

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
The Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8 on Thursday 13th January, 1994
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	Cllr. A. Devitt
Sen. J. Doyle	Cllr. B. Durkan T.D.
Cllr. C. Gallagher	Dr. R. Hawkins
Dr. D.I. Keane	Cllr. T. Keenan
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. O. Mitchell
Cllr. D. O'Callaghan	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Cllr. C. O'Connor	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. J. Reilly	Dr. J. Reilly
Cllr. T. Ridge	Sen. D. Roche
Cllr. K. Ryan	Cllr. R. Shortall T.D.
Dr. C. Smith	Cllr. D. Tipping
Dr. R. Whitty	Dr. M. Wrigley

Apologies

Ms. M. Nealon

In the Chair

Cllr. Ken 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. G. Brennan. Technical Services Officer
 Ms. M. Gallagher. Finance Officer
 Ms. M. Kelly, Personnel Officer
 Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

1/1994

CONDOLENCES**On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy was passed with:-**

- Stani O'Sullivan. Naas General Hospital, on the death of her brother.
- Noel Maguire. Registry, on the death of his mother.
- Cora Bolger, Community Welfare Service, Emer Bolger-Murphy. Special Hospital Care Programme and Ronan Bolger, Charles Street Clinic, on the death of their father.
- Ben Healy. Finance Department, on the death of his father.
- The wife and family of Dr. Mark Hartman. Consultant Psychiatrist.

2/1994

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

I am sure members will join with me in welcoming the recently appointed members of our Board from Fingal. South County and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Councils:-

- Cllr. Anne Devitt
- Cllr. Charles O'Connor
- Cllr. Therese Ridge
- Cllr. Don Tipping
- Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan

We are sorry that two former members of our Board - Cllr. Richard Greene and Cllr. Donal Marren - were unsuccessful in the election process. I want to take this opportunity to record our appreciation of their contributions to the affairs of our Board while they were members.

I look forward to working with the new members and I wish them every success during their term of office on our Board."

3/1994

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTE8 OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER, 1993

The minutes of the monthty Meeting held on 10th December, 1993. having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr Keenan, seconded by Mr. Aspen.

(a) Matters arising from the minutes

It was agreed that arrangements would be made for a special meeting of our Board at an early date to consider (1) the arrangements being made in relation to the discharge of patients from Hospitals and (2) developments in our Board's Drug Abuse/HTV/AIDS Programmes.

4/1994

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

1. Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will outline the detoxification service available to alcoholics - in particular the number of in-patient detoxification beds available and bed occupancy, the numbers attending alcohol treatment centres and the percentage that 'drop out' of such programmes.

Reply

Our Board's policy document "*Development of a community-based alcohol service - June 1988*" recognised that detoxification would be carried out in acute psychiatric units and in acute medical units, as appropriate, with continuing programmes being carried out at primary care and outpatient clinic levels. Beds are available for detoxification in acute units as required but are not designated specifically for this purpose.

Following the adoption of our Board's policy document, services for alcoholism were established in Baggot Street serving areas 1. 2. 3 and Wteklow; Belgard Road. Tallaght serving areas 3. 4. 5 and Kildare, while Stanhope Street and St Vincent's Hospital. Fairview were reorganised and co-ordinated to provide services in areas 6. 7 and 8.

Each Unit provides the full range of services - treatment, client/family counselling, individual family counselling and support, education and research.

In 1993 there were 5.821 attendances at the centres. 824 of whom were first time referrals for problem drinking. The drop out rate of people attending programmes is relatively low.

A small number of people require short-term accommodation for social/family reasons while on treatment programmes. Barrymore House. North Circular Road (12 places) provides accommodation on a regional basis. The residents of Barrymore House attend the Day Programme at Stanhope Street A complementary programme is provided in Barrymore House in the evenings and at weekends. 86 people attended the Barrymore House programme in 1993; the "drop our rate was approximately 20%.

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

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will indicate the approximate total cost for the provision of all services, appliances and medication for drug abuse programmes. In particular, can the Chief Executive Officer indicate how many addicts availed of the methadone substitution programme in the years 1991. 1992 and 1993 and a breakdown of the total cost of the programme for these years.

Reply

The total cost (pay and non-pay) of our Board's Drug Abuse/HIV/AIDS programmes in 1993 was £3.03m.

The numbers attending the methadone maintenance programmes are as follows:-

1991	60
1992	250
1993	350

Details of the pay/non-pay costs of the methadone sub-element of the programme, as such, are not readily available for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993.

3. Cllr. I. Callely, TD.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will advise of the total amount of monies due to the Eastern Health Board by this Department of Health, the progress, if any, since I raised the matter by way of my question at the September Board meeting, and the effect such outstanding monies have on the delivery of services.

Reply

The total amount of money outstanding to our Board, in respect of revenue grant balances due from the Department of Health, amounted to £33.438m at 31st December, 1993. This comprise with due at 30th June, 1993. as given in the previous reply.

The balance outstanding comprises of:	£M
Shortfall in funding within approved (1989-1993)	16.838
Shortfall minfunding approved excess expenditure on demand-led schemes (1989-1993)	11,000
Other expenditure over-run outside of approved revenue allocation (1988-1998)	<u>5,600</u>
	33,438

The member will be aware of the announcement by the Minister for Health of measures to deal with the matter of the outstanding debt and attendant cash flow difficulties to be Implemented carry in 1994.

Our Board expects that these measures will significantly improve our cash flow position which will enable us to recommence settling our traders and other service suppliers accounts within normally acceptable credit terms.

While the delivery of services was not directly affected by our adverse cash flow situation, our Board Inevitably lost opportunities to avail of discounts available for early settlement of accounts and also the goodwill of suppliers of goods and services generally, which affected our capacity to achieve maximum value for money.

Cllr.E. Byrne

Will the Chief Executive Officer say what relationship exists between this Board and St Joseph's. Clonmel. and will he confirm that St Joseph's will not take referrals from this Board and if this is true, why It is so?

Reply

St. Joseph's. Clonmel. is an industrial school administered by the Department of Education under licence from the Department of Justice. St Joseph's has taken appropriate referrals from our Board. However, accommodation there is limited and. in accepting children, priority is given to children committed there by the Courts - following criminal charges and non-attendance at school. For this reason St Joseph's may not always be in a position to take a referral from our Board and. in such circumstances, an alternative placement would have to be arranged.

Cllr. E. Byrne

Win the Chief Executive Officer explain what is the function of Glen House In Blessington. what the staffing numbers are. how many beds there are. and the number of children presently in occupation there.

Reply

Glen House, which is administered by our Board, is a residential therapeutic unit for boys and girls aged 12 to 16 years who have a range of emotional, behavioural, social and relationship problems. The total staff complement consists of a Manager and 12 care workers.

Glen House can cater for a maximum of eight children: six are resident there at present.

Dr. J. Reilly

To ask the Chief Executive Officer how many medical card holders had their medical cards removed or suspended during June. July. August and September only to have them re-issued within three months in the Eastern Health Board area.

Reply

The circumstances of people who hold medical cards are regularly reviewed to ensure their continued eligibility and also to ensure that there is a continuing need for a service on the part of those who continue to hold medical cards by deleting those who may have died or moved to an address outside of our Board's area.

Between June and September 1993 approximately 60.000 medical card review forms were issued. A period of three months is allowed for a response before any question of withdrawal of a medical card arises. G.M.S. doctors are supplied with monthly listings showing those whose medical card continues to be valid, those who have not returned the review form after a period of two months and whose cards are regarded as likely to be withdrawn in a month (suspensions") if no response is received and finally, details of the who have not responded after three months and whose medical cards are about to be withdrawn. The purpose of supplying this listing is to enable doctors to advise patients in appropriate cases to immediately contact the Health Board or to enable the doctors to contact our Board directly if they are concerned about any possible medical card withdrawal.

In line with the above procedures it was necessary to withdraw 20,000 medical cards approximately in the period June to September 1993 due to changes in financial circumstances/eligibility, failure to respond to requests for confirmation of income or failure to return the review forms. Where confirmation of income was subsequently submitted, or review forms were returned showing that the eligibility status of the card holders or continuing need for a service had not changed, medical cards were restored immediately.

Information is not readily available as to how many such medical cards have since been re-issued and we are currently in the process of upgrading medical card computer systems so that more specific details in relation to additions, renewals and deletions will be more readily available."

5/1994

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board subject to the comments recorded below

1.

The approval of the Board is requested to borrowing by way of overdraft during the period ending on 31st March, 1994 to a maximum of £8.2m. This is the same figure as that approved for the quarter ended 31st December, 1993."

Cllr Doyle, temporary

2. Management Team Appointments

I wish to inform members of our Board of the following permanent Management Team appointments:-

Personnel Officer
3 KillakeeWay.
Flrhouse.
Dublin 24.

Ms. Mary T. Kelly.

with effect from
5th January, 1994

Programme Manager
Charlevue View.
Tullamore. Co. Offaly.

Mr. Philip J. Fitzpatrick.

with effect from 14th
February, 1994

Mr. Fitzpatrick's initial appointment will be to the Community Care programme.

3. Sheltered housing project- St. Lawrence Road. Clontarf

I am pleased to inform members that the sheltered housing project on our Board's site at St Lawrence Road, Clontarf, has now been completed.

Four two-bedroomed and six one-bedroomed self-contained apartments have been built which will accommodate 14 elderly persons.

4. Service for Adult Victims of Sexual Abuse

Our Board's service for adult victims of sexual abuse commenced on 1st January, 1994. The service is being provided from a base in Clontarf, initially, and will soon be extended to Blanchardstown and Tallaght

Following discussions with the Rape Crisis Centre a satisfactory understanding has been reached with regard to the manner in which the respective services will complement each other.

5. New Chairman - Beaumont Hospital

I have circulated this evening for the information of members copies of a Press Release, issued by the Minister for Health regarding the appointment of Dr. Daniel O'Hare. President of Dublin City University, as Chairman of Beaumont Hospital Board for a period of three years from 14 January, 1994."

6/94

SOCIAL WELFARE (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1993 - REPORT NO. 1/1994

The following Report no. 1/1994 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

The legislation relating to Social Welfare has been consolidated into one Act, the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act 1993. This includes the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1981 and the 19 amending Acts since 1981.

The Department of Social Welfare has published a very useful guide to the Act entitled "The Law on Social Welfare - a Guide to the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993". a copy of which is attached for the information of members.

The principal aspects of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme are dealt with in Sections 170 to 191 of the new Act (p.p. 35-37 of the guide). Other aspects of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme are dealt with as follows:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | DECISIONS/APEALS | The legislation governing the authority for making decisions and considering appeals in relation to Supplementary Welfare Allowances is contained in Sections 266 to 269 of the Act. (p.p. 52-53 of the guide). |
| 2. | CALCULATION OF MEANS | The rules in relation to calculation of means in assessing applications for Supplementary Welfare Allowances are set out in Part in of the Third Schedule. (Copy attached). |
| 3. | LIABILITY TO MAINTAIN FAMILY: | Liability to maintain family is dealt with in Sections 284 to 299 (Part 10. (p.p. 57-60 of the guide)." |

It was agreed to refer the Report to the Community Care Programme Committee for further consideration and to examine Cllr. Byrne's request that the Health Board should produce a leaflet for the information of interested members of the public as to the relation to decisions/appeals, calculation of means and liability to maintain family.

7/94

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1.

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- [a] "Good practises in mental health in the Crumlin area"
- [b] Development of mental health centre in Ballyfermot
- [c] Report of the Inspector of Mental Hospitals in relation to St Loman's Hospital.
- [d] Presentation on development of services at St Loman's Hospital

Following a discussion on the need to maintain a balance between the number of long stay places and the development of continuing care facilities in the community, and on the transfer of patients from St. Loman's Hospital to St James's Hospital, to which Dep. Callely, Dep. Durken and Cllr. Byrne contributed, the Chief Executive Officer informed members that a Report on Psychiatric Services for Areas 4 and 5 would be presented to the next sitting of the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

2. General Hospital Programme Committee

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

The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- [a] Advertisement of post of Consultant Geriatrician for Naas/MANCH group of hospitals.
- [b] Capital grant of £25,000 from Department of Health for replacement generator in the X-ray Room of Naas General Hospital.
- [c] Capital grant from Department of Health for the purchase of beds at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown.
- [d] Report of the Review Group on the Ambulance Service.
- [e] Special allocation of £250,000 for the provision of more appropriate accommodation for elderly and young chronic disabled persons.
- [f] Schedule of Committee meetings arranged for 1994.
- [g] Report of services in St Cohimcflte's Hospital
- [i] Congratulations to the Committee Chairman, Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran, on her appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Public Health at the Royal College of Physicians.

Following a discussion on the review of the brief for a Hospital to which Dep. Durken, Cllr. Gallagher, Cllr. Reilly, and Sen. Roche contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer and Mr. O'Brien, Programme Manager, General Hospital Case, replied, it was agreed that our Board's members representing Kildare and Wicklow should attend a meeting which was being arranged with representatives of Naas Urban District Council so that they will be fully informed in relation to the progress being made in the review of the Brief.

8/1994

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Dep. Durkan and seconded by Cllr. Reilly:-

That the Eastern Health Board assist in any way possible with the setting up of day care services for senior citizens and youth services at Celbridge, Co. Kildare."

The Chief Executive Officer informed members regarding preliminary discussions which had taken place with representatives of the Celbridge Community Council In relation to the development of day care services for the elderly in the area. He assured members that our Board's officers will continue to work with the Community Council with a view to developing an agreed approach to the provision of services for the elderly. As part of this process, consideration will be given to the feasibility of making day care facilities available for young people when they are not being used for their primary purpose.

9/1994 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence, which had been circulated, were noted.:-

1. Letter dated 20th December. 1993. from the Department of Health regarding the adaptation of EC Regulations by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, advising that, with effect from 1st January. 1994. Austria. Finland. Iceland. Norway and Sweden had joined with the EC Member States to form the European Economic Area.
2. Press Statement issued by Mr. Willie O'Dea. T.D.. Minister of State at the Department of Health, on 17th December. 1993. rejecting allegations made by Fr. Peter McVerry at a meeting of Dublin Corporation's Housing Committee, held on 16th December, that not enough was being done to tackle the problem of youth hometessness in the Dublin area.
3. Health Facts Sheets 7/93 regarding health expenditure in Ireland and 8/93 regarding General Hospital Services.
4. Corporate brochure issued by Age and Opportunity.

10/1994

OTHER BUSINESS

Following a discussion on the Press Statement regarding services for homeless children referred to In the correspondence, to which Dep. Shortall. Cllr. Coffey. Dep. Durkan, Cllr. Reilly and Sen. Doyle contributed, the Chief Executive Officer informed members that a report was being prepared In relation to the Child Care Act. 1991, and services thereunder, including the services for homeless children.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

Correct: K. J. Hickey
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN