of the Child Care Advisory Committees are set out in Appendix 2 to the letter and reflect the Minister’s concern to ensure that the various branches of the child care services, including voluntary organisations and the child care professions, are represented. The directions provide that the first appointments by our Board of members of the Committee shall be for the period ending 31st December, 1995 and that subsequent such appointments shall be for a period not exceeding three years.

The membership of the Child Care Advisory Committee shall include.

- [i] three members of our Board, and
- [ii] others as outlined in the following paragraphs.

In accordance with paragraph 2[b] of the Minister's directions I am nominating the following three officers of our Board:-

- | | | |
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| [a] | Public Health Medicine:
Care & Medical Officer of Health | Dr. S. Lynch. Director of Community |
| [b] | Public Health Nursing:
Nurse | Ms. S. Cody. Supt. Public Health |
| [c] | Social Work: | Ms. B. Clarke. Head Social Worker |

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the directions and following consultation with the appropriate bodies, I recommend that the following persons/ representatives should also comprise the membership of the Committee:

Not more than nine persons including representatives of voluntary bodies involved in the following services:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| [a] | Adoption and Foster Care Services:
(i) Mr. John Lysaght, Irish Foster Care Association
(ii) Ms. Mary O'Hagan, Senior Social Worker, Adoption and Fostering Services. |
| [b] | Residential Care Services:
Sister Ann O'Neill, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul |
| [c] | Services for pre-school children:
Ms. Peggy Walker. Irish Pre-school Play Groups Association |
| [d] | Educational services:
Mr. Sean Hunt Deputy Chief Inspector. Department of Education |
| [e] | Services for homeless children:
Ms. Maureen Lynott, Focus Point
Ms. Mary O'Connell, Chairperson, Tabor Society |
| [f] | Child and adolescent psychiatric services:
Dr. Paul McCarthy, Clinical Director, Child Psychiatry |
| [g] | Support services for children and their families:
Ms. Margaret Dromey, Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children. |

and the following nominees as provided for in the directions:-

- **Mr. David O'Donovan, A/Principal, Probation and Welfare Service, Department of Justice;**
- **a member of the Garda Siochana, nominated by the Garda Commissioner:**

Co-option of Members:

The Child Care Committee may co-opt not more than three other persons in accordance with paragraph 14 of the directions.

Secretary:

I have appointed Mr. Ray Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, to be Secretary to the Committee.

The nomination of the three members of our Board, and the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee from among those three members, is a matter for the Board."

In nothing and agreeing the Report it was also agreed that the nomination of the three members of our Board and the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Committee from among those three members should be on the agenda for decision at the January meeting of our Board.

146/1992

EUROPEAN YEAR OF OLDER PEOPLE AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS, 1993

The following Report no. 28/1992 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"In November 1990 the European Council of Ministers launched a three-year programme of community measures aimed to encourage the transfer of knowledge, ideas and experience on ageing between member states. In June 1992 the Council of Ministers adopted a decision on the organisation of the European Year of Older People for 1993.

The Commission appointed an advisory committee to advise it on actions to be carried out in favour of older people. There are two representatives from each member state on this committee; Ireland is represented on the committee by representatives from the Departments of Health and Social Welfare. The Commission also appointed an Observatory on Ageing, composed of twelve experts on various aspects of ageing for each of the countries of the EEC.

The purpose of the Year is to make people aware of the changes which are occurring in Europe as a result of our ageing populations. Older people are becoming an ever more important part of our society. There are now 64 million people aged over 60 in Europe. In Ireland the over 60s total more than half a million. The Year is intended to be an occasion of celebration, solidarity and reflection.

Celebration of longer and better lives and the positive contributions of past, present and future by older people:

Solidarity between generations, combatting discrimination and bridging the void between younger and older people, and

Reflection on the welfare of older people and the concerns of those in Ireland who care at home for more than 66,000 elderly dependants.

The Minister for Health has established a National Committee to liaise with the European Committee to evaluate and co-ordinate activities. Mr. Michael Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care, represents the eight health boards on this Committee.

National and local organisations are being encouraged to undertake activities which relate to the objectives for the year and the widest possible involvement of people countrywide, urban and rural, young and old, men and women is being promoted by the Committee. It is hoped that there may be maximum participation in the many activities and events which will highlight the positive contribution of older people, help bring the younger and older generations closer together, and promote the welfare of the elderly and those who care for them.

It is anticipated that some funds will be available from an E.C. grant and from the Minister for Health which will be allocated to the Committee for various events throughout the year.

The launch of the 1993 European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations will take place in the State Apartments, Dublin Castle, on 25th January, 1993 at 11:00 a.m.

Members of our Board will be advised of the various events which have been organised as the year progresses."

The Report was noted.

147/1992

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Post-Graduate courses for Nurses in Challenging Behaviour and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.
- [b] International Conference on Alcoholism to be held in Dublin Castle on 25th and 26th February, 1993.
- [c] "Good practices in Mental Health, Dun Laoghaire".
- [d] Sod Turning for new Gheel facility in Fairview.
- [e] Opening of new Mental Handicap Centre at Kindlestown House at Delgany.
- [f] Report of Inspector of Mental Hospitals on Central Mental Hospital
- [g] Purchase of two houses at St. Kyran's, Rathdrum to provide accommodation for mentally handicapped persons.
- [h] Report on services in Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum.

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

Ore a proposal by Dr. O'Herlihy, seconded by Dr. Hawkins, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:

- [a] Replacement of Ultra-Sound Equipment in Naas General Hospital.
- [b] Interviews for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Post. James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Consultant Geriatrician Post, South City and Consultant Geriatrician Post, North City.
- [c] Report on services in Naas General Hospital.
- [d] Recommendation that a letter be sent to the Minister for Health requesting the appointment of the Design Team to facilitate the development of the next phase of the Hospital.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Report on Child Care Act, 1991.
- [b] Report on Rent and Mortgage Supplements.
- [c] Report on services in Community Care Area no. 5.

148/1992
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