

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of the 24th Annual General Meeting
held on
Thursday 7th July, 1994 at 6:00 p.m.
in The Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. M. Barrett
Mrs. B. Bonar	Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.	Cllr. E. Byrne T.D.
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.	Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. J. Connolly	Dr. R. Corcoran
Cllr. L. Creaven	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. A. Devitt	Sen. J. Doyle
Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.	Cllr. K. Farrell
Cllr. C. Gallagher	Dr. R. Hawkins
Dr. D. I. Keane	Cllr. T. Keenan
Mr. G. McGulre	Cllr. O. Mitchell
Ms. M. Nealon	Cllr. D. O'Callaghan
Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell	Cllr. C. O'Connor
Dr. B. O-Herlihy	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. T. Ridge	Sen. D. Roche
Cllr. K. Ryan	Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.
Cllr. D. Tipping	Dr. R. Whitty
Dr. M. Wrigley	

Apologies

**Dr. J. Fennell
Dr. J. Reilly
Dr. C. Smith**

IntheChair

- (1) **Cllr. Ken Farrell**
(ii) **Cllr. Michael Barrett**

Officers in Attendance

Mr. K. J. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. M. Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr. P. J. Fitzpatrick Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr. S. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Mr. G. Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Ms. Martin Gallagher, Finance Officer
Ms. M. Kelly, Personnel Officer
Mr. M. O'Connor, Secretary

79/1994 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1993/1994

The following Report from the Chairman', copies of which were circulated, was noted.

"1. INTRODUCTION

At the commencement of this, the 24th Annual meeting of our Board. I wish to take the opportunity to review the significant developments which have taken place in our Board since our last annual meeting in July 1993.

Our Board's membership has grown since the last annual meeting following the establishment of the three new county councils. Fingal Co. Council. South County Dublin Co. Council and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co. Council on 1st January. 1994. Following the establishment of these new councils, our Board's membership increased from 35 to 38 and I would like to say at this stage that the new members who were appointed to our Board earlier in the year have settled in very well and are making significant contributions to debates both at Board meetings and at meetings of the Programme Committees. I cannot let this occasion pass without recording our Board's appreciation of the contributions made by two former members of our Board who were unsuccessful in the election process following the establishment of the new Councils. I refer to Cllrs. Donal Marren and Richard Greene.

Since our Board's 1993 Annual Meeting there have been a number of very significant developments in the health service in general, and within our Board's area in particular.

From our Board's point of view, one of the most significant of these was the announcement by the Minister for Health, on the occasion of the official opening of our new Health Centre at Roundwood. Co. Wicklow on 18th April, 1994 of the major £16m capital development programme for our Board's area. Included in the capital programme are the following projects: -

- * 8 Health Centre developments (at Bray. Swords. Fortunestown. Deansrath. Howth. Athy. Celbridge and Camew).
 - * 2 Community Nursing Units for the Elderly
 - * Public Analyst's Laboratory and other developments
 - * Acute Psychiatric Unit (St Vincent's/Vergemount)
 - * 2 Young Chronic Sick Units
 - * Mental Handicap Services. SL Ita's Hospital - Community Development
 - * Stroke Unit Baggot Street Hospital
 - * Orthodontic Unit
 - * St Brendan's Hospital - Community Development
- Refurbishment of health centres

Another event of particular and significant interest to our Board was the launch in April 1994 by the Minister for Health of the Health Strategy "Shaping a Healthier Future" in which the Minister referred to proposed legislation to provide for a new authority for the Eastern Region to be responsible for all health and personal social services. As members will be aware, while we welcomed the general thrust of the strategy at a special meeting arranged to consider it, nevertheless it was agreed to invite the Minister to meet our Board for a discussion on the Strategy and, in particular on the proposal for the establishment in the new Authority.

In my view, the Health Strategy, apart from its references to the proposed legislation to provide for a new authority, is a very important and significant document for all those who are engaged in the delivery of the health service. The preparation of the necessary strategies and plans aimed at the achievement of the targets set down in the Strategy in relation to the development and delivery of services over the next four years represents a significant challenge for our Board and its officers and I look forward to the progress in this area which I know will follow the publication of the Strategy.

In September last the Minister announced developments in the Child Care area to be funded from the £5m set aside for the implementation of the Child Care Act in 1993. The estimated cost of these developments (pay and non-pay) in our Board's area in a full year is £2.365m.

The Minister has also recently announced developments approved for 1994, the estimated cost of which in our Board's area in a full year is £3.25m.

Other welcome announcements made by the Minister were in relation to the provision of:

- * £100m to relieve the chronic cash flow problems being experienced by the country's health boards and hospitals.
- * £10m to build on the success of the 1993 waiting list initiative.
- * £2m for a pilot project for sheltered employment for people with disabilities in viable business projects.

The Dental Health Action plan recently announced by the Minister was also warmly welcomed by our Board. This action plan, which is to be implemented over the next four years, provides for significant improvements and enhancements in the Dental Service. The revenue costs of the 1994 phase of the plan is estimated at £5.65m and the full year Revenue Costs, which will arise in 1998 and subsequent years, are estimated at £25.4m per annum. It is also worth recording that a special additional allocation was made to our Board in 1993 for the development of our Orthodontic services amounting to £100,000 (revenue) and £120,000 (capital).

Earlier this year, our Board considered proposals for the development of Women's Health Services by way of a number of short-term pilot initiatives and more long term objectives. Since our consideration of these proposals, discussions have been held between officers of our Board and other organisations with an interest in women's health issues and the Irish Medical Organisation representing General Practitioners. At the end of my term of office as Chairman, I am pleased to be able to say that considerable progress has been made in these discussions and I am optimistic that agreement will be reached with the Irish Medical Organisation in the very near future following which our Board will consider the matter further and also consider the many other important issues in relation to women's health included in the reports at present under consideration by our Board.

I will now review the significant developments which have taken place in each of our Board's Programmes and Functions in the past year.

2. SPECIAL HOSPITAL

2.1 Mental Handicap Services

Additional funding amounting to £3,370,000 has been allocated for mental handi services in 1994 to provide 89 residential places. 230 day care places. 6 respite care places. 10 emergency cases and home support for 525 people. In addition £140,000 was made available for the transfer of mental handicap residents at St Ita's Hospital, Portrane to more appropriate community based facilities. A further £50,000 was allocated for services to persons with autism and a separate capital allocation of £100,000 was made available for the improvement of services in the Mental Handic Unit in St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, which it is intended should be maintained on long term basis. The allocation of the additional funds as outlined will mean that all the residential beds in Cheeverstown House will now be filled.

During the year a 12 bed residential unit for persons with a mental handicap was opened at St Kyran's, Rathdrum. in association with Sunbeam House, and a purpose-built 14 bedded bungalow, together with a day centre, was also opened at Hall Lodge Ballyraine. Arklow.

The services provided by the Walkinstown Association for the Handicapped have been assessed by our Board's staff and have been developed to the extent that a new day activation service has commenced for persons over 40 years of age with a mental handicap and who have been without a service.

2.3 Psychiatry

The development of community psychiatric services continued during the year with the upgrading of the former Cherry Workshop facility on the campus of Cherry Orchard Hospital. Ballyfermot as a mental health centre for the Ballyfermot area. Additional funding has also been approved for a high support community residence for the St Loman's Hospital catchment area and this will be used in conjunction with Killinarden House in the grounds of St Loman's Hospital as the next phase in the rehabilitation and resettlement of long stay patients from St Loman's Hospital.

Agreement was reached during the year on the provision of a 56 bed acute unit (including 6 beds for the Psychiatry of old age services) in the new Tallaght Hospital This unit, when it comes on stream, will facilitate the closure of St Loman's Hospital as an acute psychiatric unit for areas 4 and 5.

Following discussions with representatives of The Meath Hospital Board and the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals, agreement was reached on the linkage of two of our Board's Consultant staff at Tallaght/St Loman's Hospital with the Meath Hospital

The adult sexual abuse counselling service which commenced during the year is developing very satisfactorily and the Clontarf centre is now fully operational The service in Tallaght is progressing well and the third clinic will be opened in the Blanchardstown/Cabra catchment area in the near future.

The new psychiatric unit at St. Vincent's Hospital Fairview. was fully commissioned during the year with accommodation for 40 acute psychiatric patients and 6 places for the psychiatry of old age. This unit is supported by Rose Cottage., a day hospital operating on a 7 day per week basis from 8 am to 8 pm. The new unit at St Vincent's Hospital together with 15 beds at the Mater Hospital, will provide the acute in-patient service for Area 7. Discussions have been concluded with regard to staffing, financing and management of the acute unit at the Mater Hospital and detailed operational policies have been agreed to accommodate the integration of this unit and the inner Cabra area service with the area 7 service. The target date for the opening of the Mater unit is 1st September. 1994.

The Clondalkin project, which was independently researched and evaluated, finished its phase as a pilot project during the year and a presentation on the research findings was made during the recent exhibition of developments in community-based psychiatric services. This exhibition, which demonstrated in a very positive way the range of community psychiatric services which have been developed in our Board's area, was held in Dr. Steevens' Hospital at the beginning of May and is now being taken to other areas in our Board's service, following which it will be put on display for members of the public.

The rationalisation of services continued at St Brendan's Hospital during the year, with the closure of unit 2B. Unit 1C is scheduled for closure in the next couple of weeks.

2.3 Community Residences

The rehabilitation and resettlement of patients continues throughout our Board's area. The Bradog Trust complex at the rear of 87 St Laurence's Road. Clontarf. which has accommodation for 14 people, is ready for occupation. A property was acquired on Rathgar Road to replace the residences at Mount Pleasant Square.

The Psychiatric in patient population of the 11 hospitals/units in our Board's area was 1.124 at 31st December. 1993.

2.4 Staff Training

Progress continued during the year in the process of change and the re-orientation of staff towards the community and developing services. Approval was received from Comhairle na nOspideal for the filling of four Consultant posts as follows:

One Consultant Psychiatrist. Area 7. with structural commitment to the Mater Hospital St Vincent's Hospital. Fairview and the Eastern Health Board.

Three Consultant Child Psychiatrists with structural commitments to the National Children's Hospital Harcourt Street and the Eastern Health Board.

During the year our Board stated its commitment to quality assurance in healthcare delivery. The aim of this initiative is to augment the existing good practices in mental health and to promote consumer developments. Seminars and workshops were held during the year to achieve these aims and staff demands for good quality service linked courses were met by the provision of the following courses:

Behavioural Nurse Psychotherapy. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Management Development, Forensic Psychiatry. Family Therapy. Post Graduate Mental Handicap training and Challenge Behaviour training.

3. GENERAL HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMME

The following developments have taken place in the General Hospital Care Programme since last July

3.1. ST. COLUMCILLE'S HOSPITAL.

3.1.1 General Practitioner access to Laboratory:

A pilot scheme to provide access to the St. Columcille's Hospital laboratory for North Wicklow General Practitioners (Bray & Greystones) commenced on 5th October 1993.

Following an evaluation the scheme was continued and extended to the General Practitioners in the East Wicklow area.

3.1.2 Equipment:

The screening equipment in the X-Ray Department of the Hospital was replaced during 1993 and approval has recently been received to replace the ultrasound equipment.

3.1.3 Consultant Rooms:

The former convent building was upgraded for use as 'Consulting Rooms' by the Hospital Consultants and became operational in October 1993.

3.1.4 Laboratory system:

A new computerised laboratory system and became operational in December 1993.

3.1.5 St. Agnes's Childrens Ward:

During 1993, St Agnes's Childrens Ward underwent major refurbishment creating a bright new open plan ward which was designed by our Board's Technical Staff to create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

3.1.6 Consultant Appointments?

Approval was received from Comhairle na n-Ospideal for the Joint appointment of two Consultant Anaesthetists between Eastern Health Board (St Columcille's Hospital) and St Vincent's Hospital

3.2 NAAS GENERAL HOSPITAL

3.2.1 Naas General Hospital Development Brief

The review of the Naas General Hospital Planning and Development Brief was completed during the year and the revised Functional Content has been submitted to the Department of Health for the Minister's consideration.

3.2.2 Consultant Appointments:

Approval was received from Comhairle na n-Ospideal for the joint appointment of a Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine. The structure of this new post is between Naas General Hospital (8 sessions), MANCH (2 sessions) and St. James's (1 session).

3.2.3 Equipment:

A special grant was made available by the Department of Health during 1993 to replace the generator for the X-Ray room.

3.3. JAMES CONNOLLY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL:

3.3.1 Consultant Appointments:

The following appointments have been made in the Hospital during the past twelve months: -

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Consultant
Physician in Geriatric Medicine, Consultant in
Rheumatology & Rehabilitation.

3.3.2 Hospital Manager:

In August 1993 a new Hospital Manager was appointed. This is the first such appointment within our Board at this senior level and it will lead to an enhanced acute hospital service being further developed at the Hospital

3.3.3 Equipment

A Bed Replacement Programme was initiated in the Autumn of 1993. This is part of the overall programme to replace all the beds in James Connolly Memorial Hospital with the variable height high/low beds. In addition to providing greater patient care and comfort it is envisaged that the new beds will reduce the risk of injury to staff through lifting patients. A special grant has been made available by the Department of Health to carry out essential equipment replacement in the Hospital. The equipment involved includes Mobile X-Ray Unit for the Coronary Care Unit Ventilator for the Intensive Care Unit and a number of Gastrosopes for both medical and surgical procedures.

3.3.4 Maintenance Programme

A major overhaul was carried out to the bed passenger lift in the Hospital bringing it up to modern standards. A roof replacement programme is under way with the replacement of a number of roofs being completed in the last year. Special funding has also been received from the Department of Health to carry out major upgrading to the electrical installations in the Surgical Block. The initial amount available is £100,000 and the work involved will include re-wiring, installation of a fire detection system, upgrading the nurse call system and installation of a piped television and patient telephones.

3.3.3 Health Promotion

The James Connolly Memorial Hospital Health Promoting Hospitals Project continued to thrive in the past year. In 1993 the Hospital, along with twenty other European Member Hospitals, has been collaborated in a World Health European Pilot Project. The pilot project is the principal strategy of the network as it aims to develop models of good practice within the frame-work of the European Pilot Hospital.

The six projects within the Health Promoting Hospital Pilot are progressing extremely well and a number of special events occurred in the last year, including the introduction of a 'No Smoking Policy' in the Hospital, the extension of the 'C.P.R. Training' where a number of courses are now available both to the public and the health care staff in general. The 'Back Care' project has devised an ergonomic work-shop to educate and encourage people to take responsibility for the maintenance of the health of their own backs. The 'Waste Management' project has developed very well and the project leader is also acting as a Consultant on Waste Management Policy, not only to our Board to marry other health care facilities throughout the country.

3.4. ST. VINCENTS HOSPITAL ATHY:

- 3.4.1** St Anne's Unit at the Hospital was upgraded and adapted to provide a more friendly and homely environment in which to care for confused elderly patients.
- 3.4.2** A new link corridor between the patient unit and the main building was provided to allow ease of movement for patients throughout the Hospital
- 3.4.3** The 150th Anniversary of the building of St Vincent's Hospital, Athy was commemorated recently. A booklet detailing the history of the hospital was published and launched and a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the opening of the original workhouse in 1844.
- 3.4.4** A Joint project between Athy Community Council and our Board was announced, to restore portion of the old workhouse building as a memorial to the workhouse/famine era.

3.5 ST COLMAN'S HOSPITAL, RATHDRUM

A recent development at St Colman's Hospital has been the provision of respite care. This has proven to be a very valuable facility and is a tremendous support to the population in maintaining their elderly in the community.

3.5 DISTRICT HOSPITAL, WICKLOW

In the past year, special equipment has been purchased to assist with the care of the elderly in the Hospital This equipment Includes high/low beds, lifting hoists and special mattresses for patients who are bed-bound.

3.7 ST. MART'S HOSPITAL:

Our planned programme of refurbishment and decoration continued during the past year. Improvements included the laying of new floor covering in Cuan Aoibheann which has enabled us to provide a more hygienic service in this area as well as contributing to the overall ambience of the Unit. Extensive renovations were also carried out in Units E2 and F1 which resulted in a more homely atmosphere for our residents and also provided an additional day room area.

A new computerised patient administration system was introduced in the Hospital during 1993.

The Mobile Day Hospital Service was extended to the Maynooth area of Co. Kildare.

3.8 CHERRY ORCHARD HOSPITAL:

In 1992 the former Nurses' Home was redecorated and adapted to provide living accommodation for Bosnian Refugees. Following a request from the Department of Foreign Affairs two further intakes of refugees were accommodated in February and May 1994. At present there are 24 refugees accommodated in this facility.

The development of our Board's maintenance management system has been ongoing at Cherry Orchard Hospital Engineering Base for the past 12 months. This system is now fully operational at the Hospital and provides a job costing and materials management information.

Our on-going maintenance programme included painting and re-roofing as well as the provision of a new PABX telephone system.

3.9 CLONSKEAGH HOSPITAL:

Our on-going planned maintenance programme at Clonskeagh Hospital allowed for the painting of St Michael's Unit as well as the replacement of floor covering in Unit 3 and St Michael's. The hospital's entrance and grounds lighting were upgraded.

3.10 ST. CLARE'S HOME:

Maintenance works at St Clare's Home included the painting of four wards as well as the entrance hall.

A new minibus provided for the Day Centre by our Board's Ambulance Department has resulted in Improved comfort for our day attenders.

3.11 BRU CHAOIMHIN:

Our programme of maintenance at Bru Chaoimhin included the painting of Unit 1 as well as the installation of a new telephone system. New fire doors were also installed throughout the Home.

2.12 ST. BRIGID'S HOME:

New automatic gates were installed at St Brigid's Home resulting increased security for residents and staff. Other improvements included internal painting and window replacement.

3.13 SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY:

3.13.1 In November, 1993 special additional funds were made available to enable our Board to secure additional long term places to facilitate the discharge of 109 patients from the acute general Hospitals into areas of care more appropriate to their needs. The patients were placed as appropriate into a newly opened unit at Cherry Orchard Hospital and in various Private Nursing Homes throughout our Board's area.

3.13.2 Additional funds were also made available to facilitate the phased implementation of the Health (Nursing Homes) Act 1990 which was implemented on 1st September, 1993. These amounted to £1.711 m in 1993 and £2.565m in 1994.

3.14 AMBULANCE REVIEW

3.14.1 Ambulance Review:

The Report of the Review Group on the Ambulance Service was launched by the Minister for Health on 30th November, 1993. Proposals to implement these recommendations over the next five years have been submitted to the Department of Health.

Since the launch of the Report funding was made available to purchase defibrillating equipment to enable our Board to extend the cardiac ambulance service to counties Kildare and Wicklow. Arrangements were put in place to carry out the necessary programme of staff training. This training has been completed and a full mobile coronary unit is available throughout our Board's area.

One of the major recommendations in the Review Report is the integration of the control of all ambulances in the Dublin area. Work has commenced on the implementation of this recommendation and a detailed examination of the ambulances of both our Board and the Dublin Fire Brigade is being carried out to identify the most efficient and effective programme for the integration process.

3.14.2 Vehicle Replacement

The planned programme of vehicle replacement was continued during the year, with the delivery of two ambulances, two minibuses and one general purpose van.

This programme will be continued during 1994 with the delivery of a further six ambulances.

4. COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMME

Developments continued during the year in the Community Care Programme, the most significant being in the Child Care Services:-

4.1 **Child, Adolescent and Family Support Services**

Developments continued in 1993 following the making available of additional funding. The estimated cost of these developments (pay and non-pay) in our Board's area was £2.365m. These developments included:-

- the creation of additional posts of Social Worker, Child Care Worker and clerical support staff
- additional project workers to work with children at risk in areas of need
- development of Family Support/Home Maker Services in a number of Community Care Areas
- improved staffing levels in particular residential homes
- support for Bamardo's Youth Project at Tallaght
- funding to provide additional hostel places in association with voluntary organisations at Bccles St. Botanic Road and Eden Quay
- development of after care services
- expansion of Community Mothers' Programme, including the visiting of travelling families on site
- Creche in Whitefriar St.. in association with Public Health Nursing Service
- Family Centre in Mounttown/Fitzgerald Park, Dun Laoire

The Minister for Health has recently announced developments approved for 1994 at an estimated cost in our Board's area for a full year amounting to £3.250m.

In addition to these ongoing developments a total of almost £.4m was provided for a range of "once off" projects which included:-

- provision of minibuses for five centres
- assistance towards purchase of premises for family resource centre in Newbridge
- refurbishing of child care homes
- equipment for special inner city projects
- in service training for Social Workers and child care staff

4.2 **Services for Travellers**

The new purpose built mobile clinic, furnished and equipped to a high standard, was officially launched during 1993 replacing the vehicle which had been in use since 1985. This facilitates further enhancement of services.

A special computerised system (Compac portable) having regard to the mobility and storage space of the clinic was implemented in December 1993 and holds records on 500 families with over 3000 members.

4.3 Services for Persons with a Physical Disability

Developments made possible from the additional funding provided in 1993 amounting to £755,000 included further facilities to increase numbers attending and range of services in Day Activation Centres.

- Socialisation Programme complementing the day activation centre for physically handicapped managed by Irish Wheelchair Association at Clontarf
- provision of additional or replacement specially adapted vehicle centres at Clane, Coolock and Mount St.
- up grading of facilities and provision of equipment at centres in Clane, Mount St and Park House, Stillorgan
- funding to Central Remedial Clinic to proceed with the establishment of a centre to serve Dublin West/North West areas
- increase in para medical services at Open Door, Bray and Irish Spina Bifida Association, Clondalkm
- a number of new organisations were funded for community services for the first time and these included:-
Multiple Sclerosis Society, Brainwave - Irish Epilepsy Association, Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
- increased funding to the Home Care Attendant Scheme of the Irish Wheelchair Association.

Our Board's community based speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services were strengthened to assist in coping with increased demands.

4.4 Services for the Elderly

The Area Care Teams are involved in a range of community services for the elderly and have established and strengthened links and liaison with hospitals particularly the acute hospitals.

The District Care Units continue to be very effective and provided services to an increasing number of persons in the past year.

The Programme's staff have been involved in the implementation of the Nursing Homes Act Inspections are carried out for the purpose of registration and persons subvented by our Board are assessed regarding their medical suitability and degree of subvention required.

As a contribution to the European Year of Older People, Dublin Healthy Cities Project in conjunction with our Board, Dublin Corporation, the National Safety Council and Energy Action organised a project to install smoke alarms in 1,000 homes of elderly people living alone in the Dublin area. This work began in late 1993 and was completed in early 1994.

An Inter Generational Festival was hosted in Dr. Steevens' Hospital in July 1993 as part of the celebration to mark 1993 - the European Year of Older People and solidarity between the generations.

The "Reach Out" campaign in association with the Health Promotion Unit, Department of Health and the Local Authorities was launched in Dr. Steevens' Hospital by an Taoiseach on 1st October 1993.

4.5 Drug Abuse/H.I.V./A.I.D.S Programme

Our Board continued during the past year to fulfil its prime responsibility in our area for the development and implementation of preventive and primary care strategies for H.I.V. and drug misuse. Our Board's programmes accelerated considerably following the "ear-marked" funding which was made available by the Dept. of Health and 1993 was the first full calendar year for which extra funding was available. Additional funding was made available to the extent of £833.000 in 1993 and £715.000 in 1994.

The three satellite clinics already established by our Board continued to provide a methadone maintenance programme and the fact that the numbers attending these clinics and the needle exchange centres are rapidly increasing is evidence that the efforts of our Board's staff in attracting persons for treatment who were not previously attending health services are succeeding.

The Soille Rehabilitation programme was completed during the year by a second group of stable or ex-drug users.

Our Board's two Community Drug Teams in Bauymun and Rialto continue to work with local Community groups in the development of comprehensive responses to drug misuse in communities.

In the Autumn of 1993 our Board established a Gay Men's Health Project comprising an outreach programme with follow up counselling and clinical services as appropriate. 250 people attended this project during 1993.

The number who attended the special service developed for prostitutes amounted to 110 during 1993.

It is planned to continue the development of our Board's services in this area and to open two more Satellite Clinics, one in the South inner city and the other in North West Dublin and to develop a third Community Drug Team.

The Community Welfare Service continues to provide income support and advisory services for ever increasing numbers of people. The growing effects of long-term unemployment and continued increase in the numbers of persons dependant on Social Welfare incomes is causing increasing demands for Supplementary Welfare Allowance payments. In particular the number of, and the expenditure on, rent and mortgage supplements continues to rise sharply. Nonetheless the service continues its involvement in a number of very worthwhile projects, including the three A.I.D.S. satellite clinics and local projects to combat the effects of money lending.

During the year there was a significant development in the services for the adult homeless which our Board provides on behalf of the housing authorities. Community Welfare Officers are now operating an "after hours" placement service seven days a week, for homeless adults and adults with children. The service can be accessed by freephone up to 1.00 a.m. each morning, and provides a much needed improvement to the service.

The service is working closely with the Department of Social Welfare on the development of an integrated computer payments system (I.S.T.S.) to include payment of Supplementary Welfare Allowance. It is expected that this system will become operational in 1995 and will result in a more efficient payment service to Supplementary Welfare Allowance recipients.

4.7 Health Centre Developments

A new Health Centre at Roundwood was officially opened by Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D., Minister for Health on 18th April 1994. It was a particular pleasure for me to see this Health Centre dedicated to the memory of my predecessor as Chairman of our Board. Cllr. Frank Hynes (R.I.P.).

The capital development programme announced by the Minister for Health on that occasion which included approval for eight Health Centres over the next three years was warmly welcomed by our Board. The detailed planning of each centre is now under way.

A computerised system for the administration of Food Hygiene and Food Control Regulations has been introduced in the Kildare and Wicklow areas, and will be introduced in the Dublin Area shortly.

4.9 Measles, Mumps and Rubella Scheme

In November, 1993, a Booster Measles, Mumps and Rubella Scheme for boys and girls in the age groups 10 - 14 years commenced in the Dublin area. This scheme replaced the rubella Vaccinations which had previously been offered to girls only.

4.10 Immunisation Services

The Immunisation Services in the Dublin area were devolved to the eight Community Care Areas in January 1994.

4.11 Health Promotion

Our Board again co-operated in the past year with all national initiatives taken by the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health including:-

- Healthy Eating Week March 1994
- Mutti media and smoking campaign

Many wide ranging initiatives were further developed and new initiatives commenced by our Board's staff including: -

- health promotion programmes for teenagers

Organisations such as the Greater Blanchardstown Project have been supported in their initiatives.

4.12 Dublin Healthy Cities Project

The Project has continued, in addition to supporting the many worthwhile ventures in place over the past few years in the spheres Life Styles, Social Environment and Physical Environment, to promote and support new projects. An example of this support was that afforded to "Towards a better quality of life" - a course in North Clondalkin in association with the Irish Cancer Society. The major content was the establishment of sensible habits i.e. diet nutrition, budgeting, together with an understanding of cancer and its psychological aspects, as well as information on prevention. Activities also included methods of relaxation, self assertiveness and self awareness. As a sequel, and with support from CODAN (County Dublin Area of Need) and Combat Poverty Agency and staff in Community Care Area 5, a group "Women's Action to a better quality of life" was established with particular objectives.

4.13 General Practice Unit

The primary objective of our Board's G. P. Unit which was established in 1993 is to facilitate, support and develop general practice in line with the principles of the Blueprint Document entitled "The future of General Practice in Ireland". This involves:-

- * raising standards in general practice
- * facilitating an improvement in the interface between general practice and other health services, including hospital services
- * improving the organisation of general practice
- * assisting general practitioners to prescribe appropriately and cost effectively

The Development Fund provided for in the agreement of November 1992 between the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Organisation has allowed our Board to initiate special programmes all of which are aimed towards enhancing and improving the quality of care being provided for patients. It has also allowed our Board to grant aid certain doctors for specific practice developments which are considered to have the greatest impact on patient care.

Under the Indicative Drug Target Scheme doctors in our Board's area achieved savings of up to £1.3m in 1993. 50% of which is being refunded to the doctors who achieved these savings for developments within their own practices and the remaining 50% is available to our Board for overall practice development in line with the principles of the Blueprint Document. Various initiatives are now being considered in this regard.

4.14 Dental Services

With the recent announcement by the Minister for Health of the Dental Services Action Plan many improvements are imminent in the dental service. There are plans to reduce adult waiting lists for dental treatment by extending the existing service to Private Practitioners. This will require extra funding. There are also plans to extend the eligibility service to children under 16 years of age.

These changes are due to commence later this year and will be implemented on a phased basis.

Prior to the announcement of the Dental Services Action Plan, our Board had submitted proposals to the Dept. of Health for major improvements in our orthodontic services. These proposals included the appointment of two Consultant Orthodontists to be shared between the Dublin Dental Hospital and our Board and the appointment of eight full-time orthodontic specialists.

A Professor in Orthodontics with a 50% commitment to our Board and a 50% commitment to the Dublin Dental Hospital was appointed and took up duty on 1st December 1993.

Our Board continues to train its own Dental Surgery Assistants. Entrants for the examination set by the British National Examination Board had 100% success this year - one of them with merit. This was a considerable achievement as out of 2,000 entrants in Britain and Ireland the pass rate was 65% and only 10 achieved merits.

Many dental surgeries were refurbished at a total cost of £300,000 with the result that our levels of cross infection control are exceptionally high.

A second of our Board's Dentists qualified in 1993 with an M. Orthodontics and now works full-time in the provision of Orthodontics to children.

5. MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The main developments in the Management Services Department during the past year were as follows:-

1. A new Social Worker case load system has been designed and proto-typed. Development work is currently in hand.
2. The development of the Immunisation module of our Child Health system was completed.
3. Further development of the Personnel records applications was carried out
4. Further modules of the Hospital Information system were implemented.
5. Installation of the Environmental Health Care system in Kildare and Wicklow was concluded.
6. Two modules of a Laboratory management system have been implemented at St Columcille's Hospital. A similar project is in progress at James Connolly Memorial Hospital
7. The development of the stock control functions of the distributed Financial Management system is in train.
8. 489 participants attended courses at the Board's in house training facility.

Our Board now has over 1,000 computer users. A full range of technical support is provided to all these staff.

There were significant extensions to our network of word processing, spreadsheet, Electronic Mail and micro computer users.

Our data communications network has been further enhanced. Developments in this area will continue in tandem with our Board's policy of distributing computer applications. A micro-wave link from Dr. Steevens' Hospital to Cherry Orchard Hospital is now in place, and will carry voice and data.

Our Board's Health Information Unit is responsible for the collection and analysis of health data and for the production of statistics necessary for the planning and evaluation of our Board's services. Recent initiatives included studies on perceived high levels of cancer deaths, analysis of the needle exchange programme at AIDS Resource Centres, an examination of the incidence of hepatitis and a series of studies based on Hospital Inpatient data. The unit incorporates the regional drug unit which carries out detailed analysis of drug prescribing.

6.1 PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Considerable progress was made during the past year in implementing the requirements of the 1989 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act and 1993 Regulations. All of our Board's work places (in excess of two hundred and sixty) and work activities have now been audited and Safety Statements are in place. The second round of audits in our workplaces is well under way. These show that progress is being made in some areas in tackling the hazards identified. The general approach is to tackle high-risk hazards and also all other hazards which require minimal resources or organisational changes. Where high-risk hazards cannot be immediately dealt with interim or temporary measures are recommended to at least alleviate the risk, if not eliminate the problem altogether.

At an early stage more than seven hundred and fifty front line managers attended in-service training on the obligations placed on them by the 1989 Act Training for management has been on-going since. Safety, health and welfare at work is becoming an integral part of in-service training for all disciplines. In the past two years our Board's manual handling training programme has been established on a more coordinated and formal basis and there are currently in excess of twenty manual handling instructors active throughout our Board. This year we hope to more than double the number of instructors available. Training in the handling and management of potentially violent patients and clients has more recently gathered momentum and a small number of instructors are now qualified in control and restraint techniques. It is proposed to increase the number of qualified instructors in this area also. A programme of in-service training on occupational safety and health for specific groups on their specific work activities is continuing.

As part of our Board's on-going commitment to staff welfare, a Staff Counselling and Information Service was Introduced in September 1993 and a Counsellor/Coordinator was appointed. This is proving a very worthwhile service to staff with many types of problems presenting, the majority of which are self referrals.

6.2 Customer Services Department

The Customer Services Department opened to the public on 30th November 1992. The aim of the Department is to provide information and advice and deal with problems, complaints or queries the public might have regarding health and personal social services.

During the first few months the Department dealt with approximately 500 customers per week. This has steadily increased and the Department now deals with approximately 1,500 customers per week. 65% make contact by phone. Of this approximately 50% make contact by freephone (1800 520 520). 35% of the customers call in person to the public office.

The Department has developed good working relationships with other organisations who deal with the wider health and social services area. This helps in giving customers a complete picture of their entitlements and alternative services. The customer group varies greatly, but, in general, community care services account for 60% of customer queries. The remaining 40% are queries on general hospitals, special hospitals and other related services.

During the past year the computerised public information point system has been reviewed and updated. Terminals have been relocated in James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Naas Hospital and Loughlinstown Hospital where they are being utilised by the public. Within the next few months this information system will be available in our community care offices.

Another project being undertaken by the Department is the production of information leaflets on the various health and social services available. This is a very welcome initiative on the part of the Customer Services Staff.

Overall this Department has become very successful and will continue to work with other health board offices and outside organisations to maintain and improve the quality of service to the customer and ensure a good customer ethos throughout the Eastern Health Board.

7.

The expansion of the decentralised computer-based accounting and control systems continued during the past year into the following locations.

Community Care Area 3
Dental Section Nursing
Home Section

A review of the casemix measurement procedures was initiated with the objective of facilitating the production of more meaningful costings in line with the emphasis on activity based costings.

A central Call Monitoring System has been installed which will enable area managers to access information more readily and reduce capital and maintenance costs.

A Waste Management Advisor was appointed during the year to assist in the monitoring and auditing of all waste streams in clinical waste, home waste and to encourage better management and recycling methods.

A major review of accounting procedures and policy commenced to meet the new auditing guidelines laid down by the Department of Health.

An in-house training programme on Microsoft Excel has been of significant benefit to over 50 staff who have successfully completed the course.

8. CONCLUSION

I am sure members will agree that, in the light of the impressive list of developments which I have outlined, 1993/94 must be regarded as a year of significant progress for our Board. This progress is due, in no small way, to the excellent spirit of cooperation, which exists within our Board between the members and the officers and which enables us to make progress together in the interests of the health services for the 1.3 m people who live in our Board's area. I hope that this spirit of co-operation which has grown and developed over the years will continue to expand and flourish in the years ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all our Board's staff who work in our Board's Hospitals, Health Centres, Day Centres and in the wide range of facilities currently in operation by our Board.

Finally, members, I wish, on your behalf and on my own behalf, to thank our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kieran Hickey, and the members of the Management Team and their staff for the unstinting support and co-operation afforded to us at all times during the past year."

80/1994 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Michael Barrett was proposed by Deputy Ivor Callely, and seconded by Deputy Ben Briscoe.

Senator Joe Doyle was proposed by Deputy Bernard Durkan, and seconded by Cllr. Therese Ridge.

Following a roll-call vote, Cllr. Barrett was declared elected as Chairman for the year 1994/95.

Cllr Barrett, having taken the chair, thanked the members for their support in electing him as Chairman. He paid a special tribute to Cllr. Ken Farrell for the manner in which he had carried out his duties as Chairman for the past year and half and said that he looked forward to working with the members and officers of the Board.

Senator Doyle congratulated Cllr. Barrett on his election as Chairman, wished him well during his term of office and thanked all those who had voted for him.

The Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of the Management Team and staff, congratulated Cllr. Barrett on his election. He expressed his thanks to Cllr. Farrell for his support and co-operation and for the productive and constructive partnership which they had enjoyed during his term of office as Chairman.

81/1994 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Deputy Roisin Shortall was proposed by Cllr. Kevin Ryan, and seconded by Cllr. Thomas Cullen.

Deputy Erie Byrne was proposed by Cllr. Don Tipping and seconded by Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan.

Following a roll-call vote, Deputy Shortall was declared elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 1994/95.

Deputy Shortall thanked all those who had supported her and said she looked forward to working with the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer during her term of office.

Deputy Byrne thanked the members who had supported him and wished Deputy Shortall every success during her term as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of the Management Team and staff, congratulated Deputy Shortall on her election as Vice-Chairman and said that he looked forward to working with her during the coming year.

Deputy Durkan congratulated Cllr. Barrett and Deputy Shortall on their election.

82/1994 PROGRAMME COMMITTEES - MEMBERSHIP

The final lists of membership of the three Programme Committees, incorporating changes of membership jointly agreed between the members concerned, as set out below were formally confirmed by the Board.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Special Hospital Care Programme Committee</i>	<i>General Hospital Care Programme Committee</i>	<i>Community Care</i>
1.	Dr. Margo Wrigley	Cllr. Kevin Ryan	Cllr. Dr. Bill O'Connell
2.	Cllr. Roisin Shortall TD	Cllr. Joseph Connolly	Cllr. Bernard Durkan. T.D.
3.	Cllr. Jim Reilly	Dr. John Fennell	Cllr. Ben Briscoe. TD
4.	Cllr. Olivia Mitchell	Sen. Joe Doyle	Dr. Richard Whitty
5.	Dr. Brian O'Herlihy	Mr. Gerry McGuire	Ms. Margaret Nealon
6.	Cllr. Cyril Gallagher	Cllr. Michael Barrett	Dr. Ray Hawkins
7.	Cllr. Ken Farrell	Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran	Mrs. Bernadette Bonar
8.	Mr. Paddy Aspell	Cllr. Teresa Ridge	Sen. Dick Roche
9.	Cllr. Anne Devitt	Cllr. Denis O'Oallaghan	Cllr. Thomas Cullen
10.	Cllr. Ivor Callely. TD	Cllr. Charles O'Connor	Cllr. Don Tipping
11.	Cllr. Liam Creaven	Cllr. Gerry Brady	Cllr. Tom Keenan
12.	Cllr. Eric Byrne. TD	Dr. Charles Smith	Cllr. Betty Coffey
13.	Dr. Don Keane		Dr. James Reilly

83/1994 BUDGET WORKING GROUP - MEMBERSHIP

The following Report no. 23/1994 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted-

"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
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. TD
- 3. Cllr. Ken Farrell
- 4. Dr. Don Keane
- 5. Cllr. Tom Keenan
- 6. Cllr. Olivia Mitchell
- 7. Ms. Margaret Nealon
- 8. Dr. Brian O'Herlihv
- 9. Cllr. Gerry Brady

- (b) 1. Cllr. Liam Creaven
- 2. Sen. Joe Doyle
- 3. Cllr. Cyril Gallagher
- 4. Cllr. Jim Reilly

Nominations for the four places at (b) should now be made. If more than four nominations are made, the agreed procedure is that the election for appointment of four members to the Budget Working Group will take place at the following meeting of our Board."

The following members were nominated for the four places at (b):-

- 1. **Cllr. Eric Byrne, T.D.**
- 2. **Cllr. Kevin Ryan**
- 3. **Cllr. Betty Coffey**
- 4. **Mr. Paddy Aspell**
- 5. **Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran**

The meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.

Correct: K.J. Hickey
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN