

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings off Eastern Health Board Meeting
held In
the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 4th March, 1993 at 6:00 p.m**

Present

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

Apologies

Dr. J. Reilly

In the Chair

Cllr. M. Barrett
Cllr. K. Farrell

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. M. Gallagher. Finance Officer
Mr. G. Brennan. Technical Services Officer
Ms. M. Kelly A/Personnel Officer
Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

21/1993**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Acting Chairman, Councillor Michael Barrett, referred to the death on 12th January, 1998 of Councillor Frank Hynes, Chairman, and stated that it had been a great honour and privilege for him to act as Chairman during the illness of Cllr. Hynes, and since his death. He expressed his thanks to the members and staff for the co-operation which he had received from everybody while acting as Chairman. He then invited nominations for the office of Chairman.

Councillor Ken Farrell was proposed by Deputy Roisin Shortall and seconded by Deputy Ivor Callely.

As there were no other nominations Councillor Farrell was declared elected as Chairman of our Board until the next annual meeting.

Councillor Farrell thanked the members for their support in electing him as Chairman and paid a tribute to Councillor Barren for the impartial manner in which he had carried out his duties as acting Chairman.

Senator Roche, Mr McGuire and Councillor Reilly congratulated Cllr. Farrell on his election as Chairman and complimented Cllr. Barrett on the manner in which he had acted as Chairman of our Board during the illness and since the death of Cllr. Frank Hynes.

The Chief Executive Officer, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff, congratulated Cllr. Farrell on his election as Chairman and thanked Cllr. Barrett for his support and cooperation during his term as Acting Chairman.

22/1993 CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy were pasted with;-

- Deputy Joe Jacob on the death of his father.
- Councillor Olivia Mitchell, on the death of her father.
- Ms. Anne Nolan. Management Services Department on the death of her mother.

23/1993 CHAIRMANS BUSINESS

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

I. Association of Health Boards for Ireland - Annual Conference

Members have received notice regarding the Annual Conference of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland which will be held in Bundoran. Co. Donegal, on Friday and Saturday 30th April and 1st May. 1993.

Members who wish to attend the Conference should give their names to the Secretary.

2. Allocation for non-capital health expenditure, 1993

Our Board was notified on 1st March, 1993 regarding our allocation for noncapital health expenditure for 1993. The Budget Working Group met on 2nd March and considered a preliminary report from the Chief Executive Officer, following which it was agreed that the matter would be fully considered by the Budget Working Group at further meetings on 9th and 16th March. The Budget Working Group's report will be considered by our Board at a special meeting to be held on 25th March, 1993 at 6:00 p.m.

3. Denotation to Minister for Health re. Naas General Hospital

We have been notified that the Minister for Health, Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D. will receive a deputation from our Board to discuss progress in the development of Naas General Hospital on Thursday next, 11th March at 4:40 p.m. in Dail Eireann.

Perhaps we can agree on the membership of the deputation at this stage."

The following members were then nominated to form of the deputation:-

1. **Mr. P. Aspell.**
2. **Cllr. G. Brady**
3. **Dr. R. Corcoran**
4. **Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.**
9. **Cllr. J. Reilly**

Members agreed with COr. Burners suggestion that their best wishes for a speedy recovery should be conveyed to Dr. John Connolly, former Minister for Health, who had recently announced his retirement from Dail Eireann.

24/1993

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 1993

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February, 1993, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Deputy Callely.

25/1003

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

"1. Cllr. L CaOery, T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer the total number of accident and emergency ambulance calls for 1992 and the number of calls where the A & E ambulance required the back-up assistance of the Cardiac Ambulance. Can the Chief Executive Officer also advise of the total number of Cardiac Ambulance calls for 1992 and a break-down of how these calls were received, through the "999" system, cardiac patient own call, doctor's call etc.

Reply

The numbers of requests for Accident & Emergency ambulances received during 1992 were as follows:-

Dublin	Kildare	Wicklow	Total
77.854	5.591	1.777	85.222

The Accident and Emergency ambulance required the back-up assistance of a cardiac equipped ambulance on 1.893 occasions.

In 1992 4,679 calls were received by our Board requesting the services of a cardiac equipped ambulance, as follows:-

2,433	[52%] through "999" emergency calls
842	[18%] from General Practitioners
843	1,404 (30%) from other sources (e.g. members of the public, patient own call, institutions]

2. Cllr. I. Callely. T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer do supplementary Welfare Officers have discretion to make payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme for exceptional needs payments to help with fuel, ESB and Gas bills. Will the Chief Executive Officer circulate a copy of the standard letter which was suggested at a recent Community Care meeting to be available at Health Centres to help clarify the situation regarding such payments.

Reply

Under the exceptional needs provision of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme¹ our Board's authorised officers have discretion in assisting with electricity, gas and other fuel bills. The circumstances in which, and the extent to which, this discretion can be exercised are governed by guidelines specified from time to time by the Department of Social Welfare. The present guidelines are laid down to Department of Social Welfare Circular S.WA 18/92. a copy of which has previously been circulated to members.

An information leaflet for issue to applicants for exceptional needs payments is being prepared and copies will be made available to members on completion.

3. Cllr. I Callely. T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will advise of the progress and outline the functions of the proposed General Practice Units. Can the Chief Executive Officer advise of any difficulties that have been brought to his attention regarding the development of these units.

Reply

Work is proceeding on the establishment of General Practice Units as provided for in the agreement reached between the Minister for Health and the Irish Medical Organisation and no difficulties are currently anticipated.

The Units will become an integral part of each health board's management function and will assist in supporting and developing general practice as part of the overall health service in each health board area.

The functions of the General Practice Units are as set out in my report to the February meeting of our Board (Minute no. 15/1993. Item 7.2. on page 27)."

26/1993**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

1. *Public Hospital Charges*

I have circulated, with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of a Press Statement issued on behalf of the Department of Health and copies of Department of Health letter dated 24th February 1993 regarding changes with effect from 1st March. 1993 in out-patient and in-patient charges as follows:-

- li) Revised charges for in-patient services - from £15 per day [subject to a limitation of £150 per individual in any period of twelve consecutive months] to £20 per day. subject to a revised limitation of £200.
- (iij) Revised charges for out-patient services - from £10 in respect of the first visit for any particular medical condition to a charge of £6 in respect of each visit, subject to a maximum payment per individual of £42 in any period of twelve consecutive months.

A number of categories of people are exempt from these charges - as listed in the Department of Health statement In addition these charges may be wholly or partially abated in particular cases where it is established that their imposition would cause undue hardship.

The Department's statement also refers to an increase by £20 per day from 1st July. 1993 in the daily charges for private and semi-private accommodation in public hospitals.

2. *Beaumont Hospital Board - Membership*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 19th February. 1993 from the Department of Health indicating that the views expressed by our Board in relation to nominations for appointment by the Minister for Health to the Board of Beaumont Hospital had been noted and would be kept in mind.

3. ***Press Releases from ASH -
[i] Report on the Status of Women
[ii] Action on Smoking***

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of a Press Release issued by ASH Ireland (Action on Smoking and Health) welcoming the Report of the Second Commission on the Status of Women and calling for a national plan for women's health involving the social partners, women's groups, health boards and medical representatives,

I have also circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of a Press Release issued by ASH giving details of Helplines established to offer help and support to people who wish to stop smoking.

4. ***Allocation for non-capital health expenditure, 1993***

I have circulated this evening, for the Information of members, copies of letter dated 1st March from the Secretary of the Department of Health notifying our Board's allocation for non-capital health expenditure for 1993. together with a Press Release received to-day and a copy of the Minister's speech during the Dail budget debate.

As already outlined by the Chairman a special meeting of our Board will be held on 25th March to fully consider our allocation for 1993 and to receive a report from the Budget Working Group, following their detailed consideration of the letter of allocation , on an allocation. on an appropriate budget and service plan for 1993 in line with the amount of the allocation and other conditions notified in the Departments letter of 1st March. 1993. Members will note from the letter that such matters are to be settled no later than 26th March. 1993.

5. ***Adoption Board Annual Report, 1991***

The adoption Board has recently published Its Annual Report for 1991.

Arrangements are being made to have a summary of relevant extracts from the report prepared for consideration by the Community Care Programme Committee at its next meeting.

6. ***Meeting of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer with Minister for Health***

I wish to inform our Board that the Minister for Health has invited our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer to meet him to discuss matters of current interest

The meeting has been arranged for Friday 12th March. 1993.

7. **Child Care Services**

I have circulated for the information of members a copy of a statement made by the Minister for Health to-day in the context of a recent court case relating to another health board area involving incest and child abuse over an extended period of time.

Members will note the Minister's reference to the taking of every possible measure to prevent a recurrence of what happened in this case and that he will be stressing to the Chief Executive Officers of health boards the necessity to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are in place in all health board areas for the identification, investigation and management of child abuse cases; also that the Minister, following consultation with the Chief Executive Officers and the results of the investigation referred to in the statement, will be reporting to the Government at an early date with recommendations for the introduction of whatever measures are necessary to improve existing services and procedures for dealing with child abuse and childcare services generally.

This matter is on the agenda for discussion at next week's meeting with the Minister and I wish to advise members that I have, in the meantime, arranged for a full review of current procedural arrangements for detection of child abuse in our Board's area and also of key priority requirements in the child care services generally."

27/1993

MEATH HOSPITAL BOARD - MEMBERSHIP

The following report no. 4/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"At the February meeting of our Board members were informed that the term of office of the members of the Board of the Meath Hospital elected by our Board expires on 5th April. 1993.

Under the terms of the Meath Hospital Act, 1951 and the Health Act, 1970 Adaptation Regulations. 1972 our Board is required to elect eleven members of the Meath Hospital Board for a period of three years.

Our Board is currently represented on the Board of the Meath Hospital by the under-mentioned:-

1. Cllr. Gerry Brady
2. Mr. Michael Carroll
3. Mrs. Dymphna Clune
4. Cllr. Betty Coffey
5. Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran
6. Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne
7. Mr. Michael Gannon
8. Dr. Ray Hawkins
9. Mr. Seamus O'Brien
10. Dr. Brian O'Herlihy

Councillor Frank Hynes. who also represented our Board, died on 12th January. 1993

The election of eleven members of the Meath Hospital Board for the period from 6th April, 1993 to 5th April, 1996 is a matter for the Board."

It was agreed that the following persons should be members of the Meath Hospital Board for the period from 6th April, 1993 to 5th April, 1996:

1. ***Cllr. Gerry Brady***
2. ***Cllr. Betty Coffey***
3. ***Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran***
4. ***Cllr. Cyril Gallagher***
5. ***Dr. Ray Hawkins***
6. ***Ms. Margaret Nealon***
7. ***Mr. Gerry McGuire***
8. ***Mr. Seamus O'Brien***
9. ***Dr. Brian O'Herlihy***
10. ***Senator Dick Roche***
11. ***Cllr. Kevin Ryan***

28/1983

BUDGET WORKING GROUP

The following Report no. 8/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer

Was submitted:-

"A vacancy exists on the Budget Working Group following the death of Cllr. Frank Hynes (R.I.P.).

Our Board's 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 current membership of the Budget Working Group is as follows: -

- [a]
 1. Cllr . Michael Barrett
 2. Cllr . Ivor Callely. T. D.
 3. Cllr. Ken Farrell
 4. Dr. Don Keane
 5. Cllr. Tom Keenan
 6. Cllr. Olivia Mitchell
 7. Ms. Margaret Nealon
 8. Dr. Brian O'Herlihy
- [b]
 1. Cllr. Gerry Brady
 2. Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran
 3. Cllr. Donal Marren
 4. Cllr. Dick Roche

The appointment of a member to fill the vacancy on the Core Group is a matter for our Board."

It was agreed that Cllr. Gerry Brady should fill the vacancy on the Core Group and that Cllr. Kevin Ryan should fill the consequential vacancy on the Group M.

29/1903

ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS IN IRELAND - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report no. 6/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"Our Board is currently represented at meetings of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland by the undermentioned members:-

1. Cllr. Michael Barrett
2. Cllr. Ben Briscoe. T.D.
3. Cllr. Ivor Callely. T.D.
4. Cllr. Betty Coffey
5. Cllr. Cyril Gallagher
6. Dr. Ray Hawkins
7. Mr. Gerry McGuire

Cllr. Frank Hynes also represented our Board until his death on 12th January. 1993 [R.I.P.]. The nomination of a member to replace Cllr. Hynes is a matter for our Board."

It was agreed that Mr. Paddy Aspell should fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cllr. Frank Hynes.

SO/1993

ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL BOARD - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report no. 7/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"A vacancy has occurred on the Board of St James's Hospital following the death of Cllr. Frank Hynes (R. I. P].

Our Board is currently represented on the Board of St James's Hospital by:-

Cllr. Eric Byrne
Mrs. Dymphna Clune
Dr. Don Keane

The making of a nomination for appointment by the Minister for Health as a member of the Board of St. James's Hospital is a matter for our Board."

It was agreed that Cllr. Joe Connolly should be nominated for appointment by the Minister for Health to be a member of the Board of St. James Hospital.

31/1993**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BALLYMUN - MEMBERSHIP**

The following Report no. 8/1983 from the Chief Executive Officer was Submitted:-

"A vacancy exists on our Board's Special Committee on Ballymun following the death of Cllr. Frank Hynes [R.I.P.I].

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

1. Cllr. Michael Barrett
2. Mrs. Bernadette Bonar
3. Cllr. Ben Briscoe. T.D.
4. Cllr. Ivor Callely. T.D.
5. Cllr. Liam Creaven
6. Cllr. Ken Farrell
7. Cllr. Cyril Gallagher
8. Cllr. Richard Greene
9. Cllr. Tom Keenan
10. Mr. Gerry McGuire
11. Ms. Margaret Nealon
12. Cllr. Jim Reilly
13. Cllr. Roisin Shorten, T.D.

The appointment of a member to replace Cllr. Hynes is a matter for our Board."

It was agreed that Cllr. Revin Ryan should replace Cllr. Hynes on the Special Committee.

32/1993**IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD. - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO REPRESENT OUR BOARD**

The following Report no. 9/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"Cllr. Frank Hynes [deceased] represented our Board at meetings of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

The appointment of a member to replace Cllr. Hynes is a matter of our Board."

It was agreed that Cllr. Gerry Brady should represent our Board at meetings of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

33/1993**TEMPORARY BORROWING**

The following Report no. 10/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

The approval of the Board to borrowing by way of overdraft during the period ending 30th June. 1993 to a maximum of £7.9 m. is requested."

On a proposal by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. Barrett, it was agreed to adopt the proposal contained in the Report .

33/1993

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The following Report no. 11/1993 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted-

"Relevant extracts from the Report of the Second Commission on the Status of Women, which has recently been published, are attached.

With the members' agreement the implications of the Report for our Board can be discussed further at meetings of the various Programme Committees."

In noting the Report members requested that copies of the Minority Report should be circulated.

34/1993

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

I. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

On 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-

- la] Response of the Special Hospital Care Programme to the Programme for a Partnership Government, 1993 - 1997.
- [b] Advertising of five Consultant Psychiatrist Posts by the Local Appointments Commission.
- [c] Transfer of 22 residents from St Loman's Hospital to new houses in Maynooth.
- [d] Selection of the North Dublin Old Age Psychiatric Service by the European Community as an innovative project.
- [e] Retirement of Dr. Richard Whitty, Consultant Psychiatrist.
- [f] Report on services at Newcastle Hospital.

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Response of General Hospital Care Programme to the Programme for a Partnership Government. 1993 - 1997.
- [b] Report on services in St Colman's Hospital. Rathdrum.

35/1903

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Greene:-

That this Board consider making available extra long-term beds for the elderly In Vergemount Leopardstown and in the Royal Hospital. And that extra funding be allocated for Social Services in Milltown and for me Homecare Scheme"

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Marren and, following a discussion to which Cllr. Greene, Cllr. Marren, Mr. McGuire and Deputy Durkan contributed, was noted for consideration in the context of preparation of reports for consideration at future meetings of the General Hospital and Community Care Programme Committtees

2. The following motion was proposed by Dr. Brian O'Herlihy:-

"That the Health Board calls on the Minister for Health to establish the Departments of Public Health Medicing in each Health Board area, as outlined in the Hickey Report as a matter of urgency."

The motion was seconded by Dr. Corcoran and following a discussion to which Dr. O'Hertihy, Deputy Briscoe and Dr. Corcoran contributed was agreed.

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllrs. Jacob, O'Connell and Keenan:-

"As a number of Health Centres In Co. Wicklow are and have been the subject of much public criticism-particularly those located at Rounwood, Arklow, Carnew. Hollywood and Rathdangan the undersigned members request that as a matter of urgency a comprehensive report be prepared outlining:-

- [a] The location of each Health Centre in Co. Wicklow;*
- [b] The consider condition and adequacy of each;*
- [c] The plans and time scale for effecting appropriate improvements and provision of new Centres where deemed necessary."*

Following a discussion to which Deputy Jacob, Cllr. Dr. O'Connell, Cllr. Keenan and Cllr. Ryan contributed, the Chief Executive officer informed members regarding our Boards development and investment programme and confirmed that a major need existed in the Bray area for a new Health Centre -this project was very high on our Boards priority list. Our Board maintains 28 Health Centres in Co. Wicklow and their condition ranges from good to inadequate. He accepted that the Health Centre at Carnew should be extended and confirmed that construction of a new Health Centre in Roundwood would commence shortly.

A report will be prepared for a future meeting listing the Health Centres in County Wicklow in priority order in relation to their need for improvements.

4. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Callely and seconded by Senator Roche:-

"That this Board supports the view expressed by various Authorities that the Family Planning Act, 1992 be amended "to allow for the sale of condoms by vending machines" and that all packets should carry a warning that condoms will not necessarily prevent pregnancy or the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases."

Following a discussion to which Deputy Callely, Senator Roche, Cllr. Coffey, Cllr. Byrne, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr. Greene, Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Marren, Dr. O'Hertihy, Senator Doyle and Cllr. Barrett contributed the motion was agreed having been amended as follows:-

"That this Board supports the view expressed by various authorities that the Family Planning Act, 1992 be amended "to allow for the sale of condoms by vending machines should carry a caution that condoms will not absolutely prevent pregnancy or the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases."

Cllr. Greene, Mrs. Bonar and Cllr. Marren asked that it be recorded that they had voted against the motion.

36/1993

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

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

CHAIRMAN